



Curriculum Policy 2023

The Curriculum Policy in respect of the Children First Learning Partnership has been discussed and adopted by the Local Advisory Board

Chair of Local Advisory Board:

Mr J Flowers

Responsible Officer:

Headteacher- Mrs Z. Cooper

Agreed and ratified by the Local Advisory Board on:

16.03.2023

To be reviewed:

June 2025 or earlier if required



Please read this policy in conjunction with our individual subject specific policies and the Teaching and Learning Policy

Introduction

At Knypersley First School we define the curriculum as the coherent and integrated offer we provide to our children from the coverage of the EYFS and National curriculums to the opportunities we provide both explicitly and intrinsically via our strong community-based ethos by encouraging children to develop their unique personalities and to act as respectful, responsible, confident, tolerant well-mannered and caring individuals. We believe that the curriculum is a powerful tool that promotes a love of learning and willingness to explore, provide the time to have fun, promote equality and also a sense of wonder at the world we live in.

We are continually reviewing and adapting the curriculum we offer to our children. The curriculum at Knypersley First School is evolving according to the needs of our children and to the aspirations of the local and national community in which we live.

Our Curriculum Intent

The intent of our curriculum is based on the context of our school and the needs of our pupils. We believe there are 5 clear and fundamental aims:

- Recognise our uniqueness
- Be Inclusive
- Engage and Inspire
- Promote Ambition
- Create Citizens of the Future

The rationale for our choices and priorities to achieve them are listed below and are reflected in our individual subject specific intentions.

Knypersley First School Curriculum Intent



Our Key Curriculum Intentions are to :	By Promoting	Rationale
Recognise our Uniqueness	Oracy	A growing proportion of our pupils enter school with poor oracy and a range of speech and language issues. We recognise the need for children to have a wide vocabulary, understand what words mean and use them in the correct context in an age-related manner. We also recognise the importance of providing opportunities for pupils to speak publicly both within and beyond the school community.
	Pupil well being	Many of our children come from very busy working homes which have high expectations for academic success. We work hard to develop resilience, social and emotional attributes to support pupils with this additional pressure that they sometimes face. We also recognise some children may encounter personal difficulties. We seek to provide clear strategies to encourage self- taught and self- referral attitudes to mental health and wellbeing.

	Evidenced based practice	We recognise the risks of being an inward facing organisation and value the use of active research both across our MAT and that being carried out by a wide range of sources such as the EEF, local research school and teaching school in both improving and selecting practice and approaches for future innovation.
	Parental involvement	Many of our parents are working parents with a small group hard to reach. Working closely with our parents does make a difference to outcomes for our pupils and the well-being of their families. We work hard to establish and maintain these links and continually review accessibility, participation and the impact of the work that we do to support our children. Our ethos is to 'share in the journey'.
	Learning Outdoors	Our school has a wealth of outdoor learning resources which we use to engage, enthuse and bring learning to life. This includes our well established Forest School.
Be Inclusive	Ambition for all	Our school has low numbers of SEN and PP pupils which can be a challenge to us. Our curriculum will ensure access to learning and challenge for all pupils including those who enter at expected levels and could have the potential to work at greater depth. We will focus on the effective deployment of resources, innovative and reflective practice and strong subject knowledge.
	External agencies	We ensure our staff actively seek out a range of expertise beyond our school and multi academy trust to provide advice, support and resources to unlock potential barriers to learning for our pupils and their families in all areas of the curriculum.
	Bespoke provision	Every child is unique and this can mean through our in-depth knowledge of our pupils we have to adapt/adjust our curriculum provision in order for them to access the curriculum that they are entitled to.
	Varied teaching styles	Through reflective practice and strong subject knowledge our teachers and teaching assistants are flexible and adaptable in their teaching approaches whilst having excellent subject knowledge and a clear plan and respond to children's learning styles to ensure effective subject delivery.

