



Green Shoots
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Key Stage One (Year 1-2)

Your Child's Learning Journey

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Programme Aim

Key Stage One (KS1) is the first half of the UK's primary schooling, catering to children from five to seven years old in Year 1 and Year 2. 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, cooperation, and responsibility, and provides our students with a smooth transition into a more formalised learning experience, building upon what they developed in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The National Curriculum 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. In KS1, our students continue to learn through inquiry and discovery, develop their social-emotional skills through guided play and build a greater sense of independence. Our learners are provided with the tools needed as they enter the next stage of their education, Key Stage Two (KS2).

Programme Overview

In Year 1 and Year 2, Green Shoots' learners follow the UK National Curriculum, which builds upon the EYFS framework. The core subjects 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 that aligns with the National Curriculum and contains a clear process of learning with specific learning goals for each subject.

At Green Shoots, our KS1 learners deepen their understanding of the community around them and to this end their programme of learning includes an introduction to Vietnamese Language & Culture. They also develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in Art & Design, Music, Information & Communication Technology, Design & Technology, Health & Physical Education, and Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education. We deliver these subjects through a combination of the UK National Curriculum and the IPC.

Green Shoots learners follow a supportive Core Values and Personal Learning Goals programme, which encourages them to be the best person they can be while developing their social and emotional skills. We regularly practise mindfulness and learn about quiet reflection time. At Green Shoots, we promote respect and understanding of the natural environment around us and our KS1 students learn practical and relevant ways to be sustainable and foster a sense of responsibility for our world.

Teaching and Learning

Subject Overview

Our KS1 National Curriculum subjects are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities: Geography and History
- Information & Communication Technology
- Art & Design

- Music
- Design & Technology
- Health & Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

In addition to the UK National Curriculum subjects, our Year 1-2 learners participate in the following Green Shoots programmes:

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

KS1 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 the community around them.

National Curriculum KS1 Subjects

English

In KS1, our learners build upon their EYFS learning and as they increase their phonic knowledge and skills and continue to learn how to sound and blend unfamiliar words. They read books at their individual level and listen to, share and discuss a range of high-quality books in order to foster a love of reading and broaden their vocabulary. By the end of KS1, children learn to retell familiar stories that have been read to them and are able to discuss or act them out with some detail.

In Year 1 and Year 2, learners are introduced to spelling skills, develop the physical skills needed for handwriting, and learn how to organise their ideas in writing. They develop the skills to compose sentences orally and write them down with greater independence. Children also learn to develop their oral fluency through a range of speaking and listening activities, including sharing their personal experiences and the writing they produce.

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 backgrounds when they join us. Some may also be relatively new to the English language.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) support is offered both 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 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 as well as a basic understanding of phonics, which enables them to become more confident with their emergent writing skills.

Mathematics

Throughout KS1, students develop confidence and fluency with whole numbers, counting and place value. Their learning involves working with numerals, words and the

four operations. At this stage, our learners develop their ability to recognise, describe, draw, compare and sort different shapes and use the related vocabulary. They also begin to learn a range of measures to describe and compare different quantities such as length, mass, capacity/volume, time and money.

By the end of Year 2, our learners know the number bonds to 20 and are more precise in using and understanding place value. As they prepare to enter KS2, they read and spell mathematical vocabulary consistent with their reading and spelling knowledge. At Green Shoots, our students learn maths in practical ways and use a range of manipulatives and interactive opportunities to enhance their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Science

In KS1, we enable our learners to experience and observe phenomena by looking at the natural and human world around them. Our science programme encourages them to be curious and to ask questions while developing an understanding of scientific ideas. They are supported to use scientific enquiry, to try to answer their own and their peers' questions, and to learn how to observe changes, patterns and groupings. They are introduced to investigative skills as they learn how to carry out simple tests while learning age-appropriate vocabulary to talk about what they have found out.

At Green Shoots, our KS1 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 their geography learning, our KS1 students develop knowledge about the world and their local community. As we are an international school that follows the UK National Curriculum, they may also develop their knowledge of the United Kingdom's physical geography and location, and this is often used in a European context as we value the importance of international mindedness. Our learners also develop their vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills such as first-hand observation to enhance their locational awareness.

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 about their local community and deepen their understanding from first-hand experiences, while enhancing their understanding of their surroundings and the physical features here in Central Vietnam.

History

At Green Shoots, our learners develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. They begin to learn where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods. Our KS1 learners develop their historical vocabulary and are encouraged to ask and answer questions, understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past, and identify different ways in which it is represented. Their historical understanding is fostered by understanding the changes

within their own memory. Year 1 and Year 2 students also learn about significant historical events, people and places.

Information & Communication Technology

In KS1, children learn to use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. They begin to understand simple algorithms and use age-appropriate programmes that allow them to follow and execute instructions.

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

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, KS1 students are taught a range of techniques to develop their skills in controlling different materials and mediums. We foster imagination, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

KS1 learners paint, sculpt, draw, and put their imagination into their creations. They are encouraged to use a range of colours, patterns, textures, lines and shapes as a part of their skill development. They also learn about artists, craft makers and designers so that they may be inspired to achieve their personal best with their creative talents.

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. We provide a programme that is engaging and develops a love and deeper understanding of music. At Green Shoots, our learners use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs, and speaking chants and rhymes. They listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music. Learners experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

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 KS1, our learners design purposeful and functional products for themselves and others. They learn how to generate and communicate their ideas through talking, drawing and, where appropriate, information and communication technology. They use a range of tools, materials and equipment to perform practical tasks for cutting, shaping, joining and finishing products. With teacher support, our learners begin to understand how to evaluate their ideas and creations. Learning to explore, trying new things, building structures and working cooperatively are all key components in our Design & Technology lessons.

Health & Physical Education

In KS1, students at Green Shoots develop fundamental movement skills, become increasingly confident with their gross motor skills, and are provided with a range of

opportunities to extend their agility, balance and coordination, individually and with others. They begin to engage in competitive and cooperative physical activities in a range of increasingly challenging situations. They develop their skills in running, jumping, throwing and catching. We encourage participation in team games and expose our students to dance by using simple movement patterns.

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 also 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 personal growth in a positive, open-minded and caring environment.

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' and class discussions as they learn the necessary 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 EYFS and becomes increasing 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

At Green Shoots, our students learn Vietnamese so they may form deeper connections with our home/host country. Teaching and learning in KS1 provides an opportunity for our students to learn at an appropriate level, taking into account their prior knowledge of Vietnamese.

Our Vietnamese Language & 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 Vietnamese celebrations, when they occur, and what traditions are practised.

Homework

In KS1, our learners develop their sense of responsibility and are given activities that are designed to deepen their understanding at home. They may receive homework tasks and are given a week to return them to school. Homework should take no more than ten minutes per evening and is designed to consolidate learning objectives taught that week. Learners are also encouraged to read at home on a regular basis and are provided with a home reader at their appropriate reading level.

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, and offering support in completing homework.

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 verbal feedback, and increasingly also written feedback, as they prepare students for KS2. With this communication, our Year 1-2 students are aware of their progress and develop a sense of pride in their learning.

KS1 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 KS1 learning objectives) and effort (assessment of their attitude toward learning and non-academic progress and development). School reports cover KS1 core and foundation subjects, along with feedback on each learner's personal and social development.

Green Shoots' KS1 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*.