



Ashfield Junior School

Curriculum Overview

Current Version- 2018

Ashfield Junior School's curriculum is built around the two main principles of developing **global citizenship** and a **growth mindset** in our pupils.

These principles were chosen following 12 months of research and evidence gathering into what were essential skills for our children to develop. West Cumbria is an area of the UK that can find itself isolated and 'cut-off' from events and life in other parts of the country and the wider world. Our pupils often don't get to experience a variety of cultural events and are not exposed to living alongside people of different backgrounds, cultures and faiths. This is the rationale for having 'Global Citizenship' at the centre of our curriculum.

West Cumbria is also a prominent area for the development of energy technologies. Often termed 'The Energy Coast' there are many opportunities for employment in 'clean' and nuclear energy. These employment opportunities also lead to further prospects beyond the local area. However, alongside this the area also suffers from high deprivation, low aspiration and low levels of access to higher education. This was the rationale for focusing on Growth Mindset and raising aspirations as well as resilience. This in turn has led us to develop our **STEM** provision to support the development of these particular skills. 2017-2018 has seen us introduce specialist Science teaching across the school with a focus on developing scientific investigation skills.

Building resilience, perseverance and a 'can do' attitude where the children are not afraid to make mistakes is at the centre of the way we plan and deliver our curriculum.

Throughout all subjects we also focus on how we can improve the children's understanding of the world we live in and their place as '**Global Citizens**'. This is achieved through choosing character strengths to focus on each half term, using CDEC, GLP and Oxfam resources and guidance to give a global focus to our planning and teaching the values of **tolerance, respect, democracy, rule of law and individual liberty** (often termed British Values) through our curriculum.

The children are expected to actively contribute to the school and local community as well as thinking about their wider responsibilities as a member of the global community. You will often see references to the United Nations Global Goals around our school and the children develop their thinking... This year the children have chosen these goals to focus on- gender

equality, good health & wellbeing, life on land, life under water and reduced consumption. Many of our enhancement activities are built around these 5 aims or goals. The school has two Global Schools lead teachers who lead on these developments and support all staff to enhance their provision.

The Jigsaw PSHE scheme is used to ensure our pupils develop the personal and social skills that help them to develop good self-esteem and relationships with others alongside healthy lifestyles and **wellbeing**. We were a pilot school for the Family Jigsaw scheme in 2016-2017 and this is something we are continuing this year. This helps us to support children and families in the transition from KS1 to KS2. Kidsafe sessions are then delivered throughout Y3-Y6 to ensure the children develop the skills and understanding they need to keep themselves safe. Y5 & Y6 then also receive input from NSPCC and this year Y6 have also used 'Real Love Rocks' to improve their understanding of keeping themselves safe online as they move into the next phase of their life. Discovery RE is also used to ensure our pupils develop an understanding and tolerant attitude to people of all and no faiths.

To support our children adopt lifestyles they have 2 sessions of PE each week both using the indoor and outdoor space. Sports coaches work alongside school staff to deliver high quality sessions that both develop specific skills and encourage the children to enjoy being active. To enhance this provision the children also have many opportunities to take part in inter-school and County competitions for sports such as tennis, hockey, football, gymnastics, dodgeball, bowls and swimming. In school and out of school performance is celebrated in weekly assemblies and a Sporting Achievement board in school allows the children's performance to be acknowledged by others throughout the school year. In 2017 the school won the Workington Year 5 & 6 Football Cup and the Workington Large Schools swimming gala and our tennis players reached the County finals. More recently there has also been success in the Workington Schools Bowling Cup. The children also have access to an outdoor classroom and woodland area within the school grounds that can be used for a variety of outdoor learning experiences. In 2018-2019 we plan to introduce Forest Schools to the curriculum.

We actively take part in Safer Internet Week, Anti-Bullying Week and Children's Mental Health Week to promote these key issues with both our pupils and families.

Our English curriculum is always based around key texts that link to our topic areas. In this way many of the curriculum areas are brought together and linked with literacy skills being transferred and developed throughout different subjects. Much of the children's written work is linked to their topics, often relating to concrete experiences and real purposes. Pupils are always consulted when choosing texts and topic focuses as their learning needs, interests and motivation are central to the planning process.

Spelling, grammar and punctuation skills are then taught explicitly through our No Nonsense resources and incorporated into the children's independent writing. Alongside the reading around topic areas and the children's own reading books we use Project X Comprehension Express to teach explicit reading skills. Any pupils needing additional support are identified and have access to Fresh Start, No Nonsense Phonics and IDL interventions to help with specific issues. Salford Reading tests are used to help us identify these pupils. The children are also expected to access Spellodrome online at home and at school to support spelling work. Weekly rewards are presented for excellent commitment, perseverance and improvement using Spellodrome.

Texts and topics are chosen to enhance the children's **cultural awareness** alongside the work they do for History, Geography, Art, Design & DT. Our global emphasis means that work is often linked to current global issues such as refugees when looking at Vikings and settlers in Year 5 or Fairtrade when looking at Healthy Eating in Y3 as well as introducing the children to cultural opportunities they may not get outside school. All year groups use educational visits to enhance their curriculum provision as well as residential visits to promote citizenship, wellbeing and social skills. Pupils in Year 5 & Year 6 also have the opportunity to produce, present and perform work for the Arts Award.

Maths has seen big changes over the past 2 years and now we have an embedded curriculum that focuses on the development of key skills with the time and opportunity to consolidate these and apply in problem solving contexts that use the children's ability to reason and explain. To support this we use a range of planning materials such as White Rose Hub and Focus and resources to ensure all pupils have the chance to explore and develop their skills we use concrete apparatus throughout school, in particular Numicon and Dienes. The process of maths being concrete then visual then abstract is vital in the learning process and ensures that our children get more chances to really consolidate and understand basic principles before moving forward. For those pupils needing extra support then maths intervention groups are in place in all year groups. Pupils in Year 3 & 4 can access the Numicon Intervention Programme to support their learning of basic number skills before moving on to age related expectations. All pupils are expected to access TT Rockstars online at home or at school to improve their rapid recall of times table facts and related division. Various special themed days take place throughout the year and we take part in an annual national event which we won in 2016 and 2017.

Our curriculum ensures that our children develop personally, socially and academically acquiring skills relevant to both the local, national and global society that they will grow up in. Our main aim is to ensure that these skills help them to then make a positive contribution to their communities as they go on to secondary education and adulthood.

