



Palace Fields Primary School

Curriculum Intent

At Palace Fields Primary School we aim for children to have a love of learning and to be passionate about the knowledge they encounter throughout our curriculum. We aim to provide a curriculum that engages children with the very best that has been thought and said. The knowledge-based approach to our curriculum enables children to be fluent in “powerful knowledge”; knowledge that will enable them to be successful throughout their lives, knowledge that will enable them to reach the highest aspirations.

Our curriculum intent is captured through the following 5 themes:-

R – E – A – C – H

Retention of powerful knowledge

Our curriculum allows children to retain powerful knowledge. It is not merely a set of facts for children to learn and then forget. It is carefully designed and planned in such a way that knowledge will be stored in children's long-term memories, so that they can build on it and use it later in life.

The powerful knowledge that children encounter throughout our curriculum:

1. Is systematic and relates to the big picture;
2. Takes pupils beyond their everyday experiences;
3. Is 'specialised rather than general' (Young 2013);
4. Enables pupils to become socially mobile.

Extending vocabulary

Our curriculum ensures pupils can retain and use a wider range of powerful and ambitious vocabulary. We encourage all pupils to have a passion for the English language and a desire to broaden their vocabulary. Our curriculum is carefully designed to ensure pupils can learn new ambitious words, use them effectively and retain them for everyday use, throughout their life. A contextual consideration for the school is that of communication and language. We aim to close the vocabulary gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged. By closing this gap, we can offer pupils a vital tool for success in school, alongside the capability to communicate with confidence in the world beyond our school gates.

We strongly believe that vocabulary and reading are crucially linked and interconnected: progress in one will always result in progress in the other. We aim to expand and extend pupils' vocabulary to enable them to become ardent readers; we also aim to embed a love of reading in all pupils, enabling them to develop a plethora of rich and powerful vocabulary.

Application of powerful knowledge and vocabulary

We have designed a curriculum that allows children to become confident and fluent with powerful knowledge and vocabulary. Children are taught in such a way that they acquire knowledge that they can take with them for the rest of their lives, knowledge that they can use when forming arguments and judgements, or when reading and solving problems. Challenging opportunities to apply knowledge are embedded throughout our curriculum. Progressively-planned learning enables children to constantly apply prior knowledge and build upon it.

Cultural Capital

At Palace Fields Primary School, we view 'cultural capital' as the experiences, characteristics, knowledge and skills that promote social mobility, both now and in the future. Another contextual consideration is that of narrow life experience and so we ensure that all children are exposed to a wide range of experiences that will develop their cultural capital and give them an advantage in later life. We have developed a curriculum that prepares children for the next stage in their education and life.

We ensure that all children gain a wealth of experiences beyond learning facts in the classroom. We want our curriculum to inspire children to want to learn more, to provoke children's intellectual curiosity and to create experiences of awe and wonder. We aim for all children to take part in memorable experiences that will expand their cultural capital.

We want all of our children to be global citizens with a strong sense of global awareness. Our curriculum will provide children with knowledge and experiences that enable them to know their responsibility and role in our world, both now and in the future.

Holistic approach through a curriculum underpinned by our ACORN values

We place a high focus on children's social, emotional and physical health both through PSHE as a subject but also through our desire and commitment to embedding the "Thrive" approach into our whole-school culture. As well as this, our 5 ACORN values underpin all that we do at Palace Fields Primary School. Contextual considerations of limited ambition and resilience as well as an understanding that the ability to build and maintain positive relationships is paramount, we actively teach children how to demonstrate Ambition, Creativity, Ownership, Resilience and Nurture. These 5 values, alongside the 5 British values, highlight the main attitudes and behaviours that we focus on; recognising that, for our children, these are key to success.