

# All Different, All Equal, All Achieving



## Our Curriculum Intention

At Park Hill Infant School we offer a **broad and fully inclusive curriculum for all young children. With a high percentage of learners with English as an additional language, we ensure that reading and vocabulary acquisition are at the heart of our curriculum and aim for every child to read fluently with strong comprehension skills, developing a life-long love for reading.** Every child has equal opportunities to achieve their full potential in a 'hands on', challenging and stimulating learning environment. We promote diversity and follow the ethos '**All Different, All Equal, All Achieving**'. This applies to everyone in our school and permeates all aspects of school life, as it is central to us building a tolerant and inclusive-minded community.

Our pupils are taught to effectively self-regulate and manage their feelings while developing positive and respectful relationships with others and high levels of emotional literacy. Our intention is for every child to leave us with the knowledge they need in order to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy and safe. We equip our pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed as educated citizens in modern day society with sound judgement, demonstrating our '**5 Values for Life**' which will enable them to make effective, positive choices and ensure that they have the ability to keep themselves safe. Our aim is for every child to leave us at the end of KS1 with a broad interest in the world around them, and a range of life-long learning experiences which will inspire them throughout their future education and beyond to contribute positively and take an active part in society.

Our curriculum is ambitious and progressive; sequenced towards clearly defined end points which challenge every pupil, in every subject. Throughout all areas of learning, we encourage our children to use our '**Super skills for Learning**' to become successful and independent learners for life. Alongside this, we offer more than just the development of subject-based skills, language, knowledge and understanding; we ensure that our curriculum is developed around the needs and interests of the whole child where all learning is memorable, focussed and personalised for our pupils' individual needs.

We intend for our pupils to thrive not only in their next stage of education but far into the future as well-rounded, respectful and kind citizens who are understanding towards people's differing beliefs and needs. We aim to equip our children with the understanding and skills to identify and deal with their personal emotions and feelings and promote self-regulation from the start of the EYFS.

We aim for our pupils to become passionate about their role in protecting the natural world. Our curriculum provides opportunities to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of nature, sustainability and climate change. We support pupils to translate this knowledge across all curriculum areas into positive action.

## Our Curriculum Values

At Park Hill Infant School, we promote **five values for life (Kindness, Respect, Courage, Honesty and Positivity)**. We consistently promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles, and these areas are embedded across all areas of the curriculum. We value the backgrounds of all pupils and families and undertake a variety of events and lessons to celebrate and explore all cultures. Our school represents a multicultural, diverse community with **over 78% of our pupils speaking more than one language** at home, and **over 52 different languages spoken**.

## Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

In the EYFS at Park Hill Infant School we promote a lifelong love of learning by providing a **broad and balanced curriculum** which is language rich, practical and enjoyable. In the EYFS we embed key skills and ensure that all pupils develop an appropriate level of independence so that they are ready and able to access the Year One Curriculum the following September. We provide a wide range of stimulating learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, which are also shaped by their interests and needs.

Phonics sessions are taught daily following the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme, and we ensure that all children are taught to read as early as possible, regardless of their background.

We plan for all children to develop their communication and language skills every day through play, investigation and problem-solving alongside their peers and with guidance and scaffolding from practitioners.



## How do we implement our Curriculum?

### An Inclusive Curriculum

All pupils at Park Hill Infant School, whatever their previous experience, gender, special need, language, talent or ability will have access to genuine equal opportunities, which will enable them to experience and benefit from all aspects of school life. Personalised provision, depending on individual needs is in place across the school to ensure that all children can access learning at an appropriate level. We ensure that pupils receive targeted support and intervention at the earliest opportunity to ensure that pupils do not fall behind. This includes those pupils who benefit from extended challenge and opportunities to receive further enrichment. Enrichment varies across all curriculum subjects (for example in PE where pupils undergo a training course to become school 'Sports Leaders'). Additional opportunities are available to all pupils and are reviewed and adapted regularly. We plan a wide range of trips and visits for all year groups to ensure we are able to provide stimulating learning experiences and teach the breadth of every subject in the curriculum. Pupil voice and parent involvement are also considered and incorporated in the choices being made for our curriculum offer.