Engage and Inspire	Themes and key questions	We recognise that cognitive development and the acquisition of new knowledge by our pupils is deepened by making links between new and prior learning, creating a clear context and ensuring skills can be deepened, applied and built upon.
	Enrichment	We believe pupils learn best if they have a context and reason to do so. We aim to provide a context via a range of enrichment experiences to ignite and bring learning alive for our pupils in all areas of the curriculum including those beyond the core subjects.
	Knowledge Rich	Our curriculum recognises the vital need to impart knowledge, both disciplinary and substantive in an accessible way to our pupils including via the use of subject specific vocabulary, providing time to secure and explore it in order to make links and aid retention.
	Progressive curriculum	Our curriculum has been purposefully designed to be sequential and progressive, made up of key components that lead to an end composite. As a result, pupils make connections, embed and apply knowledge ensuring they 'know more and remember more' over time.
Promote Ambition	Celebrate success	We celebrate key aspects of achievement effectively and regularly. This will encourage children to work hard and achieve their very best.
	Promote enterprise	We believe we have a responsibility to ensure our curriculum will provide opportunities to prepare pupils for their life beyond education by exploring a wealth of career pathways, budgeting, marketing, project management. We recognise our parents have a wide range of skills and experiences to share with us to enhance pupils understanding of the world of work and future employment.
	Characteristics of Effective Learning (Knypersley Knight Behaviours)	Children need to have a thirst to learn and be ready to learn. Our curriculum and the organisation of our resources will provide opportunities to develop a range of skills such as being resilient, taking risks, an effective team player, independence and the ability to be reflective. Our classrooms are organised to support pupils' in developing a range of metacognitive strategies through working walls, 'help yourself stations' etc.

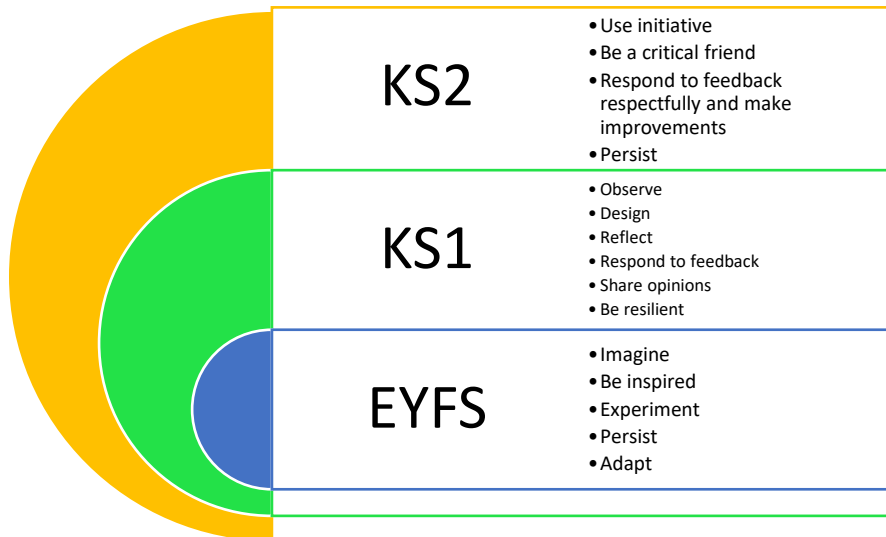
	Challenge at all levels	We recognise the entitlement all our pupils have to access high quality learning opportunities, including those who enter school already working at age related expectations. We use assessment for learning highly effectively to ensure learning is flexible, responsive and involves pupils at all times. We deliver a mastery approach and ensure appropriate challenge and scaffolding is in place to cater for all pupils' needs including SEND and the lowest 20%.
	Accountability for learning	We believe that children should be active participants in their own learning and subsequent progress, as a first school our pupils need these attributes to support transition to our local middle schools.
Create Citizens of the Future	Celebrate difference	As a predominantly white British school we recognise the importance of providing our children and their families with the knowledge and skills to be aware of different faiths, religions and races as well as ensuring our curriculum embraces difference across our school community.
	Healthy relationships	It is our moral duty to ensure children are kept safe whilst in our care and can also keep themselves safe within their home, community, online and in school.
	Promoting democracy	We promote pupil and parental involvement in the future development of our school, its policies and procedures. We believe this ownership strengthens relationships and embeds all that we value and wish to achieve.
	Respect and Responsibility	We have the very highest expectations for our pupils in relation to their behaviour, conduct and involvement in their own learning. This promotes a culture of learning in a warm, supportive and respectful environment. As our pupils move to a new school at the end of year 4 these skills and attributes all contribute to a successful transition.

