



Sapphire Pathway– 3 I's



Sapphire representing
deep thinking and
exploration

Intent

The intent of the Sapphire Learning Pathway is to provide a more structured, subject-specific curriculum that supports children to develop and apply key National Curriculum skills in meaningful and functional ways.

The core principle of this pathway is to provide a **“Doing, Responding & Interpreting curriculum”**. In the Sapphire pathway you will see children are engaged in a range of learning opportunities, generalising, applying and recording their knowledge and skills.

Delivered through an engaging thematic approach, this pathway focuses on:

- Developing core academic skills in English, Maths, Science, and foundation subjects
- Strengthening communication and social understanding
- Building independence and essential life skills

Sapphire aims to consolidate prior learning and support children to apply knowledge across contexts, preparing them for the next stage of education and life with increasing confidence, independence, and resilience.

Implementation

The Sapphire pathway is delivered through a structured yet flexible curriculum, where subject-specific teaching is embedded within practical, engaging themes.

Curriculum & Pedagogy

- Delivery of a broad, balanced National Curriculum, adapted to meet individual needs

- Learning organised through thematic units to provide meaningful links across subjects
- Explicit teaching of core skills in English, Maths, and Science alongside foundation subjects
- Opportunities to consolidate and apply learning through real-life and functional contexts
- Continued use of practical, hands-on and experiential learning to support understanding

Learning Approaches

- Carefully planned scaffolding and differentiation to support progress at each child's pace
- Ongoing opportunities for repetition and consolidation to secure learning
- Emphasis on application and generalisation, enabling pupils to transfer skills across different situations
- Integration of life skills and independence-building activities within the curriculum

Environment & Provision

- Classrooms following whole school, enabling environment expectations to meet the sensory needs of all children
- Access to continuous provision and outdoor learning where appropriate to reinforce skills
- Structured classroom environments that promote focus, independence, and organisation
- Opportunities for both independent work and collaborative learning to support social development
- Within the Sapphire pathway, there are two TEACCH classes (one Lower Key Stage 2 and one Upper Key Stage 2) designed for children who

benefit from a highly structured learning environment. These classrooms use zoning and individual workstations to create clear physical boundaries and support understanding. The approach focuses on increasing organisation; making the environment predictable; clearly and visually communicating expectations; reducing distractions and lowering anxiety. Visual supports such as schedules and visual cues are central to this approach. They help maintain consistent routines, clarify expectations, and provide students with a clear understanding of what is happening throughout the day.

Communication & Personal Development

- Continued support for communication development, including expressive and receptive language
- Structured opportunities to build social understanding and relationships with peers
- Focus on developing self-confidence, resilience, and independence

Adults support children by balancing direct teaching with opportunities for independence, ensuring learning is both supportive and appropriately challenging.

Impact

As a result of the Sapphire Learning Pathway:

- Children make sustained progress in National Curriculum subjects, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- There is clear development in communication skills and social understanding, supporting interaction with others
- Children can apply and generalise skills across different contexts and real-life situations

- Increased independence and life skills enable children to take greater responsibility for their learning
- Children demonstrate improved confidence, resilience, and readiness for challenge
- Learning builds effectively on prior knowledge, showing secure consolidation and progression over time

Ultimately, the Sapphire pathway enables children to become independent, functional learners, equipped with the academic, social, and life skills needed to successfully transition to the next stage of education and beyond.