The Inclusion team provide additional support and guidance to school staff and parents in order for the best plan to be put in place for pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. Support for pupils is planned for in every session by class teachers with support from subject leaders and senior leaders to ensure that the highest expectations for learning are established within each lesson objective for every ability. Planning is flexible and adapted wherever necessary.

Our curriculum is designed around our young children and the local context of our school in order to enhance cultural capital for all. We expose children to diverse ideas, concepts and literature which include a broad range of communities and where appropriate we link our curriculum to global issues. This enriches student knowledge and their understanding of the world, developing awareness and sensitivity to differing perspectives. We plan for a broad range of topics and contexts for learning within our long-term curriculum in order to engage pupil interest, and we plan for progression in key knowledge and skills across all subjects which are embedded and revisited wherever possible.

We enable pupils to develop their own processes for self-regulation so that all pupils have the tools to control their behaviour and emotions in response to particular situations. Staff validate emotions through a variety of different techniques – known as co-regulation. Staff make connections with pupils, show empathy, use mindfulness strategies, set clear routines and boundaries and give appropriate and timely positive praise.

Teaching staff continually assess the strengths and needs of learners and adapt teaching accordingly to ensure all learners can meet expectations. With adaptive teaching, the teacher plans for the whole class and makes changes to the curriculum or resources so that all learners can work towards achieving the similar goals.

### Super-skills for Learning

We encourage all pupils to be independent and develop learning habits to become resilient life-long learners. Our ten Super-skills for Learning are a basis for children to identify which skills an effective learner needs to have. Children are taught to recognise these areas in their own learning as well as their peers. The Super-Skills include being; **creative, confident, curious** and **taking risks**, as well as being able to; **make connections, collaborate, communicate, persevere** and be **reflective**. Where pupils demonstrate these skills in their daily learning they are celebrated in our 'Stars of the Week', 'Headteacher Awards' and 'Celebration' Assemblies.



*"There is clear ambition for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Staff have been well trained and have the knowledge and expertise to support pupils effectively. As a result, pupils with SEND access the same ambitious curriculum as their peers."*

*Ofsted November 2023*

*"When I was learning something in mathematics, I could write the digits, but in English I learnt to write the numbers in words."*

*Year One pupil*

*"I was a risk taker when I went swimming, it was a bit scary at first but I persevered and now I feel confident!"*  
*Year Two pupil*

## Using a Growth Mindset

We encourage all pupils to use a 'growth mindset' approach to learning. A 'growth mindset' is based on the belief that basic qualities can be cultivated through our efforts and that our ability to succeed can be altered if we thrive on challenge and understand that mistakes and failure are a springboard for growth and stretching our existing abilities. Through this, children learn that talents can be developed and that great abilities are built over time with perseverance. We embed the idea that mistakes are to be viewed as an opportunity to improve, develop resilience and to increase success through raised effort.

*"Having a growth mindset means being positive so I can improve." Year One pupil*

*"We do things like balloon breath, and massage to relax. If things go wrong you can do hand breathing"*

*Year Two pupil*

## Mental Health and Well-being

We believe strongly in the nurture of the whole child across our school curriculum. Our curriculum incorporates and teaches pupils ways to ensure that they keep themselves safe and healthy, including both their bodies and minds. Regular time to discuss worries, feelings and emotions as well as time for relaxation, including meditation exercises and quiet time for thinking deeply are timetabled in every class, we also enable flexibility for class teachers to give focussed Circle Times as often as a class requires. Across the school, mindfulness is taught through our PSHE curriculum and provides opportunities for pupils to develop a positive mentality and to connect with their class community and their own inner emotions.

We have a significant focus on staff wellbeing. Mindfulness sessions and training have been delivered to all staff, as well as regular '1 to 1's with the Headteacher and bespoke well-being days. These initiatives have a positive effect on staff wellbeing, which in turn ensures the best possible outcomes for our pupils. We have a coaching mentality and system in place for staff and members of the team are trained as 'Mental Health First Aiders'.

