

Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School



Curriculum Policy April 2023

Mission statement



At Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary, we have a positive, caring ethos founded on Christian beliefs, where all children are valued, respected and encouraged to maximise their potential. Every child matters and every success is celebrated.

Our school is a Christian learning environment at the heart of its community. We promote care and respect, and expect high standards in all aspects of school life. As a Church of England school we aim to build a community clearly based on the Christian values of love, compassion, trust, hope and justice, and the unique value of each individual. We encourage all our children to be happy, active learners and to develop ideas, independence and a vision of what they want to achieve.

At our school, we deliver a well-balanced, creative curriculum, within a secure, stimulating and supportive environment. Our children thrive and have the confidence to achieve their personal and academic best. Our aim is that children leave us as good citizens, feeling fulfilled, challenged and inspired, with a solid Christian foundation.

Curriculum Intent

At Lanchester EP Primary School, our curriculum is the means by which we instil and inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about their world that will remain with them for the rest of their lives, in the context of our Christian values and ethos. Our curriculum empowers children with the knowledge and skills that are essential to nourish both them and the society of which they are members. We want children to develop life-long academic, moral and social skills that prepare them for their future lives. Our curriculum is designed to expand our high expectations, building on firm foundations and a love of learning. We plan and deliver unique, stimulating and interesting learning opportunities. We believe that the true measure of successful learning is how we are able to use our creativity independently and co-operatively with others, demonstrating resilience, confidence, empathy and enjoyment.

Across our curriculum we will:

- **Instil in all learners the balance of academic and social skills needed to succeed at school and in their lives;**
- **Inspire all learners to be inquisitive and apply their skills through engaging and meaningful learning opportunities;**
- **Innovate our approaches so all learners utilise their talents, take risks and develop their individuality.**

Our curriculum is based on the September 2014 National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 & 2 and the Early Years 2021 framework in Reception and Nursery. Our rigorous, well planned thematic curriculum combined with high quality teaching ensures that children are supported to be well rounded, empathetic young people who have a genuine thirst for learning. Children develop a strong sense of moral purpose in addition to a respect for, and understanding of, people. Good mental health and wellbeing is vital for our children to develop. To that end, our curriculum is underpinned by the support we offer pupils to live healthy and fulfilled lives.

General Principles

Our curriculum will give children the opportunity to:

