

A HAPPY SCHOOL WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Banana Island School Curriculum

At Banana Island School, we are dedicated to achieving academic excellence for every child. Yet, what truly sets us apart is the **breadth of our curriculum** and the way our school values are woven through every aspect of learning.

From the earliest years, pupils benefit from a rich and varied programme of subjects and activities, offered as part of our core curriculum at no additional cost. This wide exposure; nurtures curiosity, builds confidence and allows each child to discover their individual strengths.

In the **EYFS, Key stage 1, Key stage 2 and Key stage 3**, our teaching is rooted in the **British National Curriculum**, which we adapt and enhance to make learning engaging, relevant and forward-looking. Pupils are encouraged to think critically, express creativity and develop resilience while gaining a secure foundation across academic disciplines.

Beyond the core subjects, children enjoy a stimulating curriculum that incorporates lots of hands-on learning opportunities. These experiences provide opportunities to solve problems, work collaboratively and apply knowledge in practical, real-world contexts.

By the time pupils reach **Years 7 and 8**, we continue to balance a broad, enriching education with increasing academic challenge. Most subjects align with the **Independent Schools Examinations Board (ISEB) British Common Entrance curriculum**, ensuring pupils are well-prepared for the formal Common Entrance examinations in Year 8, while also equipping them with the independence and self-belief to thrive at senior school and beyond.

Our Curriculum at Banana Island International School

At Banana Island International School, we believe education should inspire curiosity, encourage independence, and prepare children for life beyond the classroom. Our curriculum is grounded in the **National Curriculum for England**, enriched with hands-on, creative, and exploratory learning experiences. Across all stages, children benefit from a balance of academic rigour, outdoor learning, and personal development that equips them with both knowledge and character.

KEY STAGE 1 (YEARS 1-2)

In Key Stage 1, we build on the strong foundations of the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** by developing core skills in **English, Mathematics, and Science**, while nurturing creativity and curiosity through **Humanities, Art, Music, Computing, Swimming and Physical Education**.

A distinctive feature of our Key Stage 1 provision is the emphasis on **hands-on learning**. Pupils explore concepts through practical activities, experiments, and collaborative projects that make lessons engaging and meaningful. Each week, outdoor learning is woven into lesson plans, giving children opportunities to connect with nature, problem-solve in real-life contexts, and develop teamwork. Curriculum-linked trips further enrich learning, helping pupils to see the world as their classroom.

KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3-6)

As pupils progress into Key Stage 2, the curriculum becomes broader and more challenging, with all subjects being delivered by specialist teachers. Strong foundations in **English, Mathematics, French and Science** are deepened, while pupils also study **History, Geography, RE, Art and Design, Computing, Music, Swimming and PE**.

Children are encouraged to think critically, collaborate effectively and develop resilience in their learning. A modern foreign language is introduced, digital literacy is strengthened and pupils are given opportunities to express themselves through creative projects, performances and problem-solving challenges. Weekly outdoor learning sessions and termly trips extend the classroom experience, ensuring knowledge is applied in adventurous and practical ways.

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7-8)

By Key Stage 3, pupils are ready for a greater level of independence and academic depth. Specialist teaching continues across all subjects and the curriculum is aligned with the **ISEB Common Entrance framework** to prepare pupils thoroughly for senior school entry.

Pupils are encouraged to take ownership of their studies, developing independent learning habits alongside strong critical thinking and analytical skills. Outdoor learning remains an integral part of the experience, with trips and fieldwork enhancing the curriculum and allowing pupils to apply their knowledge beyond the classroom.

Alongside academic preparation, we place great importance on **PSHE and pastoral care**, ensuring that pupils develop not only as learners but as well-rounded, empathetic young people.

By the end of Year 8, our pupils leave Banana Island International School fully prepared for the **Common Entrance at 13+ examinations** and ready to thrive in the challenges of senior school, equipped with the confidence, curiosity and resilience to excel.

OUR PREP SCHOOL CURRICULUM CONTENT AREAS

PHONICS

At Banana Island International School, phonics is taught systematically and rigorously from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through to Year 1, ensuring that every child develops a secure foundation in early reading and writing. Using a structured, multi-sensory approach, pupils are introduced to sounds, blends and word-building in a way that is both engaging and effective.

