



Green Shoots
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Key Stage Two (Year 3-6) Your Child's Learning Journey 2016-17

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Programme Aim

Key Stage Two (KS2) is the second half of the UK's primary schooling, catering to children from seven to ten years old in Year 3 to Year 6. Green Shoots aims to deliver the UK National Curriculum by providing its students with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding required to become lifelong learners. Our programme fosters creativity, inquiry, independence and an understanding of what it means to be a responsible global citizen.

The National Curriculum, as it is taught at Green Shoots, delivers a range of subjects with a strong focus on the three core subjects of English, maths and science while also covering a range of non-core foundation subjects with the aim of providing a holistic learning journey. Our learners in KS2 are encouraged to take risks, develop critical thinking skills, and develop a greater sense of independence with their learning. Our programme also holds the Green Shoots Core Values and Personal Learning Goals at the forefront of our curriculum in order to foster growth mindset, problem-solving skills and the willingness to learn both through success and error. With these aims in mind, we provide our KS2 learners with the necessary tools to enter the next stage in their educational pathway.

Programme Overview

In Year 3 to Year 6, Green Shoots' learners follow the UK National Curriculum, which builds upon the Key Stage One (KS1) framework. The core subjects at Green Shoots are English, maths and science. Other non-core subjects are listed below. Our science, history and geography curricula are enhanced by the use of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC): a comprehensive programme with a clear process of learning and with specific learning goals for each subject.

At Green Shoots, our KS2 learners deepen their understanding of the world around them, and to this end their programme of learning includes Vietnamese Language & Culture. They also develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in Art & Design, Music & Drama, Information & Communication Technology, Design & Technology, Health & Physical Education, and Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education. These subjects are delivered through a combination of the UK National Curriculum and the IPC.

Green Shoots learners follow a supportive Core Values and Personal Learning Goal programme, which encourages them to be the best person they can be while developing the skills necessary for their secondary education and beyond. We regularly practise mindfulness and learn to value inner reflection, while developing skills in personal focus. At Green Shoots, our learners develop a strong understanding of the natural environment around them and they learn relevant and useful sustainable practices that foster a sense of responsibility for our world.

Teaching and Learning

Subject Overview

Our KS2 National Curriculum subjects are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities: Geography & History

- Information & Communication Technology
- Art & Design
- Music & Drama
- Design & Technology
- Health & Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

In addition to the UK National Curriculum subjects, our Year 3 to Year 6 learners participate in the following Green Shoots programmes:

- Core Values & Personal Learning Goals
- Mindfulness practice
- Vietnamese Language & Culture

KS2 at Green Shoots offers a balance between: the required learning objectives as set by the UK National Curriculum guidance, developing knowledge, skills and understanding as modelled in the International Primary Curriculum and, providing our learners with the ‘tool kit’ necessary to become independent, creative, lifelong learners with an understanding of their community and the world around them.

National Curriculum KS2 Subjects

English

In KS2, learners build upon their KS1 framework and begin to learn objectives of a gradually increasing complexity. They read books written at an age-appropriate interest level and develop their understanding and enjoyment of a wider range of texts, including stories, poetry, plays and non-fiction. They also learn to read silently. Students develop their skills in justifying their views with support at the start of Year 3 and increasingly independently as they progress through the key stage.

Our learners develop their writing skills to a greater depth, develop paragraph writing through different forms of fiction and non-fiction, and deepen their understanding of accurate grammar and punctuation. At Green Shoots, learners are prepared for secondary education by understanding a greater range of sentence structures and their purpose in writing. They begin to understand nuances in choice and learn to use age-appropriate academic vocabulary. This involves consolidation, practice and discussion of language. Our learners celebrate and share their fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing by performing to a small audience. In doing so, we aim to develop speaking and listening skills with a greater level of sophistication and encourage our student to take pride in their learning.

English as an Additional Language

At Green Shoots, we celebrate our culturally diverse background and recognise the benefits of hosting over 20 nationalities on our campus. With that in mind, we understand that our learners come from diverse academic backgrounds when they join us. Some may also be relatively new to the English language.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) support is offered internally either by our classroom teaching assistants or by our dedicated EAL support teacher. Alternatively, it is offered by our sister school, Green Shoots Language Centre, with whom we develop a tailored programme for each individual learner and monitor their progress over time.

Our primary teachers work closely with our teaching assistants and EAL support teacher to ensure students are developing their vocabulary, speaking and listening skills and a basic understanding of phonics. These skills enable our learners to become more confident with their emergent writing skills.

