

What is Cultural Capital?

Cultural capital is what pupils acquire alongside traditional academic knowledge. The concept relates back to the social theory of French philosopher Pierre Bourdieu. Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a pupil can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence. It is one of the key ingredients a pupil will draw upon to be successful beyond school life. Essentially it is the development of those standard reference points that we would all like all children to have so that they can appreciate the cultural aspects of our modern day, multi-cultural Britain.

What Does Cultural Capital Mean at Long Itchington Church of England Academy?

English: Our English curriculum offers a wide range of cultural capital through both the reading and writing units covered. The wide range of texts that we cover in reading, along with different comprehension texts, allow children to experience author's voices from a variety of backgrounds. For example, the use of 'Other Words for Home' by Jasmine Warga and 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin in year 6 allows children to invest in a variety of different people. Our use of traditional tales with a twist using texts such as 'Rumaysa: A Fairytale' by Radia Hafiza which feed into both our reading and writing curriculums further this as well as our celebration of reading through the use of regular library time, DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), shared DEAR and reading a class book at the end of the day. World Book Day is an annual event which is much enjoyed by the pupils at our school as they celebrate their much-loved books and authors in unique ways. Our cultural capital is extended through our annual Shakespeare unit as part of being an RSC Associate School which gives all children the experience of studying high-level literature, acting out short scenes with chosen year groups involved in performing the play as part of a consortium of schools on a theatre stage. These pupils also have the opportunity to work with RSC actors and directors during the development of this performance.

Maths: At Long Itchington we take every opportunity to promote maths in a real-life context. Through opportunities from our EYFS curriculum through to Year 6, pupils have the opportunities to explore real-life reasoning through practical contexts. Pupils cover topics such as measures, shape and space with a focus on using the outdoor environment where possible. For example – pupils have the opportunity to explore shapes and measure distances within the school environment using both standard and non-standard units of measurement. In upper key stage 2, pupils learn about metric and imperial measures - how and why these two different types of measures are used within the UK and beyond. In key stage 1, pupils have access to role play to encourage real-life contexts – for example the use of money in a shop role-play. The whole school takes part in NSPCC Number Day each year to raise money and enjoy maths activities across school which has been a valuable link between money and maths, bringing these two concepts together to raise money for a great cause.

Art and Design: Our art and design curriculum offers cultural capital through the range of artists studied in each topic. We learn about artists from different backgrounds and who use a variety of techniques and media. Our lessons offer

children the opportunities to explore their creativity through the use of a range of equipment, techniques and media. At Long Itchington, we encourage all children to experiment and build their confidence in their imagination and ability. Children are taught that art is subjective and that there are no wrong answers when it comes to art. It is a subject that enables all children to achieve, no matter their academic ability.

Music: Our music curriculum is based around pieces by many different composers from a wide range of cultures and periods in history, providing a range of genres for the children to enjoy. To complement this, children in year 3 participate in 'Warwickshire Sings', learning a range of choral pieces which they perform at a concert with many other children from the local area.

Our annual Christmas productions provide the opportunity for children to act, dance and sing on stage to an audience, and children who learn instruments from the wide range on offer here are also provided with an opportunity to perform to their friends and family, through a series of concert assemblies.

Finally, we welcome visits from musicians to perform live to the children, as and when such opportunities arise.

History: Within the history curriculum, pupils are able to explore sources through museum boxes. The curriculum is lifted off the page with events such as the Great Fire of London theatre show which allows pupils to immerse in the stories of the past. History lessons children are given opportunities to learn about inspiring and significant people from different cultures and time periods including those that study history themselves such as Mary Anning, palaeontologist and local figures such as Walter Tull as part of the Black and British unit.

A diverse and varied choice of texts, such as Windrush Child, Coming Home, Stone Age Boy and Scrooge allows pupils to develop their vocabulary which gives them confidence to take part in group and paired discussions and to question and encourage debate amongst others. Pupils are also taught about such concepts as reconciliation as part of their trip to Coventry Cathedral so that they can understand the impact of the past on their communities.

The annual Shakespeare unit as part of being an RSC Associate School give all children the experience of studying high-level literature and chosen year groups are involved in performing the play as part of a consortium of schools.

Geography: The teaching of geography provides children with the cultural capital that they will need to succeed in their lives beyond primary education. We value educational visits, fieldwork and discussions of current events as an integral part of the geography curriculum to enable children to gain a wider context to their unit of study and become engaged with the world around them at a local, national and international level.

PSHE: Cultural capital is at the heart of all our PSHE lessons at Long Itchington, helping our children navigate through the ever changing world around them. Citizenship at school, community and global levels are a vital part of our PSHE lessons, providing knowledge and skill development for all children. PSHE at Long Itchington allows children to understand how ALL people live, through case studies, first hand experiences and offering engaging opportunities for visitors, so that children have an understanding of their place in the world. Children are encouraged to debate, investigate, present and problem-solve by conversing using extensive vocabulary. This will allow them to be able to mix and talk to others, socialise in diverse groups and present themselves well – wherever and whoever they

encounter. We use high quality resources to ensure all children have equal opportunities and get off to the best start, to successfully navigate a fulfilling and exciting life.