Daily phonics lessons equip children with the skills to decode unfamiliar words, spell with increasing accuracy and read fluently with understanding. This early mastery not only fosters a love of reading but also underpins success across the wider curriculum. By Year 2, pupils transition seamlessly from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn,' giving them confidence, independence, and the essential literacy tools to thrive as lifelong learners.

ENGLISH

At Banana Island International School, English is the cornerstone of our curriculum. Pupils develop fluency in reading, writing, speaking and listening through a carefully structured programme that blends phonics, grammar and creative expression. From exploring classic literature to crafting their own narratives, children learn to communicate with clarity and confidence, laying a strong foundation for lifelong literacy and a love of language. To further enrich this journey, weekly spelling lists and tests, alongside dedicated 'read aloud' sessions, provide consistent practice, reinforce learning and build both accuracy and confidence in expression.

MATHEMATICS

At Banana Island International School, Mathematics is taught with precision, depth and creativity. Pupils master core concepts in number, shape, measure and data while developing logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Each morning begins with mental maths practice, sharpening recall, speed and fluency, while dedicated verbal and non-verbal reasoning lessons

further strengthen critical thinking and analytical ability. Through hands-on activities, mental strategies and real-world applications, children grow into confident mathematicians, equipped to tackle increasingly complex challenges. Our robust curriculum also prepares pupils for excellence beyond the classroom, with learners as young as six proudly representing the school in international Mathematics Olympiad competitions.

SCIENCE

Science at Banana Island International School ignites curiosity and sharpens critical thinking. Through practical experiments, outdoor investigations, and systematic enquiry, pupils explore biology, chemistry and physics. They learn to ask meaningful questions, test hypotheses, and draw conclusions based on evidence, building not only subject knowledge but also, a lifelong spirit of discovery and the ability to think scientifically.

FRENCH

At Banana Island International School, French is a core subject, taught through three dedicated lessons each week. Language learning is central to preparing pupils for an interconnected world and from the early years in Prep, children are introduced to French in a dynamic and engaging way. Lessons combine vocabulary, grammar and cultural exploration, enabling pupils to communicate confidently while developing an appreciation of linguistic diversity. To ensure progress and international benchmarking, our pupils sit the DELF examinations annually, giving them both accreditation and confidence as young linguists.

COMPUTING

Computing equips pupils with the digital skills essential for the future. Children move from coding basics to problem-solving with programming while also developing digital creativity and responsible online behaviour. Lessons balance technical competence with innovation, preparing pupils to use technology thoughtfully and powerfully in an ever-changing world.

ART and DESIGN

At Banana Island International School, Art and Design encourage creativity, experimentation and self-expression. Pupils explore a wide range of media and techniques while studying the work of influential artists and designers. They are guided to refine their craft, evaluate their work critically and showcase their artistic voice; nurturing imagination alongside discipline and technical skill. Art is taught twice weekly, ensuring a strong and continuous progression of skills.

Beyond the classroom, our pupils take part in an annual Art Week, a vibrant celebration where every child's work is exhibited, visiting artists inspire creativity and the entire school community engages in artistic fun. To further enrich their experiences, pupils also enjoy yearly art excursions, giving them hands-on opportunities to explore and connect with the wider world of art and design.

MUSIC

At Banana Island International School, Music is a vibrant and integral part of Prep school life. Pupils develop vocal and instrumental skills, learn to read notation and compose and perform pieces across a range of styles and traditions. To support the performance element of the curriculum, every pupil learns the descant recorder in class, enabling them to take part in ensembles while strengthening their ability to read and interpret music. Music is taught once a week, with pupils also preparing for end-of-year productions where they have staged outstanding shows, as well as special events such as the annual Christmas Concert, Music & Art Week Recitals as well as solo instrumental performances during our weekly assemblies.

Beyond the classroom, one-to-one instrumental lessons are offered both before and after school, allowing pupils to pursue individual interests and progress at their own pace. Many of our pupils are also prepared for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) examinations, where they have consistently achieved excellent results. Together, these opportunities ensure that every child not only develops musical literacy but also gains confidence, discipline and a lifelong appreciation for the joy of music.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

At Banana Island International School, our Humanities programme nurtures global awareness and cultural literacy while remaining rooted in our pupils' own heritage. In History, children study world events, developing an understanding of continuity, change, and perspective. They also explore the history of Nigeria, learning about notable figures whose contributions have shaped the nation and beyond. In Geography, pupils examine human and physical landscapes on both a global and local scale, interpreting maps, analysing environmental challenges and exploring the distinctive geographical features of Nigeria. Together, these disciplines encourage pupils to value

their cultural identity while broadening their horizons, fostering empathy and inspiring responsible citizenship in an interconnected world.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and PSHE

Religious Education and PSHE provide moral grounding and personal growth. In RE, pupils explore major world faiths, traditions and values, fostering respect, tolerance, and open-mindedness.

