

Yox Valley Partnership



Curriculum Intent

At Yox Valley Partnership of schools, we put the child at the heart of everything we do and build positive relationships, which are based on mutual trust and respect.

Our knowledge curriculum has been developed using the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the Primary National Curriculum. To support planning and progression we use the developmental framework to support subject specific skills created by Chris Quigley.

However, as a partnership, we believe that there is so much more to developing the whole child than the National Curriculum offers, and our children deserve and need us to provide those opportunities. Life has so much more to offer and our children have so much more to learn and experience. We feel a duty to provide these opportunities for children to open up their eyes.

Our curriculum exposes our children to enriching learning experiences, immersing them in progressive knowledge and skills and equipping them with personal characteristics required to succeed in life. Children learn best when they are confident to '**have a go**' and understand that they can learn from mistakes. We want children to know themselves as learners and how best to learn.

Following consultation with staff, we identified 2 specific '**Drivers**' for our curriculum, namely '**Community**' and '**Aspiration**', and these are a common thread that run throughout our curriculum.

Community: we want the children to be aware that they are a central part of a small community, that they have a role to play in that community and that they should be proud of where they come from - their roots. However, we also recognise that some of our families are deep rooted in their local communities, with generations all attending the same school. Whilst this can be a positive, it is important that the children also realise that they are also part of a bigger regional, national and international community. We want

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them to explore these communities, ask questions, broaden their experiences and open their eyes to new opportunities. This is where our drivers of community and aspiration overlap.

Whilst designing our curriculum, we have planned a range of engaging and exciting **learning** opportunities which enable pupils to broaden their experiences of their local community, and further-a-field with the aim of preparing them to succeed in life in-modern Britain. We want to utilise our local area, and its people in our curriculum. For example, within our topic of Inspirational People, pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 learn about people who help us in our community and invite into our school's local policeman, fireman, nurses etc. to talk about their role and combine that with a community visit to places such as a fire station, bakery or local vets. Further up the school, plans include opportunities to explore local inspirational people - artist John Constable (direct descendants at Middleton) Ed Sheeran, Mary Gundry (Southwold artist)

We relate our learning to real life contexts, for example the impact of events (current and historic) on our local community, and how that compares with other communities, locally and more widely. We have already developed some strong local community links at each school over the past few years - the local church, libraries, bookshops, many people and groups in the village/towns and these are really important for our communities as well as important for the schools. We want the local community to be as much a part of our learning as the school is part of the community - we see it as a two way process

The community has the power to change and enhance the lives of our pupils and we as a staff are the facilitators for that.

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Aspiration: This is the hope, desire or ambition to strive to achieve something. Through our curriculum we promote ambition, high aspirations and foster childrens' capacity to see the possibilities within the world today. We aim to give our children a range of rich experiences that help them to aim high, take personal pride in achievements and ultimately help every child find strengths and interests bespoke to them.

We want all our children to be the best they can possibly be and to challenge themselves as a learner so that they produce work of high quality, take pride in themselves and be the very best that they can be. We want our curriculum to provide opportunities that will encourage each pupil to have dreams and aspirations for their own future. By will involving parents and people from the wider community we will explore different careers and encourage our children to be inspired by positive role models and opportunities.

Our aim is for each child to confidently enter the next stage of their education with the necessary skills, knowledge and mindset to reach their academic potential and to thrive, knowing and understanding their place in the world and their importance and value to society as global citizens. Our curriculum is a valuable vehicle in equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. It is about giving children the best possible start to their education by enhancing the experience and opportunities available to them.