## Our Curriculum Delivery

Leaders at all levels ensure that our Curriculum is engaging and pupil-centred as well as being unique to our school and the young age of our pupils. We develop exciting themes and contexts for learning each half term taking suggestions from pupils. We create half termly 'Topic Webs' using the *Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework* alongside *Development Matters*, and the *National Curriculum (KS1)*, as well as our chosen additional curriculum content. Our half termly contexts for learning include creative hooks and pre-learning challenges in order to engage pupils, immersing them in the learning topic or theme from the very beginning. Pupils regularly present what they have learnt to their peers (sometimes this is part of a home learning project). At the start of each learning topic teachers make initial informal assessments and plan to address misconceptions and cater for particular interests and aptitudes.

*"My teacher gives me feedback on what I did well, then I know what to try next. It helps me to keep learning." Year One pupil*

*"I think the work changes and it gets trickier in Geography. I learnt about the equator this year and now I know why it is hot and cold in different places" Year Two pupil*

In each subject we have developed 'Vocabulary, Knowledge and Skills (VKS) Progression Ladders' to ensure there is clear progression of each concept across the school. From this, teachers personalise lessons and use adaptive teaching methods in order to address specific needs and gaps in skills and knowledge for individual pupils. The acquisition of knowledge and skills is monitored closely throughout each session with incisive feedback embedded in all sessions and regular opportunities for self and peer assessment. Over time, all pupils demonstrate that they can apply knowledge from a range of subject areas fluently, transfer skills appropriately, choose and use effective methods and learn independently across the curriculum. The consistent use of AFL (assessment for learning; regular review and formative assessment) is an important part of our teaching and learning process. We begin each session by reflecting on prior knowledge, consider what should be the next step in learning progression, and discuss what knowledge or skills we are focussing on and learning today. Teachers use clear modelling and plan challenges appropriately, adapting to each child's specific starting point.

*"The curriculum matches and, in places, exceeds the breadth and ambition of what is expected nationally. The knowledge and skills that leaders expect pupils to secure are clearly identified and logically sequenced."*

*Ofsted November 2023*

*"Pupils learn many facts and were able in discussions to apply these facts in different settings"*

*"The sequencing of the curriculum enables pupils to build on prior knowledge and develop skills appropriate for their age group"*

**Greenlight International**

## Outdoor Learning

Throughout the school we utilise opportunities for outdoor learning wherever possible so that children can explore the outdoor environment, link what they learn to the natural world, and take part in stimulating real life challenges such as gardening and building. We have stimulating outdoor learning spaces including an outdoor gardening area, a Year One outdoor classroom as well as a well-resourced EYFS outdoor learning environment which are in use throughout the year. In addition, we make regular enhancements to our playground space, responding to pupil and parent voice.

## English

We plan frequent opportunities for speaking and listening, role play, oral rehearsal and pupil presentation to ensure that language is practised and learnt in various contexts and becomes memorable. The early acquisition of vocabulary and language is key in order for our young pupils to become independent thinkers and learners. We follow Little Wandle for Letters and Sounds Revised and use Helicopter Stories in EYFS in order to develop early reading. We utilise planning sequences and teaching pedagogy from the CLPE Power of Reading where appropriate across the school.

Stories are at the centre of our curriculum and provide links to current issues, events, morals and values across a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds. We ensure that all children are exposed to the highest quality, broad and challenging text structures with rich language across the full range of written genres. Reading for pleasure has a high profile across the school with inviting book corners, a well-stocked library, daily story times and enrichment including theatre trips, drama sessions, story workshops and our annual 'Book Week'. Daily

Phonics and reading sessions from Little Wandle for Letters and Sounds Revised Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme ensure that all children are explicitly taught the skills of decoding, prosody and comprehension. We use Little Wandle for Letters and Sound Revised decodable reading books, in order to provide all pupils with stimulating texts at the appropriate phonic level. We follow the Little Wandle handwriting scheme throughout the school with regular handwriting sessions embedding correct letter formation and supporting pupils to transcribe automatically. We teach the children to write independently through lots of oral rehearsal, consistently saying their sentences aloud before writing them to build fluency. Children are then shown how to encode their ideas using accurate sentence formation and are eventually supported to form longer written pieces using grammar and vocabulary effectively in different contexts.

