



Castle Tower School

Home Economics Policy

Date Ratified by Board of Governors	
Review Date	

Castle Tower welcomes pupils aged 3-19 who face a wide range of barriers to learning. Educational opportunities are provided within our Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Post 16 departments.

Our Vision

Vision:

To be a leading light in special education through educating, nurturing and inspiring all our school community.

Mission:

Castle Tower School is committed to creating a community which:

- Ensures everyone is safe and included
- Always learns
- Promotes independence and resilience
- Celebrates achievements
- Looks forward with hope to the future

Everything we do is driven by our core values:

- Child-centred
- Nurturing
- Fun
- Team work
- Inclusive
- Independence

Our Ethos

Castle Tower strives to create a caring community in which every member feels valued, supported and happy. All staff work to maintain an ethos in which fairness, tolerance, compassion and forgiveness permeate all relationships within the school community. High standards of respect, self-discipline, commitment and sensitivity are sought and everyone is encouraged to set and achieve the highest personal, academic and social goals. The safety, welfare and development of everyone in our school community is of paramount importance to all staff and Governors.

At Castle Tower, there is continued development of the quality of the teaching and learning environment. Resources are used efficiently. Opportunities are created for learning in co-operative and interactive settings. Pupils are presented with challenging as well as stimulating teaching and learning opportunities. Staff at Castle Tower seek close working relationships with other providers and services throughout each stage of our pupil's education and through the transition stage to further education and life after school.

Home Economics is offered to all pupils at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Post 16 pupils have transferred to Ballee Campus. Skills developed through Home Economics are being further developed through the school Café Nico.

Policy Statement

In Castle Tower School, Home Economics is designed to provide a relevant and meaningful context in which our pupils will learn to develop an awareness of self, as a participating member within a home

environment. The practical nature of the subject will provide our pupils with the opportunities to develop and/or experience the skills necessary for the provision of healthy diets, and the effective management of resources. Raising our pupils' awareness of issues relating to home and family should provide them with opportunities to, where possible, develop skills and competencies to help them think critically and make informed choices, about their lives now, and in the future, improving their quality of life.

Within Key Stage 3 there is a broad approach to the subject, covering basic skills, healthy eating and a range of home and family issues. Some pupils access Home Economics through sensory experiences.

Within Key Stage 4, where appropriate, there is a more in-depth approach to skills, use of equipment, recipe modification, health, safety and family issues. At key stage 4 pupils in year 11 and 12 have the opportunity to develop their independence skills further, where possible, by developing their life skills through practical work.

Home Economics addresses satisfying the needs of people within the Family and the Community through the effective use of resources. Much of the subject is delivered through practical activities. Pupil participation helps develop intellectual, social, manipulative and problem solving skills.

Links With Other Subjects

Home Economics contributes to the teaching of Cross curricular skills

Home Economics is unique in that it has strong links with a range of other subjects.

Home Economics contributes to the whole curriculum by developing pupil skills in management and organisation, of both human and material resources. It encourages the application of literacy, numeracy, communication and scientific skills in everyday situations. Through the various activities pupils experience a great sense of achievement.

Home Economics contributes to the teaching of cross curricular skills, using maths, communication and ICT

Using I.C.T.

I.C.T. is being developed within Home Economics. Where possible classes will be encouraged to research recipes and other relevant information in relation to work using ICT. A Class Set of IPADS are available within the HE Department.

ICT enables the teacher to differentiate through a range of resources.

Literacy and Communication

- the use of Key Words
- developing and improving recognition of equipment and utensils verbally and non verbally
- encouraging listening and talking, encouraging increased communication
- improving the presentation of pupils' work

Numeracy- Using Maths

Home Economics supports the School's Numeracy Across the curriculum Policy by:

- encouraging the use and understanding of mathematical language
- developing the application of mathematical skills – number, measure, estimation

Organisation of Teaching and Learning

A wide range of teaching and learning strategies are employed, depending on the topic being taught, the needs, interests and abilities of the pupils. Many of our pupils will be working at a much lower level

than what would be expected at key stage 3 & 4 level, their maturity and developmental stages will also be taken into account.

Key Concepts

Healthy Eating

Home and Family Life

Independent Living.

The key concepts from the revised curriculum are taught at key 3 and reinforced at key stage 4.

Methodology

In Home Economics pupils work most of the time in pairs, but there are occasions when they have the opportunity to complete tasks individually, as well as being members of a larger group.

Interacting in a variety of ways helps to develop:

- communication – listening and talking
- problem solving
- personal and social skills
- decision making
- independence

Pupils are given the opportunity to

- Develop practical skills in the safe, hygienic, healthy and creative use of foods to plan, prepare, cook and serve a range of meals.
- Identify some small scale equipment used in Home Economics
- Develop the practical skills in the safe use of a range of utensils and appliances in the preparation, cooking, serving of food. (To identify and work with different parts of the cooker)
- Develop a range of skills to promote independence through planning, managing and using resources.

