

Our Curriculum Rationale

At Sycamore Academy, we LEAD, we SHINE

and we make it REAL.



At Sycamore Academy we SHINE

Show kindness to everyone- RESPECT

Have high expectations- PRIDE

Inspired to learn- DISCOVERY

Nobody gives up- RESILIENCE

Everyone works together- TEAMWORK



We know that our children need to:			
Learn ways to stay safe and have healthy bodies.	Understand they are members of a diverse community and that everyone is important	Be aspirational and believe in the importance of learning	Communicate with confidence
We know this because:			
<p>Pupils attending Sycamore Academy in January 2023 had an average IDACI deprivation score of 0.4 (based on residence.) this means that 39.7% of pupils may have been experiencing family income deprivation. (16% nationally)</p> <p>Many children experience family turbulence (1 in 9 children have had agency involvement.) safeguarding is central to our work as a school.</p> <p>The school draws most of its pupils from the local community which has higher than average incidences of violent crime; often associated with drug/and or alcohol abuse. There is also a high rate of domestic violence within our families. This impacts on the lives of some of our pupils.</p> <p>The number of children eligible for free school meals is well above national average.</p> <p>The National Child Measurement Programme compares the weight of</p>	<p>Immigration is making the catchment area more ethnically diverse and the number of EAL children is increasing yearly.</p> <p>We have a large mix of diversity with over 35 languages represented in our school. Over 50% of our pupils have English as an additional language. This figure continues to rise</p> <p>The number of pupils identified with SEND is well above that found in most primary schools</p> <p>As a school, we value and celebrate the multicultural heritage of our children and we aim to bring this into the classroom and their learning.</p> <p>We are members of a diverse community and we understand that our families speak a wide range of languages. This is why we ensure that our social media platforms such as Class Dojo offer translations. This is something that a number of our parents access regularly.</p>	<p>We know that our children need opportunities to support their aspirations. We have embedded links with the charity Into University to show our children the opportunities that can find once they have left our school in Year 6.</p> <p>Children begin from a variety of start points. Over 50% of our pupils have English as an additional language. These children need to then learn to read and communicate in English.</p> <p>After the Covid-19 pandemic we observed that some of our children lacked resilience in their learning and need encouragement to develop confidence, perseverance, resilience, teamwork and a growth mind-set.</p> <p>Through our curriculum we want to share with children the possibilities that education can lead to. For example when we take the whole school to the pantomime we highlight jobs such as set designer, lighting technician, musician and actor.</p>	<p>Baseline data into our nursery is very low, especially in CLL (communication & language), PSD (personal, social development) and Calculations. Many pupils leave Reception at national ARE which demonstrates strong progress.</p> <p>We know that communication strategies need to be modelled to our children so that they can build positive relationships with each other.</p> <p>Acquire the essential skills of listening, attention and understanding.</p> <p>Extend their vocabulary through high quality texts and enriching learning experiences.</p> <p>Have easy access to a wide range of quality texts through our classroom provision, our school library and additional community services.</p>

children in Reception and Year 6. The latest data for Nottingham tells us that 1 in 4 (25.2%) of Reception aged children are overweight or obese and that this increases to 2 in 5 (40.8%) of children by the time they are in Year 6.

Smoking is the single largest cause of (preventable) death and disease in Nottingham and it has been for more than 20 years. 2 in 3 (66.2%) adults in Nottingham are also overweight or obese. 28% of adults in Nottingham are physically inactive

These are important to ensure our children:			
<p>Stay Safe/Healthy Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the positive effects of a healthy lifestyle • Have a positive relationship with exercise which helps them to be healthy and active adults • To understand healthy lifestyle choices and the benefit of a healthy and balanced diet • To understand they can make healthy choices such as choosing not to smoke or vape • Develop strategies to help them manage adversity • Make responsible choices and know how to tackle adversity (DAaRT program) • Understand how to protect themselves in a variety of situations 	<p>Diversity/Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View the world with tolerance and are able to form their own opinions • Value and respect others • Show empathy for different cultures and faiths • Develop knowledge and understanding about other countries • Know and enact British Values • Develop positive attitudes, acceptance and inclusivity towards others • Have the knowledge, opportunities and experiences they need to enable them to understand life in modern Britain • Stand up for what is right 	<p>Aspiration/Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a growth mind-set towards learning • Develop enquiring minds and gain an understanding of their place in the world • Enjoy learning and have the skills required to tackle it with confidence • Learn to read with confidence which then enables them to access the broad curriculum • Want to, and can, achieve well • Can become lifelong learners who have a desire to gain new knowledge • Are offered a range of experiences that develop their cultural capital • Remember key information which they can apply in different contexts • Make connections between knowledge they have gained • Ask questions • Want to find out more 	<p>Communication/Oracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-rounded individuals who can be articulate, independent thinkers • Build their confidence to speak • Support pupils' understanding of turn-taking in talk • Support pupils' understanding of listening through partner conversations. • Choose vocabulary carefully • Understand the importance of listening as well as speaking • Adapt to a variety of audiences • Become prepared for future life opportunities such as interviews • Consider tone and body language • Speak to unfamiliar people with real purpose e.g. asking questions to a museum curator or having a conversation with a visitor in the classroom.

