

## Our Approach

### The Curriculum

The rationale for our curriculum, which covers all primary national curriculum subjects, is based on five key pillars; Reading Mastery, Cultural Capital, Global Awareness, Growth Mindset and Critical Thinking.

The curriculum has been designed with a thorough knowledge of the children and local demographic, is ambitious and gives all pupils the knowledge, skills and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards developing excellent levels of knowledge and skills which will support our pupils in becoming highly effective members of society.



### **Reading Mastery**



Reading sits at the heart of our carefully planned curriculum. Our aim is for every child to leave Hawkes Farm Academy fluent, expressive and widely read and capable of deep textual analysis. We have worked hard to develop a canon of culturally significant texts for our children to read, enjoy and analyse. With an emphasis on the importance of reading in unlocking knowledge, our wider curriculum subjects begin with a non-fiction read.

### **Global Awareness**

Within our carefully designed, progressive curriculum we aim to ensure that every child understands and values the diversity of modern society. At Hawkes Farm Academy, we have daily assemblies that focus on national and global news. We are currently working towards achieving our silver award as a Rights Respecting School. Our school council work hard to raise the profile of local, national and global charities.

### **Critical Thinking**

We believe that critical thinking skills are essential for success. Our curriculum is designed with this in mind and opportunities for pupils to develop their problem solving and analytical skills are embedded into subjects such as mathematics, computing and science. Our aim is for every child to leave with the domain knowledge, analytical models and problem solving experiences to think critically.

### **Growth Mindset**

Our daily curriculum coverage provides our pupils with opportunities to develop their growth mindset and resilience. Within our lessons we ensure that all pupils access extension and challenge tasks. We build in opportunities to celebrate success and our PUPAC values encourage pupils to aspire and commit. We aim for every child to leave understanding and demonstrating that working hard and seeking out challenge is the key to success. Our assemblies focus on our PUPAC values and explore ways that these link to everyday life. Pupils are encouraged to have a 'can do' attitude and to persevere in order to succeed.



### **Cultural Capital**

At Hawkes Farm Academy we aim for every child to leave with rich cultural experience and knowledge. In school we hold high expectations for behaviour and presentation. We teach our pupils to wear their uniform with pride and to take care of their surroundings. Starting in Reception, pupils learn about social etiquette. Pupils greet visitors with focused eye-contact, confident handshakes and impeccable manners. We model excellent standards of spoken English and expect our pupils to speak in full sentences. We offer a wide range of experiences such as trips to art galleries, historical sites and opportunities to watch live orchestra or theatre performances.



### **Teaching and Learning**

Our curriculum is knowledge based meaning that we carefully select knowledge that will support pupils to understand the texts we study and the world around them. The most important knowledge is revisited over time to ensure it is committed to long-term memory.

Our approach to teaching and learning is informed by the most up to date research on effective teaching and learning and is based on cognitive science. We adopt an instructional model to teaching across the curriculum. Our curriculum is broad in that we teach each and every primary national curriculum subject discretely, but we teach for depth in the areas within each subject that we cover to ensure that pupils have a deep understanding of the required skills and/or knowledge (we call this teaching for mastery).

All subjects are taught discretely and include maths, English writing, English reading, phonics, science, history, geography, computing, RE, art, DT, Spanish, PE and PSHE. Staff are provided with high-quality subject knowledge training in order to support the delivery of each subject within our curriculum. The progression of knowledge within each individual subject has been carefully mapped out from the start of Reception until the end of Year 6 to ensure the children are accessing a comprehensive curriculum which matches their diverse needs.

Knowledge organisers are used in some subjects (science, history and geography) to provide children and parents with the most important information and/or knowledge that pupils need to know and be able to recall. Pupils are quizzed regularly on these facts to ensure that they are committed to long-term memory. We encourage parents to use these documents at home when talking to their child about their learning.

