



Sidney Stringer Primary Academy is committed to exemplary teaching and learning with the highest aspiration for all children. Through work and play we encourage everyone to dare to dream big. Our curriculum is designed to facilitate children to understand, enjoy and contribute to their world. Our vision aims for all members of our community, especially our children, to aspire to be the best imagined, achieve great things and challenge themselves even further.

Within the expectations defined by the National Curriculum, in designing our curriculum we asked a number of questions:

- Which aims, values and principles should our curriculum pursue and enact?
- What are children's 'lived world experiences'? What are the challenges of a super-globalised, politically, socially, environmentally and technologically uncertain world?
- How can a curriculum nurture children's childhoods as well as prepare them for their adult future?

A curriculum could be considered the body of knowledge that is advanced through learning and teaching that is planned and guided. Sometimes the curriculum is equated with the content which is to be taught. Instead however, our educational curriculum has principles beneath the taught curriculum. These principles in turn guide the ways we teach and the ways children learn. As well as asking 'what knowledge will be taught?', we also ask, 'what will be the outcomes for children beyond grades and exam results?' and, 'how will they grow in becoming confident and capable individuals?'

At the core of our curriculum are values. We want all our children to be polite, respectful, tolerant and community-minded. We want them to aspire, achieve and then challenge themselves to do even more. Academic achievement is hugely important but we see this as a natural outcome of a holistic approach to learning. We instill the belief in each and every child that they can be a success in later life, whatever they choose to do. We place key importance on equality and diversity and we actively discuss British Values and their worth within our everyday school life. Our children are becoming confident individuals who believe in themselves, have high aspirations and understand what can be achieved by working together.

Our school ethos is one of high expectations and standards throughout. It is value driven with good values integral to all that we do. We aim for all our children to grow up valuing themselves, others and the environment. Adults are encouraged to model exemplary values and to give time for reflective practices ensuring that values are the principles that guide behaviour. Following our discussions with children and families, we created our own Sidney Stringer Primary Academy key values. We promote and teach these values to our pupils with a focus on one in particular each half term to allow us to focus in more depth on each. The values we have chosen are: Achieve, Respect, Care, Cooperation, Determination and Responsibility.

Our curriculum aims to be challenging and stimulating. The teaching of English and Mathematics are key priorities for our school alongside placing great importance on providing enrichment opportunities to enhance the curriculum for all of our children. Technology is also a key feature of our curriculum and we aim to be leading practitioners in the development of new technologies to engage and prepare children for a complex technological world. We also embrace opportunities to link with both our local community and believe this empowers our children to be diverse learners and good, well rounded citizens.

From the start of their educational experience with us, children are taught key skills in Phonics, English, Mathematics and Science. These are embraced and combined with key skills in History, Geography, Art and DT through our topic based curriculum. This is both academic and playful and focuses on one big focus each half term. Alongside this, our children have specialist music and PE teaching each week and every child in KS1 learns a musical instrument. We are guided by the National Curriculum but also draw from other ideas, for example our topics are based on cornerstones, which supports high expectations, guides assessment and gives focus for teachers.

Our children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and pupil leadership is a big part of our explicit curriculum (e.g. school council, playground ambassadors, eco leaders).

We regularly review our curriculum design to ensure that it meets children's needs, encourages high academic standards and embraces our desire that our children learning through stimulating and exciting opportunities and are given the opportunity to grow as confident, capable individuals who always aspire to be Believe Achieve and Succeed.