*"Reading and writing is at the heart of delivering this curriculum and pupils are immersed in opportunities to write for a range of purposes across a range of subjects"*

*"The school's curriculum is clearly focused on developing reading skills at an early age to assist pupils of all levels"*

**Greenlight International (External School Improvement Partner)**

*"The teaching of phonics and early reading is highly effective. Over time, pupils learn to read with accuracy and confidence. Pupils achieve highly in the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1."*

*Ofsted November 2023*



*"I love hearing my teacher read us stories, they are so funny! I love Superworm the best" EYFS pupil*



## Maths

Key Maths number skills are embedded through the regular practise of 'KIRFS' (Key Instant Recall facts) in order for pupils to confidently retain basic number knowledge and be able to apply this in a range of contexts. We use the White Rose Maths scheme as a teaching sequence which allows pupils to identify prior learning and build upon their understanding of key concepts. Maths is taught across our school using a wide range of concrete resources and pictorial representations. Children take part in daily Maths focus sessions and complete activities based upon the objectives for the lesson. Opportunities to learn Maths skills in practical contexts are a key part of our Maths curriculum, ensuring that children regularly practise their Maths skills in a hands on, fun and stimulating way.

## Science and the Foundation Subjects

In KS1 all subject areas: English, Maths, Science, PE, PSHE, Music, RE, Art and Design, Design Technology, Computing, History and Geography are taught within timetabled sessions and we develop any possible connections across key concepts and themes in our curriculum in order to make learning relevant and memorable. In the EYFS, the seven areas of learning and development, (Prime areas: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Specific areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the

*"The variety of work and subjects is engaging and challenging." Year Two parent*

World and Expressive Arts and Design) are taught throughout the school day within continuous provision. All subjects are celebrated and Subject Leaders plan subject specific enrichment throughout the academic year such as our annual Science Week, Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, Arts Week, Book Week, Get Active Week and Humanities Week.

### **Partnership with Parents**

Parents are invited to attend special classroom mornings each week to work alongside their child. These are known as: EYFS Terrific Tuesdays, Year One Wonderful Wednesdays and Year Two Thrilling Thursdays. We also have impromptu 'Monday drop – ins' for parents to discuss their child's current learning without a booked appointment.

We deliver regular half day 'Curriculum Workshops' for parents in different subject areas where the class teachers model a teaching session to parents and support parents with teaching tips in order to develop their understanding of current curriculum aims and objectives. In addition to this we also run frequent parent information meetings and workshops such as 'E-Safety Awareness', 'Promoting Positive Mental Health in Young Children' and 'Developing Phonological Awareness'.

*"it's interesting to see how the children are taught, and I will be using this at home to support their reading and writing." Year One parent*

Termly 'Open Classroom' and Parents Evenings are held in order for parents to gain specific individual feedback about their child's progress and to review their child's classroom learning and next step targets.

Every child receives a special Headteacher's Award celebrating their successes within our curriculum during their time in KS1 and parents are invited to the Headteacher's Award Assembly along with members of the School Governing Board.



### **Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship that lasts approximately fifteen minutes. This may form part of a morning assembly, for the whole-school or class and/or a classroom-based reflection time. We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of calm reflection, we regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. During this time children are quiet and thoughtful and reflect inwardly. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other special objects or images, to focus the attention of the children. Through our daily act of collective worship, we reinforce the aims and values of our school and the concept of spirituality. We help children to develop positive attitudes and to develop respect for self and others. We ensure children develop an understanding of the world in which we live, alongside an appreciation of diversity in race, religion, culture and beliefs.

### **What impact does our Curriculum have?**

#### **Monitoring**

Leaders at all levels monitor standards of teaching and learning rigorously across the curriculum through regular learning walks, lesson visits, pupil interviews, book and planning analysis as well as teacher assessment in order to inform further curriculum implementation. Leaders ensure that teachers' subject and pedagogical knowledge consistently builds and develops over time, through a programme of personalised continuing professional development. Feedback from monitoring gathered is used to forward our curriculum plans, develop training opportunities for teaching staff and to ensure progress for all.

#### **Impact on Children's lives**

During their time at our school, pupils become independent, knowledgeable learners who are well prepared for their next step in learning. Book analysis shows an excellent quality and breadth of learning across the curriculum for all groups of pupils. Every pupil leaves us with a rich and wide range of experiences and memories which will impact on their future enthusiasm for life-long learning.

In 2025, 84% of our Year One aged pupils met the National Phonics Screening Check benchmark (National 80%). 74% of children entitled to the Pupil Premium Grant reached the benchmark (National 67%).