In PSHE, they develop essential life skills; emotional literacy, personal responsibility and social awareness, preparing them to grow as thoughtful, confident and compassionate global citizens.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION and SWIMMING

At Banana Island International School, Physical Education is central to developing healthy, confident and resilient learners. Our PE curriculum provides a broad and engaging programme of team games, athletics, gymnastics and dance, ensuring that every child builds strength, coordination and a lifelong love of movement. Pupils also learn the values of teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship through structured lessons, inter-house competitions and collaborative play.

Swimming is a core part of our provision, taught weekly in our dedicated programme. From water safety to stroke development, pupils progress from basic confidence-building in the pool to advanced techniques that enable them to swim with stamina and efficiency. In addition, our Swim Squad trains twice a week in the early mornings, giving talented swimmers the opportunity to extend their skills and compete at higher levels.

Beyond the curriculum, pupils enjoy a vibrant range of sporting opportunities. Our Football Team trains every Monday and Wednesday, while extracurricular activities include Basketball on Wednesdays, Fencing on Thursdays and Taekwondo on Fridays. Annual highlights such as Sports Day showcase the progress pupils have made, celebrate achievement and bring our school community together in a spirit of joy and healthy competition.

Together, PE and Swimming promote fitness, resilience and personal achievement, ensuring that every pupil is equipped with the physical literacy, discipline, and confidence to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum at BIIS

At **Banana Island School** we recognise that the early years provide the foundation for all future learning. Our EYFS curriculum is carefully designed to nurture each child's natural curiosity, creativity and confidence while supporting their growth across the seven areas of learning in the British Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.

Set within the serene and secure environment of Banana Island, our EYFS provision combines world-class teaching with an engaging, child-friendly setting where every learner feels valued, supported, and inspired.

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

We provide a language-rich environment where children develop their speaking, listening, and understanding through storytelling, role play, songs, and purposeful conversation. These experiences help build strong communication skills and confidence in self-expression.

Physical Development

Through outdoor play, movement, dance, and carefully structured activities, children refine both gross and fine motor skills. Our curriculum also instils healthy habits, promoting wellbeing through physical activity, nutrition, and positive lifestyle choices.

Personal, Social, and Emotional Development

At BIIS, children are guided to form positive relationships, develop self-confidence, and learn to manage their emotions within a supportive community. This creates a strong foundation for resilience, empathy and independence.

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

Children are introduced to early reading and writing through phonics, storytelling, rhymes, and a variety of mark-making activities. These experiences spark a love for literature and communication, laying the groundwork for future academic success.

Mathematics

Mathematical learning is made enjoyable and meaningful through hands-on activities, problem-solving games, and exploration of numbers, shapes, space, and measurement. Children develop logical thinking while connecting maths to everyday life.

Understanding the World

Children are encouraged to explore their environment and make sense of the world around them. Through celebrations, nature studies, technology, and simple investigations, they develop awareness of people, places, and cultures, fostering curiosity and respect for diversity.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creative expression is celebrated across art, music, role play, and drama. Our curriculum encourages imagination, innovation, and self-expression, allowing children to develop confidence while exploring a range of artistic mediums.

At **Banana Island International School**, both the EYFS and Prep school curriculum are more than just academic; but a carefully designed journey that nurtures curiosity, builds character and empowers every child to thrive. With a blend of world class excellence and rich cultural grounding, we equip our pupils not only to succeed in examinations, but to excel in life as confident, creative and compassionate global citizens.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the way the curriculum is implemented throughout the school. The effectiveness of the curriculum is monitored within Curriculum committee meetings. Revised curriculum policies and new initiatives are also discussed and ratified, where appropriate, within this committee.

REVIEW

At Banana Island School, we are aware of the need to review the school's Curriculum Policy on a regular basis to take account of new initiatives, revised Authority procedures and Government Legislation.

Date Agreed: August 2025

Signed: Chair of Governors

Signed: Mr Bradley Sailes, Headteacher