

Our Mengham curriculum and pedagogy



Vision - Mengham Infant School will be an outstanding learning environment, within which all children feel safe, inspired and valued; a place of excellence that gives our children the foundation they need to become creative, confident, life-long learners.

Agreed by Governors and Staff - October 2017

Rationale - Our curriculum is not a list of objectives to be 'ticked off'. Our curriculum encapsulates the ethos of our teaching and learning. It states the values and principles that our school stands for. It sets out how we structure learning within and between different subjects and year groups so this learning is meaningful and rich. Finally, it provides a vision of what our school can be that aims to inspire excellence in our children, staff, parents, and wider community.

High outcomes	Mastery of key skills and cross-curricular understanding	The crucial importance of reading
<p>Our children are excited by our curriculum and they leave us with a love of learning and interested, enquiring minds. Our curriculum is not designed to teach to a set of tests, but the deep understanding they have gained ensures that they make sustained progress and achieve very well. They are prepared for the next stage of their education and more generally their wider lives as they grow up.</p>	<p>Within each national curriculum subject, we focus on children mastering the core skills and concepts, as well as the distinctive 'way of thinking' of each discipline. We build up these core skills and concepts in a careful sequence from year R to year 2, always ensuring that children have developed a secure mastery that they are able to apply independently in a range of contexts before we move on. We connect different areas of children's learning in order to deepen their understanding and move it into their long-term memory.</p>	<p>We view reading as a crucial skill for young children to develop and so we systematically introduce phonic skills and knowledge as children progress through the school, while developing their comprehension abilities. Opportunities to read for purpose are integrated into every part of the curriculum, and we continually foster the children's love of reading</p>
Develop well-rounded individuals	Building cultural capital	Learning skills and our five values
<p>Our entire curriculum is based on the desire to enable each and every child to thrive in all areas of their development. We develop children as well-rounded individuals. We believe that children's personal, social, emotional, physical and communicative development underpin their learning across the curriculum. We develop these core skills and attributes explicitly in specific lessons but also in many subtle ways, for example how children talk with us and to each other, through the types of activities we give to them, and through the values we exemplify and celebrate in school</p>	<p>Our curriculum builds children's cultural capital through a carefully thought-out program of trips, visits into school from a range of visitors, and experiences teachers create as part of units of work. We recognise that not all children have had the same breadth of wider life experiences and so this program aims to fill these gaps, as well as broadening all children's opportunities. This focus on cultural capital allows children's personalities to develop fully, provides them with the tools they need to access all areas of the curriculum, and simply gives them the pure enjoyment that comes from participating in all these experiences.</p>	<p>We have five school values: respect, caring, independence, perseverance and creativity. These values permeate the daily life of our school and our curriculum. Our units of work and the activities within our lessons help children develop these attributes and we celebrate the children demonstrating them. We also help children to develop metacognitive learning skills: to reflect not only on what they are learning but also on their own process of learning and how they can manage their thinking.</p>

Celebrating diversity and British values

Throughout our curriculum, we celebrate the differences between children and families within our school and around the world, and we promote the five fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different or no faiths). We do this through the topics we study and the ideas we introduce, but we also 'live' all these values with the children to ensure they are meaningful. The children continually have opportunities to appreciate and practise them through the class activities we offer, the responsibilities they are given round school, our school rules and through our conduct at all times.

An adaptive, responsive curriculum

We ensure that all children flourish at our school, regardless of their background. Our curriculum is designed to be flexible, so teachers can adapt it to address the next steps of the children in their class. All children have areas they find tricky, so we constantly assess whether children need to have their learning journeys amended or need extra support in some area of their development. Some children have special educational needs or disabilities and we work closely in conjunction with other agencies and professionals to put personalised support in place. This means these children can focus on their specific needs, while still accessing as much of their year group's curriculum as possible. All children also have areas of strength, and we constantly find ways to allow them to excel in these areas and follow their interests deeper. The children have ownership over our curriculum: their interests influence the topics we study year-to-year, and we often give them the choice over the form or content of pieces of work they produce. Our curriculum makes use of our good links with our local community so children's learning is anchored in familiar contexts and it feels meaningful to them.