Mathematics

Throughout KS2, learners become increasingly fluent with whole numbers and the four operations, including number facts and the concept of place value with larger integers. They develop efficient written and mental methods and perform calculations accurately with increasingly large whole numbers, fractions and decimals. In UKS2, our learners' skill set also includes percentages and ratio. Throughout the key stage, they acquire problem solving skills, learn to identify operations, and formalise their written methods for solving equations. Students also learn to read and spell mathematical vocabulary correctly and confidently.

In maths, our learners develop skills in measurement, learning to do so with greater accuracy and making connections between measure and number. By UKS2, they are encouraged to have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table. Also, with a foundation in arithmetic, learners are introduced to the language of algebra later in the key stage.

Learning geometry and measures consolidates and extends knowledge developed in number for our students. They learn to classify shapes with increasingly complex geometric properties and learn the vocabulary they need to describe them. By the end of Year 6 they have developed fluency in written methods for all four operations, including long multiplication and division, and in working with fractions, decimals and percentages.

Science

The programme of learning in LKS2 seeks to broaden the scientific view of our students as they deepen their understanding of the world around them. Our learners talk about, test, explore, and develop ideas about everyday phenomena and the relationships between living things and familiar environments. Our hands-on approach to learning in science begins to develop the ideas about functions, relationships and interactions. Our learners begin to carry out simple investigations and develop the skills necessary to conduct a fair test. They learn to ask questions about what they observe and with support, develop the tool necessary to make connections and simple conclusions.

In UKS2, Green Shoots learners develop a deeper understanding of a wide range of scientific ideas. They continue to learn through investigation, and through this process they are encouraged to talk about and explore their ideas further, ask questions about scientific phenomena, and analyse functions, relationships and interactions more systematically. Our UKS2 learners are encouraged to recognise how their ideas help them understand and predict how the world operates. They also begin to recognise that scientific ideas change and develop over time. At this stage of their scientific learning journey, students develop the skills needed to draw conclusions based on data and observations, begin to use evidence to justify ideas, and use scientific knowledge and understanding to explain their findings.

Our KS2 learners have the opportunity to deepen their scientific understanding in a natural environment while following the IPC framework that identifies the working relationship between knowledge, skills and understanding. Our campus is home to a range of habitats, we have a variety of flora to observe and identify and we are home to fish, frogs, toads, butterflies, mini-beasts and reptiles. Developing an understanding and respect for the natural world is enhanced through our hands-on learning experiences and we are fortunate that this is a part of everyday life at Green Shoots.

Geography

In KS2, our students extend their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world as they learn about the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America, and of course, Asia. As they deepen their understanding of the physical world, they learn about locations and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. Green Shoots learners develop their use of geographical vocabulary, strengthen their map skills by locating places and topographical features, begin to understand how they have changed over time, and understand geographical similarities and differences as they learn about human and physical geography.

Our learners develop their fieldwork skills by observing, measuring and recording their findings as they investigate in a natural setting. At Green Shoots, we are spoilt by nature's phenomena as we are surrounded by rice paddies, river systems and the coast. Our students have the opportunity to learn out in the community, to deepen their understanding from first-hand experiences, while enhancing their understanding of their local surroundings and the physical features here in Central Vietnam.

History

At Green Shoots, KS2 learners continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history. They learn to make connections, contrasts, and identify trends of the past as they develop their historical vocabulary. Our learners ask questions and are supported to formulate questions that are historically valid as they develop their knowledge and understanding of change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. At Green Shoots, learners find out about the past by researching. They also develop their skills in using the internet in our computer lab or by using a class set of iPads. Through cross-curricular opportunities in their skill-set development, KS2 learners find historically valid sources at an age-appropriate level with guidance. As they develop these skills, our students understand that historical facts can be retrieved from a range of sources.

Information & Communication Technology

Developing computational skills at Green Shoots is an important part of our curriculum as we enable our learners to be practical 21st-century global citizens. Our campus is equipped with a computer and laptop laboratory, along with a class set of iPads, which are frequently used to develop research skills. Aligning with our Core Values, students learn the importance of respecting all learning materials and they also learn how to use technology in a safe and responsible way.

Our learners are taught how to use information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use. Building on this knowledge and understanding, learners become equipped to use information technology to create programmes, systems and a are of content. Computing also ensures that they become digitally literate. Our students learn to express themselves and develop their ideas through information and communication technology at an age-appropriate level. We equip our learners with the necessary skills to become responsible citizens in the digital world.

