



Kirkby-on-Bain Church of England Primary School

'Learning together for life'

Cultural Capital

Our Vision and Ethos

Our small, inclusive and caring school provides an embedded family ethos. We strive to enthuse and inspire our pupils, challenging and supporting their growth into respectful; confident; independent; self-motivated and curious individuals. We care, learn, discover and grow together, developing compassion, consideration, tolerance, understanding and knowledge for life in all its fullness.

Prior to joining our school community, we hold individual meetings with parents of new starters to allow sharing of backgrounds/interests/needs/parental needs etc. and ensure that they feel valued and acknowledged. We hold a welcome evening to ensure parents are fully informed and provide parent workshops to help with key elements of our curriculum including phonics, fluency and prosody, early number and the mathematical approaches, strategies and models we teach in school. We offer open house events, allowing parents to spend time in their child's classroom. Parents, relatives and other people who are special to children are invited in to be Mystery Readers, sharing a story as a surprise for their child(ren) and their peers. Prior to COVID, we welcomed parents to join us for our weekly good work celebration collective worships and have included class collective worships in place of these. Each class has an opportunity to share an element, elements or an overview of their learning with their parents/carers and the rest of our school community.

Children are greeted into school by their name each day to ensure they feel valued as individuals and that parents have opportunities to share any news they have with a member of staff. Children are dismissed to parents by their class teacher at the end of each day to ensure a continued, healthy relationship between parents and teachers and a chance for parents to see interactions between their child and their teacher first hand. Seesaw provides ongoing communication and the sharing of things that are happening within the classroom, including lessons and additional experiences/celebrations/performances. We formed our Facebook page at the start of the first lockdown to provide an uplifting celebration of our school community, to maintain our children's focus and inspiration and to ensure our all-important sense of community was protected. We now have a bank of videos and posts that celebrates the special family we are and allows new parents and children to see and share in our positivity. Our website has also been redesigned to ensure our families, and any prospective families are as informed as possible.

We have a child-initiated approach across Early Years and Key Stage One. Children's interests are followed wherever possible and the opportunity to share these, positively influences and broadens others' interests is an invaluable example of positive peer influence. Children contribute to and help to shape the curriculum, regarding the timing and content through which objectives will be covered. For example, who is the significant individual we will study? Which event within living memory should be our focus? These form part of the continuous provision in the classroom, where appropriate.

Families of disadvantaged children are supported to ensure equitable access to the curriculum in its broadest form. We offer the first hour of wraparound care each day free of charge and ensure we offer a wide range of free clubs, run by our own staff to ensure we are fully inclusive. School trips are subsidised as needed, to ensure no child misses out because of the financial implications and we ensure a specific menu of interventions is offered to ensure children are not left behind or with gaps in their understanding. We work closely with external agencies including Working Together Team, Community Paediatricians, Educational Psychologists and Behaviour Outreach to ensure we have expert support to meet diverse needs. We use a range of standardised assessments, including CAT 4 to ensure we can map attainment against underlying cognitive ability and so that we are aware of any moderate or extreme bias that might help us to provide children with an even greater chance of success by utilising and maximising their strengths and to pinpoint areas requiring further support.

We know not all of our children will have the opportunity to access wider experiences and therefore ensure we offer diverse trips to broaden children's perspectives. These include but are not limited to: Young Voices concert; theatre companies in school and accompanying workshops, visits to out of area centres such as the National Science Museum, team building and outdoor and adventurous experiences like climbing and archery and opportunities to compete in interschool sporting events. We also provide programs in school that help to fully prepare children for their next stage of learning and beyond, including the DARE program (Drug Abuse Resistance Experience) and the Positive Footprints Raising Aspirations program which opens the door to the world of work, showing children what careers are out there and the skills they'll need to leave a positive footprint wherever they go in life. It also helps them to build their self-belief and resilience, recognise their qualities and understand how those qualities could be used in the workplace. This program includes a careers event where children and local businesses are invited to help share their chosen career paths with our pupils. We embrace the opportunities we have and responsibilities we share to fully prepare our children for success in life and to help them become the best human being they can be. We value character development and life skills as vital elements of our school curriculum.

Our curriculum is linked to three whole school Golden Threads encompassing concepts such as belonging, global awareness and understanding and the recognition that everyone can make a positive difference.

