



The Westminster
School

Safe, Happy and Learning Together

www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk

2022/2023 Curriculum Overview

The Westminster School

my

Thinking Skills

Curriculum Intent

In My Thinking Skills, our intent is to equip pupils with the skills needed to solve problems, be organised, think logically and utilise technologies to improve their independence and access the world around them.

“There is a big wide world to be discovered beyond the routine, although we must be careful not to provide a catalogue of unconnected experiences. The connection is thinking and problem solving and we need to make that very explicit or the children may not notice.” (Lacey, 2009)

Our main priority is for our pupils to make progress in terms of their independence within all aspects of My Thinking Skills. In order to achieve this, pupils will:

- Develop their working memory and ability to cope with cognitive load.
- Understand a wide range of different concepts.
- Develop problem solving and reasoning skills through the use of concrete, pictorial and abstract representations.
- Focus on functional skills in relation to Mathematics, ICT and Problem Solving.

Curriculum Implementation

Key Components and Strands

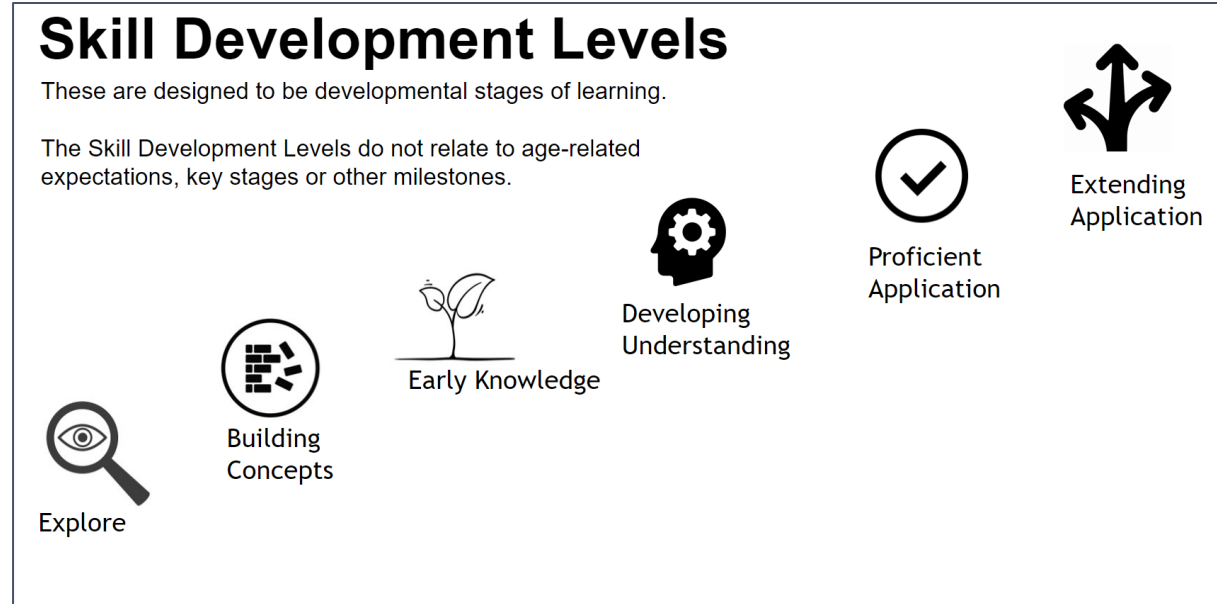
The curriculum at the Westminster School is made up of six Areas of Learning. Each Area of Learning has 2 or 3 key Components, which encompass a number of Strands. Each strand is then broken down into key priorities of learning which are then used to support the planning and delivery of high-quality teaching and learning.

The below table details the key components and strands for My Thinking Skills:

Area of Learning	My Thinking Skills		
Component	Mathematics	Problem Solving	Technology
Strand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Number and Place Value▪ Calculations▪ Measure▪ Time▪ Geometry▪ Money▪ Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identification▪ Anticipation and Prediction▪ Cause and Effect▪ Choice and Comparison▪ Evaluation and Reflection▪ Adaption▪ Memory Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online Safety and Behaviour online▪ Accessing Devices▪ Functional Apps and Software▪ Creating and Following Processes▪ Social Media and Gaming▪ Using the Internet

Skill Development Levels explained

Each Area of Learning and its key components have a Skill Development Grid. These grids are broken down into six distinct Skill Levels as detailed below.