Computing: At Long Itchington, we provide a breadth of weekly computing experiences, with the use of technology embedded into a variety of elements of our teaching and learning across the curriculum. We offer engaging computing lessons for each child in which we include a range of experiences to develop their technological skills in order to prepare them for the real world. The teaching of computing begins in the EYFS, where children begin their journeys to using interactive whiteboards, iPads and BeeBots to enhance their listening skills, curiosity, creativity and problem solving. Throughout KS1, there are opportunities for children to explore, experience and explain the wide variety of technology in the world in order for them to become informed and thoughtful members of the digital community. As children enter KS2, they further develop their understanding of technology and the interrelated networks within computers, which can support them to develop a range of vocabulary and debating skills around current affairs. By the end of their time at Long Itchington, children are confident and clear communicators, that can use technology in respectful and positive manner. As a whole school, we celebrate safer internet day each year, but safe internet use is not exclusive to one day, it is an element of our learning that is promoted every day, to contribute towards creating a positive digital footprint.

Spanish: Through our teaching of Spanish, we provide children with knowledge and experience of people from other backgrounds and cultures. It enables them to gain a greater understanding of the wider world through high quality experiences and teaching. We aim to enrich the lives of all children through what we teach and the experiences we provide. In key stage 2 Spanish lessons, pupils learn about the daily life and routines of other children both in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Pupils learn about traditions and songs from Spain and other countries, using these to understand the different festivals that correspond with traditions in the UK. Particular units of work – such as En la Cafetería – pupils explore the food of Spain and learn different mealtime customs.

Science: We enhance children's experiences and learning by utilising different opportunities in our science curriculum around school and within our wider community. We are fortunate that our school environment is an excellent place to bring the science curriculum to life and we are able to make use of our orchard and our school pond to teach children areas of the curriculum.

We provide engaging science lessons weekly which include a range of knowledge based activities as well as investigation, giving children opportunities to work in teams.

We encourage children to use the correct vocabulary within their science learning and various experiences are planned to develop their skills to prepare them for the real world, with adults modelling and encouraging the right social, language and behavioural skills. Through assemblies, class and whole school projects we demonstrate and encourage our school values and responsibilities.

RE: Religious Education fosters cultural capital by:
– Allowing pupils to see beyond their own cultural experiences.

- Encouraging openness in sharing cultural experiences.
- Encouraging curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about culture and cultures
- Enriching the curriculum through encounters with a range of people.

Our RE curriculum is designed to equip children with the knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life. It provides them with essential knowledge about world religions and different communities so that they are well-informed citizens ready for the real world. Our curriculum also covers a range of topics that link to religious and non-religious views that allow children to broaden their learning about different communities beyond their own.

Our RE curriculum also provides children with plenty of opportunities to develop their critical and reflective thinking which will support them in discovering their own journey of purpose and meaning in the future. This is done within the context of the distinctly Christian foundation of our school.

PE: At Long Itchington Primary Academy we have a strong and resilient PE provision for our pupils. We encourage and promote that our pupils are active and participate in at least 30 minutes of exercise each day and that they understand the benefit of this.

We ensure that our pupils have a secure understanding that we live in a society where both men and women can play mixed sports (which we actively promote with our mixed school teams). We ensure they are tolerant of different faiths and beliefs that contribute to team competitions locally, nationally and internationally. All pupils have opportunities outside of the curriculum during their time at Long Itchington, covering opportunities to engage in sport competitively and for fun.

Our school curriculum promotes the following areas;

Within Athletics, Invasion Games, Fielding and Striking...

- Our pupils will learn a variety of skills. They will be able to understand the mutual respect needed to compete in a sporting competition.
- This will be evident through the way they conduct themselves when they play or compete. They will be tolerant of the different faiths and beliefs that contribute to team competitions locally, nationally and internationally.
- Our pupils understand that they are to be compliant with the rules of a game and that we live in a democratic society where both men and women can play mixed sports.

Within Dance...

- Our pupils demonstrate knowledge of the history of dance, and its cultural impact on the world.
- They are able to reflect on different styles of dance, influenced by different cultures and both national and international histories.
- Our pupils demonstrate an awareness of socio-economic influences in different dance histories, such as hip-hop, ballet and folk and begin to compare and contrast the different styles.

Design and Technology: At Long Itchington, we provide children with a varied and broad D.T. curriculum which prepares them for the future. To support children's understanding, knowledge and skills they are given access to a wide range of tools and resources to support them in creating purposeful products. Our curriculum supports cultural capital by giving our pupils opportunities to taste and make foods

which they may not have been able to try before. These opportunities run from EYFS to Year 6 as food forms a large part of our D.T. curriculum to give children the skills necessary to cook for themselves in the future. Our pupils are given the chance to analyse existing products, plan their own product using their analysis, make their product and, finally, evaluate it against their original design brief in all units of work. These are all skills which will help prepare our students for a future in modern Britain. We inspire children with cultural capital during our bi-annual visit to the MAD Museum in Stratford-upon-Avon where they are able not only to interact with the exhibits, but also to create their own using the equipment provided.