Autumn Term Golden Thread

Know Yourself, Love Yourself, Love Your Neighbour

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mark 12:31)

Spring Term Golden Thread

One world, our world, a world for all

‘The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.’ (Psalm 24:1)

Summer Term Golden Thread

Be the Change

‘And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need.’ (Hebrews 13:16)

‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world.’ Inspired by the words of Mahatma Gandhi

Our pupils are encouraged and given opportunity to undertake a social action project inspired by a local issue or any of the learning they have experienced during the school year. We use the Archbishop of York’s Young Leaders’ Award as a support and model of a project and to develop pupil’s understanding of how they can work effectively. Our pupils have a strong moral compass and are proactive in actioning change in school. Our set of litter pickers were purchased in response to a pupil letter and are now regularly borrowed by pupils at weekends and holidays so that they can go litter picking with their families at local villages, beaches and woodlands. Classes nominate charities that they will support for the academic year and as part of this, they are encouraged to write to the charity and conduct research to find out more about their work, organise an event to raise funds or raise the profile and then to share what they have learnt with other classes. (This has been stalled due to COVID but has now restarted with a fundraiser to support Ukraine, organised and run entirely by our year five children.) Our Spiritual Gang seek out opportunities to help our local community by supporting our nearest foodbanks with tinned and packeted donations received at our Harvest Festival celebrations each year. Wherever possible, they deliver this produce themselves, helping to stock the shelves and asking questions to fully understand the good work these organisations do within the community. This allows them to consequently share their wider knowledge with the rest of the school.

We pride ourselves on knowing each individual child across school well and truly valuing their inherent worth. Children are encouraged to celebrate and be proud of their unique qualities and skills. We are a small, rural school tucked away in a village and it is our responsibility to broaden their perspectives and be interested and inquisitive about the wider world, diverse cultures and beliefs and the views, opinions and perspectives of others. We work closely with members of our local clergy, with several delivering collective worships and spirituality sessions across school. We seek to widen our pupils’ perspectives further by providing pupil workshops linked to special times in the church liturgical calendar, including Advent and Lent.

One of our current school development priorities includes a key focus on developing our children’s emotional intelligence and their ability to reason and justify, armed with a broad vocabulary.

We have a quality, progressive reading spine throughout school which encompasses a diverse range of books, both historical and contemporary, which are shared with children across the school year so that all children are able to listen to and share quality texts, regardless of their background. We ensure we have a broad collection of levelled books and continually update our library of books to ensure we have new releases that some children

would not otherwise have access to, diverse content and books that help to develop positivity, strength of character and resilience. Reading is embedded within school, is our highest priority of learning and loved by our children and staff. We have many pupil groups in school and our Reading Mentors is the most popular one. Children apply for the hotly contested responsible roles and go through a presentation and interview process to gain one, providing a valuable rehearsal at a key life skill.

Other pupil groups include, but are not limited to, our school council, voted in democratically by peers as part of our recognition of British Values, a Stay Safe Squad with members chosen due to their vulnerability regarding road safety, online safety, Spiritual Gang, who are instrumental in shaping, delivering, evaluating and monitoring collective worships and helping to embed our values throughout school. Our Sport's Ambassadors help to encourage and model healthy living, exercise and teamwork and help to shape and deliver our annual sports day, intraschool sport competitions and house competitions.

We hold half termly poetry recitals to build our children's confidence for public speaking and to further develop their fluency, prosody and vocabulary. Another of our school development priorities is to develop our pupils' reflection and creativity, broadening their ability to maintain good mental health and wellbeing and objectivity. We grasp opportunities for our children to experience opportunities beyond the classroom including focused and dedicated outdoor learning lessons and visits to local secondary schools including the Royal Institute Mathematics lessons that we would not otherwise be able to offer as a small, rural school.

We recognise the importance of learning a language and the positive impact it can have on other areas of learning and the opportunities it might offer in later life. Children in years one to six have French lessons throughout the school year and our reception children, usually by request, start lessons, based mainly around music and song, during the summer term.

Lessons across school encompass language elements and exploration of French culture, further broadening our pupils' cultural awareness.

All children are given the opportunity to learn to play an instrument via whole class tuition and to continue instruction beyond that point.

We ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is never narrowed and strive to cover a wide range of diverse history and geography in a progressive, age-appropriate way, linking these to our golden threads as a lens to view them through and helping pupils to make connections between their current learning, previous learning and what other classes in school are covering. Our art curriculum provide opportunity to explore, discuss and consider the work of a range of diverse artists that they may not otherwise be aware of.

We mark special days and weeks e.g. Earth day and Science Week, carefully balancing these with the expected curriculum coverage and we utilise local expertise to enhance opportunities e.g. representatives from our local RAF camp assisting with a science day.

We use talking partners and peer assessment to develop children's abilities to analyse and offer constructive and effective feedback and to further develop reflection. We set expectations for children to self assess, revisit and edit their work and our feedback approach includes pupils identifying areas of work they feel particularly proud of.

We believe we offer a curriculum provision that is ambitious and aspirational for all and that will enhance the cultural capital of every child and family. We strive to ensure children are as ready as they can be for the transition to their secondary setting and equipped with life skills that will ensure their success as individual human beings with unique and inherent value.