Example Skill Development Grid – Problem Solving

Skill development			
Identification	Anticipation and Prediction	Cause and Effect	Choice and Comparison
1. Begin to identify and explain what the problem is	1. Make a simple prediction 2. Celebrate success and accept when something has not been successful	1. Identify the impact of an action (What will happen?)	1. Begin to make comparisons in order to make a choice
Evaluation and Reflection	Adaptation	Memory Building	
1. Identify what has happened and whether something was successful or not	1. Identify a change that could be made to improve an outcome	1. Recall something that has been experienced earlier that day 2. Begin to recall 2 steps of an established routine within the school environment	

My Thinking Skills links to other Areas of Learning

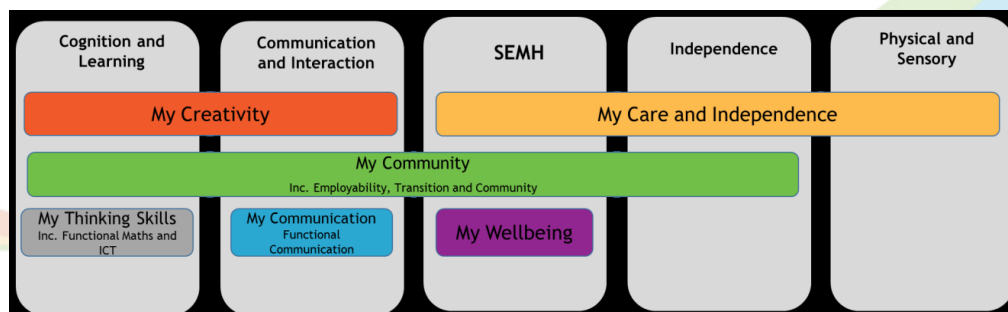
My Care and Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding portion sizes Making healthy choices Weights and Measures Time Using and looking after domestic appliances
My Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is our local community? Community visits Travel Training Shopping Bank visits including opening a bank account Planning a journey Planning ahead Safe and planned sabotage to overcome problems (such as; road closures and items out of stock)
My Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Rules Expectations within the community Communicating with others and asking for help Identifying who can help us
My Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning, Designing and Creating Social Enterprise Using technology to create things (such as; Using the 3D printer, iPads, Laptops) Photography
My Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coping with change Problem solving Reasoning Building confidence Journey to independence

My Thinking Skills links to EHCP Areas

It's important to ensure our curriculum makes direct links to current Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) areas. The broad areas of need, as detailed in the SEND Code of Practice, and operationalised through the EHCP are as follows:

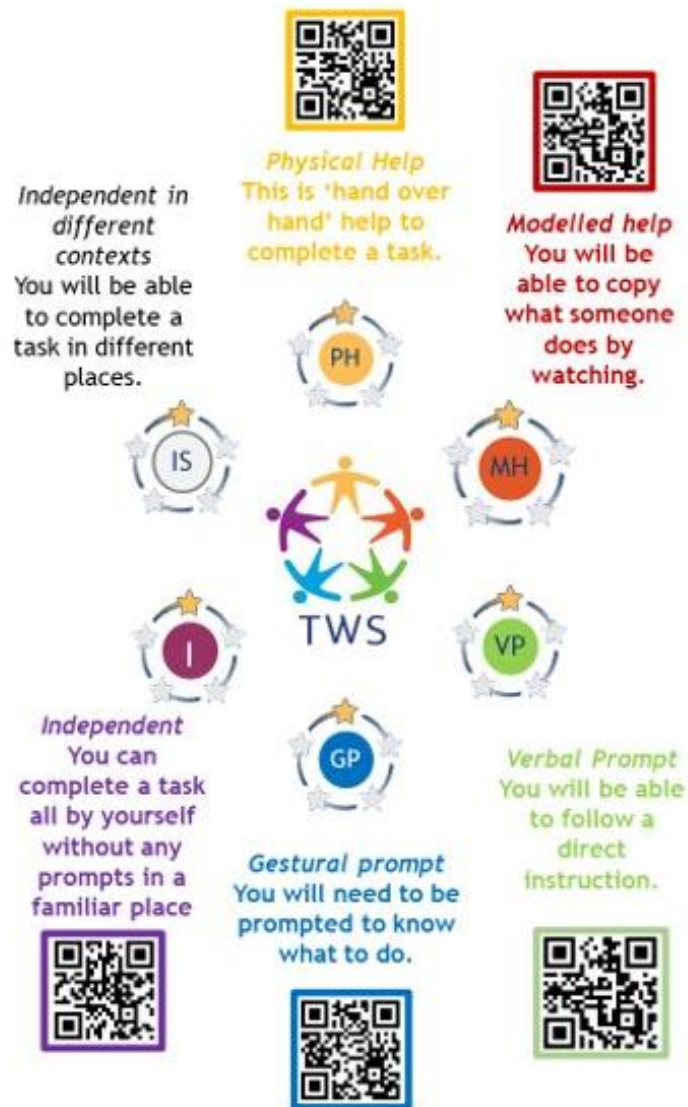
- Communication and interaction.
- Cognition and learning.
- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH).
- Independence.
- Sensory and/or physical needs.

