



Black Horse Hill Infant School

Curriculum Policy

September 2019

Learning for Life



School Vision

Together, our schools will: -

Nurture and empower our children to become creative, compassionate and confident citizens, in a diverse and ever-changing world.

School Aims

Our school community will: -

- Have high expectations for all
- Inspire a passion for learning
- Provide an enjoyable, yet challenging curriculum
- Develop positive relationships through collaboration
- Create a safe and happy environment

School Values

All our children, staff and parents will share the same core principles of: -

- Respect
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Excellence
- Perseverance
- Friendship
- Motivation and hard work
- Politeness and good manners



Our Curriculum Intent

We want our children running through the gates and waiting at our doors desperate to get into school because they can't wait to learn!

As stated in our school vision, we want to nurture and empower our children to become creative, compassionate and confident citizens who know that they can make a difference in our diverse and ever changing world.

We will use the national curriculum guidelines in order to develop the knowledge content of the curriculum but our aim is to make the curriculum relevant and exciting with purposeful outcomes. From Foundation 1 to Year 2 we will offer a coherent, well sequenced curriculum which builds upon the knowledge, vocabulary and skills for all of our children. Implicit in our belief is that we need to prepare our children for their future (whatever that may be!) and life in modern Britain so we encompass our key values (Golden threads) across school and in the delivery of our curriculum areas. Fundamental to our curriculum intent is that our children in their lessons are communicating, collaborating, questioning, and challenging the knowledge that is delivered to them by making connections and seeking the relevance of the knowledge to our world.

Our key values/golden threads which are woven through our curriculum:

- Creativity
- Compassion/kindness
- Excellence, resilience and perseverance
- Respect
- Honesty
- Friendship/collaboration/teamwork

Our provision is informed by educational research into effective teaching practices, cognition, learning and how knowledge and understanding develops. These act as a guide for the coherence and distinctiveness of our curriculum.

Implementing the curriculum

Teachers at Black Horse Hill recognise that they, like the children, are always learning and they strive to develop their subject expertise across the curriculum. Teachers willingly take on board new ideas gained from professional development and collaboration with other schools. From this we acknowledge that the curriculum that we provide is ever evolving to meet the needs of the learners at our school.

Long term planning is organised in Key Stages but the staff in the EYFS and KS1 communicate effectively to ensure that what is taught in the early years provides the knowledge, vocabulary and skills needed for children to be successful in KS1 and beyond.

Learning may be delivered through topics or can be taught discretely (examples include phonics, maths and our Jigsaw PSHE programme).

Medium and short term planning then sets out the learning intentions for each lesson. Recently (summer 2019) staff have trialled the use of knowledge organisers for topics and areas of the curriculum which we will continue to use in Autumn 2019. Opportunities to enhance and enrich our curriculum are provided through:

- educational visits
- sport coaches/sporting events
- visitors including parents, artists, musicians, charitable organisations
- use of the school grounds, the locality and the wider environment
- assemblies
- themed weeks such as Science Week or our Coast to Country project
- extra-curricular clubs
- Black Horse Hill Pledge (see p7)
- learning about the language and culture of China (Year 2)

When implementing our curriculum there is a large emphasis in our classrooms on providing children with the opportunity to develop their vocabulary and communication skills. Our belief is that if children can articulate their understanding to others it will lead to a deeper understanding and mastery of subjects. Research also suggests that explicit teaching of vocabulary can enrich children's knowledge and understanding of the world so this is something we aim to do.

Pupil groupings are flexible and children are organised to maximise learning. Teachers monitor learning and provide timely feedback. We understand that just because something has been taught our pupils may not retain the information. Teaching staff give feedback to children about their learning in different ways with children having time to respond to any feedback. Assessment opportunities are built into the curriculum but we know we need to develop further strategies to get children "knowing more and remembering more" especially in maths

Strong partnerships with parents and carers are in place so that the learning that takes place in school can continue at home.

Impact of the Curriculum

When measuring the impact of our curriculum firstly we ask our pupils. At Black Horse Hill we gain our children's views informally (Luncheon Table, class visits) and more formally (Governor Walk around). Key questions we ask:

Do they enjoy coming to school?

What have they learned and remembered in Year?

Have they found anything challenging this year?

Is learning always easy?

Subject leaders play an important part in the success of the curriculum overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of their subject within school.

In addition, we regularly monitor and compare our school against national and local benchmarks as well as with similar schools. Our strengths and weaknesses are identified in order to raise our children's attainment further.

We believe our children possess unique talents, skills and qualities. As such they have a right to succeed, the right to recognise their own greatness and the right to understand how they can make a difference in our community and the world.

Black Horse Hill Infant School



We want all our children to be confident, happy, creative and compassionate learners who have experienced a wide range of opportunities and activities linked to our British values. To ensure this, we have written a set of 14 Pledges so all our children can access rich experiences which will help develop their understanding of our world.

Our Pledge to the Children

During your time at our school we will:

- Learn outside whenever possible
- Find out about animals by visiting the zoo and farm
- Go to the local library
- Visit a Museum
- Experience and use modern technology
- Attend a live performance/concert
- Meet a person who can widen your understanding of the world
- Perform to an audience
- Have an assembly in a place of worship
- Learn about different cultures and festivals around the world
- Enrich your understanding of Wirral by visiting the coast, gardens and parks.
- Contribute to charity work
- Find out about ways to help our planet
- Meet children from other schools