Art & Design

At Green Shoots, creativity is a Personal Learning Goal that we value and nurture in all aspects of the curriculum. In their Art & Design learning, KS2 students are taught a range of techniques to develop their skills in control as they use a range of materials and mediums to suit a particular purpose. We foster originality, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

KS2 learners use sketchbooks to record their observations as they develop techniques with a range of textiles. Our learners paint, sculpt, draw, and put their imagination into action. They also learn about art history, great artists, architects and designers so that they may be inspired to achieve their personal best as they progress and develop their artistic abilities throughout the key stage.

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. We seek to provide a programme that is engaging and inspiring in order to develop a love and deeper understanding of music. At Green Shoots, our learners perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions. They explore how music is created and communicated, through the inter-related dimensions of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notation.

Our programme also includes dramatisations and role play so our learners can access wider opportunities to express their creative talents. Through our Music & Drama programme, learners develop their self confidence and creativity, and we foster a sense of achievement when our students share their learning in front of an audience.

Design & Technology

Through a variety of creative and practical activities, Green Shoots learners are taught the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to engage in an interactive process of designing and making. They learn to work in a range of relevant contexts at home, at school, for leisure and in the wider environment.

In KS2 our learners use, research and develop their own design criteria by using a range of products to fit a specific purpose. Learners are encouraged to communicate their designs through discussion, sketches, diagrams and trial and error. They often learn with their peers in Design & Technology as they plan, generate, and analyse their ideas against their success criteria.

Health & Physical Education

In KS2, students continue to apply and develop a broad range of skills, learning how to use them in different ways and link them to make actions and sequences of movement. Learning physical activity as a group, our students are encouraged to communicate, collaborate and compete in a healthy and respectful setting. Our programme allows learners to build upon and improve the skills learnt in KS1. With a strong emphasis on growth mindset, we encourage our students to be active participants and to evaluate and recognise their own success as they learn within a larger group.

Leading a healthy lifestyle is valued at Green Shoots. Not only do our learners develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of games and activities, we also teach the importance of health and wellbeing. Our students learn to respect their bodies, how to eat well-balanced meals, and how to grow into responsible individuals who care for themselves.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) is an important and necessary part of our curriculum. At Green Shoots, we combine our PSHE programme with that of our Core Values and Personal Learning Goals, as we aim to nurture the social and emotional development of our learners. We foster growth in a positive, open-minded, and caring environment to ensure our learners become responsible individuals within a complex 21st century.

Our teachers understand the needs of their learners and continually reflect upon this and their classroom dynamics. As a result, this non-statutory subject is not prescribed and varies from class to class as we provide an inclusive experience at an age and socially/emotionally appropriate level. Our learners develop life skills through role play, 'circle time', class discussions and reflective journaling as they learn the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to make safe and informed decisions in life.

Additional Green Shoots Programmes

Core Values & Personal Learning Goals

We believe that learning is a lifelong process and we aim to empower our learners with a positive 'tool-kit' that is essential in the 21st century. The Green Shoots Core Values and Personal Learning Goals underpin individual qualities that will equip our students for the continually changing contexts of their lives. Opportunities to learn, experience and practise these are developed at an age-appropriate level and are celebrated in assemblies where we acknowledge these positive attributes in daily life on our campus.

The Green Shoots Core Values are: respect, cooperation, thoughtfulness, integrity, tenacity, adaptability, independence and sustainability.

Our Personal Learning Goals programme builds from the IPC framework and from learning in KS1. These valued attributes become increasingly complex as our learners develop through their educational pathway. Our Personal Learning Goals include: confidence, enquiry, enthusiasm, creativity, communication, service, appreciation, and empathy.

Mindfulness Practice

At Green Shoots, mindfulness is a practice that helps us to direct our attention to experiences and emotions as they unfold, being in the present moment with an open mind. Being mindful helps us to respond effectively and appropriately to what is happening to us and around us, whether it be positive or negative. Developing our awareness and focus, and being able to manage our emotions and experiences are essential skills for 21st-century learners. We provide strategies to help students overcome the daily stresses and challenges they may face.

Students and teachers all practice mindfulness on a regular basis in a variety of ways. Breathing exercises, guided visualisations, quiet reflection time and art journaling are just a few ways we support all members of the school community to be more mindful and to maintain a healthy balance in their lives.