In the Home Economics Department we aim to ensure pupils, where possible, learn how to

- demonstrate skills in the safe, hygienic, healthy and creative use of food
- research and manage information effectively to investigate Home Economics issues, including using Mathematics and using ICT where appropriate
- show deeper understanding by thinking critically and flexibly, solving problems and making informed decisions, demonstrating using Mathematics and using ICT where appropriate
- demonstrate creativity and initiative when developing ideas and following them through
- work effectively with others
- demonstrate self-management by working systematically, persisting with tasks, evaluating and improving own performance communicate effectively in oral, visual, written and ICT formats

Some pupils may have the experience of some of the above depending on their level of ability

One of our priorities is the development of practical skills. Every opportunity is given to our pupils to carry out practical activities in a competent and safe manner. To facilitate learning, and give all pupils experiences within Home Economics, Classroom Assistants work with the teacher helping to ensure that skills are acquired properly and safely.

We strive at all times to ensure that enjoyment of our subject is paramount since this has a profound effect on the success in many instances. It is also our policy to encourage pupils continually, giving praise and credit where appropriate, helping them to take pride in their achievements.

The relevance of knowledge and skills to everyday life is a difficult concept for many pupils. Every effort is made to help them understand and transfer these to realistic situations.

General Aims

- To assist pupils with varying needs and abilities to effectively manage both material and human resources within a changing society.
- To help pupils solve everyday problems using situations encountered in Home Economics.
- To develop an increasing awareness of technological developments and the effects of technological change within the immediate environment.
- To encourage creativity and aesthetic awareness.
- To encourage purposeful use of time, including leisure time.
- To help pupils develop confidence.
- To encourage co-operation and tolerance of others.
- To encourage initiative, self-reliance and responsibility
- To stimulate and sustain an interest, and enjoyment of Home Economics.
- To encourage a growing independence.

Differentiation

The needs of pupils with varying abilities are met by:

- ensuring that resources, worksheets etc. meet the differing needs and abilities of individual pupils
- developing planners to include differentiation
- the use of Classroom Assistants to provide support / supervision where tasks are difficult for some
- a flexible approach to teaching and learning methods
- an appropriate breakdown of tasks to ensure some measure of success for all pupils
- provision for pupils who are more able and need to be challenged

Formative assessment is used to monitor progress and provide feedback for pupil and teacher.

Summative assessment is used once a year to monitor progress for use on school reports to parents.

Collaborative assessment is used to develop pupil / teacher relationships and improve communication.

Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment is carried out within the Department and reviewed yearly, or before if necessary.

Assessment Methods

- Oral –effective questioning
- Practical tasks
- Photographic evidence
- Teacher observation
- Worksheets

In Home Economics we:

- encourage pupils to make healthy choices
- offer practical advice on healthy eating
- use educational material from manufacturers, government bodies and health professional to educate and encourage pupils to make healthier choices
- use “The Eatwell Guide” in relation to Healthy Eating.

- encourage pupils to consider the long term as well as the short term effects of food choices
- display various posters in the room to reinforce teaching and learning of healthy eating

Charges and Remissions Policy

Charges are made for ingredients and materials needed for practical lessons where necessary.

Year 8 - Year 12 £2.00

This money is collected by the teacher and sent on Friday morning to the Principal for lodgement in the bank. It is used to pay for groceries from retail outlets such as Spar, Sainsbury's, Tesco's. They are bought by the Classroom on Monday morning.

Health and Safety

Teaching a practical subject often creates a hazardous situation. The teaching and application of safety precautions is therefore a high priority for teachers in a Home Economics room.

- the teacher familiarises pupils with the routine to be followed in the event of a fire. Notices are displayed in the room and fire drill is practiced in the room.
- a first aid box is situated in a convenient place in the room/ pupils are sent to qualified first aider when necessary.
- accidents are recorded as required according to the school policy.
- hygiene and safety rules are taught at the beginning of the school year and are continuously reinforced.
- prior to practical classes pupils are taught to wash hands and nails, and tie long hair back.
- running is forbidden in the Home Economics room.
- pupils are encouraged to wear suitable clothing, roll up their sleeves, and store bags, stools, coats etc. safely out of the way during class.
- pupils are instructed in the safe use of all equipment.
- pupils are supervised at all times in the Home Economics room.
- identifiable risks in the use of equipment are pointed out to pupils and the necessary precautions emphasized.
- maintenance problems are reported to the appropriate members of staff to avoid related safety issues.
- the safe handling and storage of food is included in the Home Economics planners.
- pupils are made aware of the risks of food poisoning.
- all electrical equipment is officially inspected by board maintenance.