See below for links to key EHCP Areas for all Areas of Learning:



Towards Independence Hierarchy

At the Westminster School we attribute progress through judgments against a Towards Independence Hierarchy. The Hierarchy allows for staff in school to make judgments based on how independently pupil's work towards or achieve an activity or target. For more information on how we assess and feedback to pupils at The Westminster School please refer to our most recent Assessment and Feedback Policy.



Accreditations

All Areas of Learning in the Westminster School Curriculum provide opportunities for pupils to work towards accreditations. All accreditations are carefully considered for their appropriateness and suitability for each individual pupil.

The accreditation available to pupils as part of their My Thinking Skills sessions include:

- ASDAN Personal Development Programmes
- NCFE Functional Skills Maths
- NCFE Functional Skills ICT
- ASDAN Life Skills Challenges

My Thinking Skills contributions to SHaLT

Our values at The Westminster School are encompassed in our statement of Safe, Happy and Learning Together. Through this we seek to develop our values statement: Building foundations and providing opportunities to create confident, aspirational and independent members of our community.

The table below shows how My Thinking Skills contributes to achieving our overall statement:

Safe	Throughout My Thinking Skills sessions pupils are given opportunity to development their memory building skills and are given safe opportunities to deal with sabotage. During My Thinking Skills session pupils are encouraged to think of solutions, make decisions, test hypothesis and evaluate. In addition, pupils are given opportunities to transfer their skills learnt in school and apply these in the local community.
Happy	My Thinking Skills lessons are planned to cater for pupil's interests to maximise engagement and experience success. Emotion coaching takes place throughout sessions to ensure pupil's wellbeing is at the forefront ensuring lessons provided flexibility throughout.
Learning	My Thinking Skills sessions promote self-belief and confidence, allowing pupils to develop the ability to be secure in choices they make to solve problems. Safe sabotage is instilled in the ethos of My Thinking sessions providing safe opportunities for pupils to recognise that something is different or something is required. Memory building encompassed through repetition of tasks, understanding what equipment is required and remembering the steps needed to complete a particular task.
Together	Throughout My Thinking Skills sessions pupils are give collaborative opportunities, encouraged to work alongside others and given shared responsibilities. This allows for pupils to build new relationships with peers outside of their usual class groups.

Enrichment Opportunities

We pride ourselves on the enrichment opportunities we provide for pupils across all Areas of Learning. Enrichment opportunities within My Thinking Skills include:



Doodle Maths can be used both inside and outside of school. It is filled with interactive exercises exploring numerical reasoning, problem solving and helps pupils develop core skills they use in the classroom and beyond.



The Westminster School has strong links with Challenge Academy. Pupils visit the Baggeridge Adventure to complete sessions that challenge their problem-solving skills. Challenge Academy have also been in to deliver sessions in school also.



There is extensive STEM based resources in school to support the delivery of effective STEM based problem-solving lessons.

The Westminster School



There is a range of technology available for pupils to enhance their learning in My Thinking Skills lessons. OSMO and Minecraft are used widely to support pupils in their technological thinking.



The Westminster School has links with Metro Bank, who provide sessions for pupils, and host visits for pupils to explore a real-life bank setting and learn how to open a bank account.



Pupils have multiple opportunities to attend offsite visits, these visits are planned to consolidate and apply skills learnt in My Thinking Skills sessions.



Staff are trained by Six Bricks education to deliver fun activities to help pupils practise and build upon their memory, movement and creativity skills.