Vietnamese Language & Culture

The UK National Curriculum requires students to learn a modern or ancient foreign language. At Green Shoots, we teach our students Vietnamese to help them form deeper connections with our home/host country. Teaching and learning in KS2 allows our students to learn at an appropriate level and taking into account their prior knowledge of Vietnamese.

Our Vietnamese Language and Culture programme aims to develop the use of language for the purpose of practical communication. The vocabulary, grammar and skills taught are applicable to real world scenarios, with an emphasis on speaking and listening. Our students also learn about the cultural festivities and special occasions in Vietnam and develop a greater understanding of the celebrations, when they occur, and what traditions are practised.

Homework

In KS2, our students develop a greater sense of responsibility for their learning and this includes deepening their understanding at home. In Lower Key Stage Two (LKS2, or Year 3 and Year 4), they receive home learning tasks two to three times per week and are asked to complete no more than 20 minutes per evening. Homework in LKS2 seeks to develop independence by providing the opportunity to practice learnt skills and review vocabulary or mathematical concepts. It also provides opportunities to discuss their learning at home with family members.

In Upper Key Stage Two (UKS2, or Year 5 and Year 6), students receive homework more frequently throughout the week, learn to take responsibility for due dates, and are asked to complete no more than 40 minutes per evening. As in LKS2, homework seeks to consolidate learning, allow for extra practice with developing skills, and foster independence.

Our learners are provided with tasks in which they are comfortable and feel confident that they can complete without assistance. They are usually given several days before tasks should be returned to school, allowing them the opportunity to conference with their teacher and receive the guidance and support required for success at home.

At Green Shoots, we value the importance of growing into independent, responsible citizens. In assigning ability-appropriate tasks, we aim to develop accountability for one's learning and progress. Parents are welcome to be part of learning at home by talking to their child about their day, what they have learnt, what their homework task entails, and providing support if needed. Green Shoots learners in KS2 are equipped with a Student Organiser which they use to record their tasks and which includes a section for parent-teacher communication.

Reports and Assessment

Assessment is completed regularly and consistently through both formative (ongoing assessment that informs teaching and learning) and summative (evaluating student performance at a particular time and against certain benchmarks) methods. Our learners' attainment in core subjects is recorded at the end of each unit, however opportunities for assessment for learning are conducted throughout the learning process to evaluate progress achieved, areas for development, and goal setting for future learning. Green Shoots teachers provide regular feedback, both written and verbal, to ensure KS2 learners are aware of their progress and are given frequent opportunities for reflection. As we prepare KS2 learners for secondary school, our teachers occasionally create test-like situations, which we often refer to as 'learning checks', and during which students are required to demonstrate their learning without assistance. This is conducted in a nurturing and supportive environment where learners understand that assessment allows both them and their teachers the opportunity to check where they are against their learning objectives and identify next steps within their learning journey at Green Shoots.

KS2 learners receive two school reports each year: a Student Progress Report in January and a comprehensive End-of-Year Report in June. These reports assess both students' attainment (performance against KS2 learning objectives) and effort (assessment of their attitude toward learning and non-academic progress and development). School reports cover KS2 core and foundation subjects, along with feedback on each learner's personal and social development.

Green Shoots' KS2 Academic Progress Descriptors are:

WT - Working Toward the Expected Level

The student is working towards year-level standards. Knowledge, skills and understanding are being developed, however the student has not yet shown consistent understanding of the concepts taught.

E - Emerging in the Expected Level

The student is developing the knowledge, skills and understanding at their year level. They display an understanding of some of the concepts taught and can demonstrate this with support.

WW - Working Within the Expected Level

The student is meeting year level standards. They display an understanding of their learning objectives and can demonstrate this without support.

M - Mastery of the Expected Level

The student is consistently meeting year-level standards. They display a firm level of understanding of their learning objectives and can demonstrate, explain and apply knowledge, skills and understanding independently.

EE - Exceeding the Expected Level

The student is exceeding year-level standards. They display a deep level of understanding of their learning objectives and may be introduced to concepts at the next year level.

Green Shoots' KS1 Attitude & Effort Indicators are:

- Strives for personal best
- Participates actively in learning activities
- Shows initiative and is confident in making positive choices
- Cooperates and strives to build positive relationships
- Shows respect for self, others and their learning

These are assessed as being demonstrated *Consistently, Usually, Generally, Occasionally* or *Rarely*.