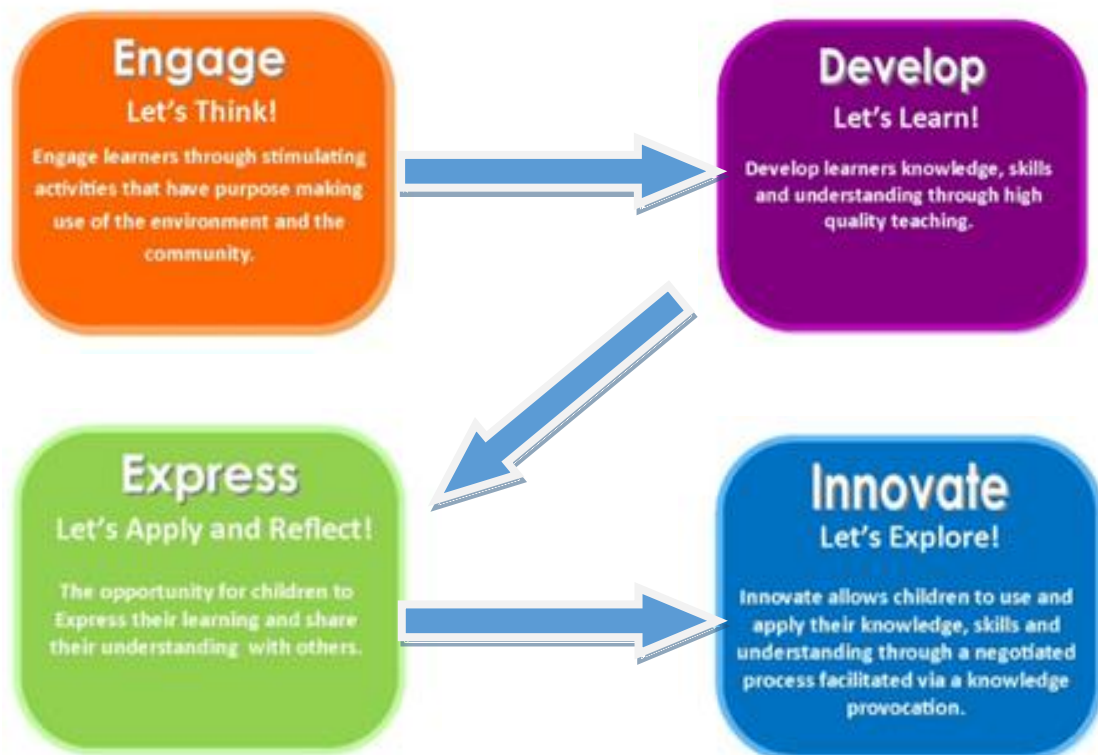
- develop a deep understanding of Christian values
- develop a passion for and commitment to the subjects and themes taught, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world they live in
- be creative independently and co-operatively with others, demonstrating resilience, confidence, empathy and enjoyment.
- experience the challenge and enjoyment of learning, both inside and outside of the classroom
- develop new skills through a variety of interesting contexts
- understand the purpose and value of their learning and see its relevance to their past, present and future
- see clear links between different aspects of their learning
- learn within a coherent and progressive framework
- develop and demonstrate their creativity
- enjoy specialist teaching of music and Modern Foreign Languages
- provide on and off-site subject or topic related activities
- offer opportunities for children to learn outdoors
- develop partnerships with external providers that extend children's opportunities for learning
- engage in specialist curriculum days or weeks
- welcome their parents and carers to take part in children's learning and experiences

Curriculum Implementation

We have developed a creative and thematic approach to learning that is mapped to the 2014 Primary National Curriculum to ensure comprehensive coverage of national expectations. Our new curriculum is delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs) which will provide a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of our children's learning.

We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our new curriculum will provide lots of learning challenges throughout the academic year that will require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across the curriculum.

Our curriculum is based on a four stage pedagogy called the 'Four Cornerstones.' Each topic or 'Imaginative Learning Programme,' is based on moving through each of the four stages. These are:



Time spent on each stage varies:

Engage – 3 to 5 days

Develop – 2 to 3 weeks

Innovate – 1-2 weeks

Express – 3 – 5 days



Engage

Hook learners in with a memorable experience.

Set the scene and provide the context for learning.

Ask questions to find out children's interests.

Spark children's curiosity using interesting starting points.

Develop

Teach facts and information for deeper understanding and knowledge.

Demonstrate new skills and allow time for consolidation.

Provide creative opportunities for making and doing.

Deliver reading, writing and talking across the curriculum.

Innovate

Provide imaginative scenarios that encourage creative thinking.

Enable children to apply previously learned skills.

Encourage enterprise and independent thinking.

Provide opportunities for collaborative working and problem solving.

Express

Provide environments for reflective talk.

Create opportunities for shared evaluation.

Celebrate and share children's success.

Identify next steps for learning.

Our 2023 – 2024 teaching themes and topics are as follows:



Lanchester E.P. Primary School Thematic Curriculum Overview



	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	Memory Box 	Splendid Skies 	Paws, Claws and Whiskers 	The Enchanted Woodland 	Bright Lights, Big City 	Towers, Tunnels and Turrets
Year 2	Land Ahoy! 	Frozen Kingdom 	Moon Zoom! 	Scrumdiddlyumptious! 	The Scented Garden 	Beachcombers
Year 3	Tribal Tales 	Urban Pioneers 	Tremors 	I am Warrior! 	Traders and Raiders 	Flow
Year 4	Road Trip USA! 	Traders and Raiders 	Potions 	1066 	Mighty Metals 	Blue Abyss
Year 5	Stargazers 	A Child's War 	Pharaohs 	Allotment 	Misty Mountain, Winding River 	Firedamp and Davy Lamps
Year 6	Gods and Mortals 	Darwin's Delights 	Hola Mexico! 	Rainforest Kingdom 	Revolution 	Blood Heart