Therefore, we have underpinned our curriculum with the following values:				
Respect	Pride	Discovery	Resilience	Teamwork
<i>Show kindness to everyone</i>	<i>Have high expectations</i>	<i>Inspired to learn</i>	<i>Nobody gives up</i>	<i>Everyone works together</i>
<p>At Sycamore Academy we are a listening school. We are committed to safeguarding our children and teaching them how to protect themselves and the world they are part of.</p> <p>As the world changes it is increasingly important for them to understand how to sustain the planet and respect the rights of others to share the world with them.</p> <p>Through our RSE, SCARF and DAaRT programs our children learn how to keep themselves safe and how to make decisions- sometimes difficult ones.</p> <p>Votes for Schools offers our children an opportunity to learn about a range of subjects. They learn they have a democratic voice.</p> <p>Through RE and Personal Development our children will be educated and informed about the different cultures, religions and</p>	<p>Our learning ethos is child centred; we want all of our children to feel proud of themselves and understand their importance. Every child is unique and every child is important.</p> <p>Through Class and Gold assemblies, there is a sharing and celebration of learning across the school.</p> <p>As a school we want our children to achieve their potential and we are committed to building a strong foundation in preparation for secondary school.</p> <p>We want our children to have a voice and each class has a representative on the school council.</p> <p>Through Nottingham Citizens we engage in various initiatives. Through our curriculum teach our children to have pride in themselves, their school and their community.</p>	<p>We aim to provide our children with a curriculum that interests, motivates and inspires learning through a collaborative, whole school approach.</p> <p>We frame the children’s learning by giving it a clear audience and purpose. We aim to give learning a real life purpose.</p> <p>Through our enquiry subjects such as Geography we learn about the world</p> <p>Creative and investigative learning opportunities through Science support discovery opportunities.</p> <p>We want our children to learn about other countries and all children in KS2 learn a language: Spanish. We have international links which support our children to find out about other cultures and raises their awareness.</p> <p>We understand the importance of offering our pupils a range of active learning experiences. We have planned our cultural capital</p>	<p>Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and a reading spine underpins the texts that we want our children to experience whilst part of our school. As a school we are committed to every child becoming a reader. We teach early reading through the RWI program to which we show fidelity. In addition to daily sessions we tutor children who are less confident in order to support their progress.</p> <p>Strategies to be mentally healthy and emotionally resilient are taught through our SCARF Curriculum. We also work closely with the Mental Health support team who provide class and group workshops.</p> <p>We teach a growth mind-set towards their learning: mistakes make us better learners. Our marking policy is designed to support children’s next steps through pink PSHE comments and Green next steps. Children understand this approach and can talk about it with confidence.</p>	<p>In PE the children are regularly physically active. We encourage active participation and adapt our learning to support success.</p> <p>We use our Sport Premium funding to enrich our curriculum offer and support a lifelong enjoyment of sport.</p> <p>As a school we hold the Sainsbury’s Gold Award and plan for competitive sporting opportunities. Our school teams show good sporting behaviours.</p> <p>Opportunities to work together through shared experiences such as Family Assemblies, Nativity, Year 6 Production and residentials.</p> <p>Through collaborative learning structures we encourage our children to cooperate and learn together.</p> <p>As a school we emphasise the importance of working as a class and school team through Investors in Pupils. All classes have a target</p>

<p>communities that make up the school and the wider world.</p> <p>We teach our children to give their opinions politely and in a way that shows consideration for other people's viewpoints.</p>	<p>Subject Leaders are champions of their curriculum and have high expectations for children. Each curriculum area enables our children to acquire subject specific skills. This includes subject specific vocabulary, well-sequenced progression spines and deliberate content choices.</p>	<p>experiences to enhance our curriculum and inspire our children to learn.</p>	<p>Know who can help when it is needed; knowing who the trusted adults are in school.</p> <p>To support independent learning we are using the 'Ask 3 Before Me' strategy</p>	<p>they work on together to encourage collective responsibility.</p> <p>After school clubs give an additional opportunity for collaboration. They also enhance our curriculum by offering additional opportunities.</p> <p>We work with other local schools and local organisations through Nottingham Citizens.</p>
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