Our curriculum is planned with agreed pedagogy that:

- excites, promotes and sustains children's interest
- enables and fosters children's natural curiosity
- offers all children a memorable experience at the start of every topic
- enables children to reflect on and evaluate their learning
- promotes innovation and entrepreneurialism
- promotes problem solving, creativity and communication

SMSC / Fundamental British Values

At Lanchester EP Primary School we recognise that the personal development of children - spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) - plays a significant role in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life & their interest in & respect for different people's feelings & values.
- A sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible use of imagination and creativity in their learning a willingness to reflect on their experiences their own standards of personal behavior a positive, caring attitude towards other people an understanding of their social and cultural traditions.

We actively promote British Values. We recognise the diversity within our society and ensure that British Values are embedded within our curriculum. The teaching of British Values is integrated through the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) learning that takes place across all curriculum areas.

Our curriculum will give children the opportunity to:

- Spiritual - Explore beliefs, experience and faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity and reflect on experiences
- Moral - Recognise right and wrong and respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues and offer reasoned views
- Social - Use a range of social skills to participate in the local community and beyond; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict

- Cultural - Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity
- Democracy - Be part of a system where everyone plays an equal part
- Rule of law - Learn that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable for their actions and behaviour
- Individual liberty - Be free to express views or ideas
- Tolerance and respect - To respect and tolerate the opinions or behaviour of others

Well-Being

Children's well-being is at the heart of a child's development and it is an integral part of our curriculum, reflecting the school's aims and ethos. Throughout curriculum we offer children the opportunity to:

- develop self-esteem and confidence in their abilities
- learn in a supportive environment
- learn how to respect themselves and others
- follow their own interests and be themselves
- reflect and think mindfully about their learning
- recognise that people are good at different things
- work in a range of groups and settings
- build respectful friendships

Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice forms a fundamental part of our curriculum planning. Our School Council, pupil questionnaires, discussions with the SLT and so on ensure children are at the heart of our school improvement priorities and curriculum opportunities.

Through Pupil Voice we ensure our children:

- make a positive contribution to the school and local community
- explore ways of becoming an active citizen
- take part in age-appropriate discussion
- make choices about things that are important to them
- express their opinions on a range of different topics and issues
- contribute to planning their own learning
- take part in democratic activities across the curriculum
- say what they like and dislike about their learning

Curriculum Impact

At Lanchester EP School we carefully balance the requirement for pupils to reach national expectations in core subjects with our wider curriculum aims of providing full spectrum of thoughtful and enriching experiences. Alongside offering our children a carefully mapped progression of skills within all curriculum areas, we try to enable the children to practice and incorporate these skills throughout the Four Cornerstones; giving them the opportunity to express their learning in a variety of ways. Our curriculum is carefully organised for depth as we aim to support children in gaining a deeper and more insightful understanding of the matters, skills and processes within topics and subjects. All staff monitor and evaluate the impact of our curriculum through a range of assessments, tasks and pupil and parent questionnaires.

The planning of inspiring and imaginative themes promotes enjoyment of the curriculum which in turn positively impacts on achievement of children, confidence and their attitudes to learning. Developing the children's independence and motivation is crucial alongside building a sense of responsibility as a future citizen is at the heart of all our teaching and learning.

As children move through their educational journey at Lanchester our aim is that they will be engaged and inspired by their learning, posing their own enquiry questions, taking initiative and co-constructing their own learning pathway. Children have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based celebration assemblies, performances, competitions and events involving other schools.

As a Church School we hold a strong Christian ethos permeating through daily life which gives the children a safe and nurturing environment where children access a well-planned and embedded programme incorporating spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Daily collective worship gives children the opportunity to discuss their thoughts and feelings within a framework of Christian school values.

Review: April 2025