Curriculum Drivers

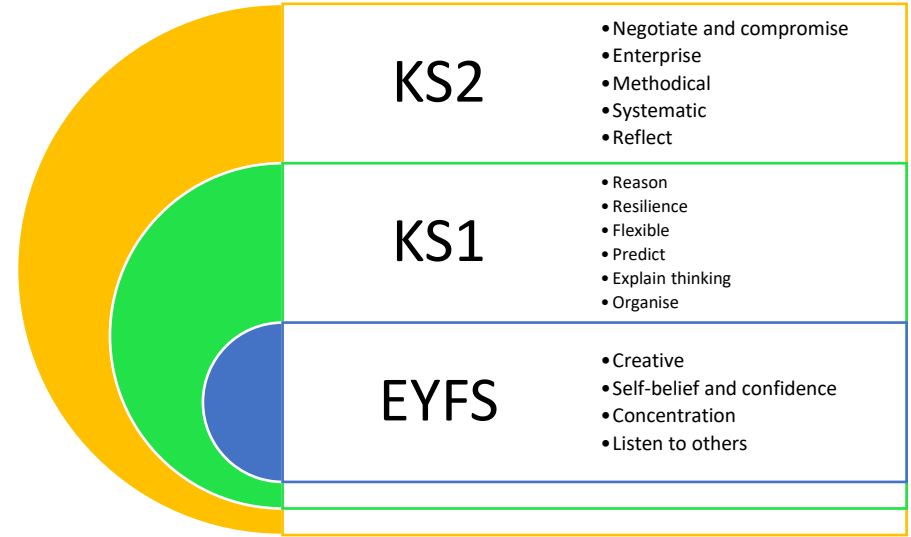
Our curriculum intent recognises the acquisition of key knowledge alongside the development of range of subject specific skills.

At Knypersley First School we intend to promote and plan for the development and use of the following **4 curriculum drivers** in all that we do to enhance engagement, deepen learning and raise attainment for all. The focus for development is split into each key stage.

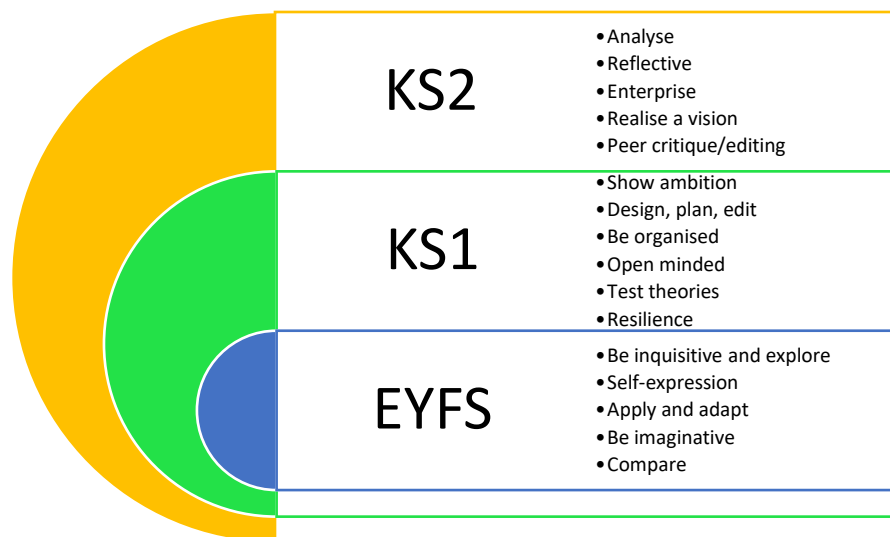
1. Creativity



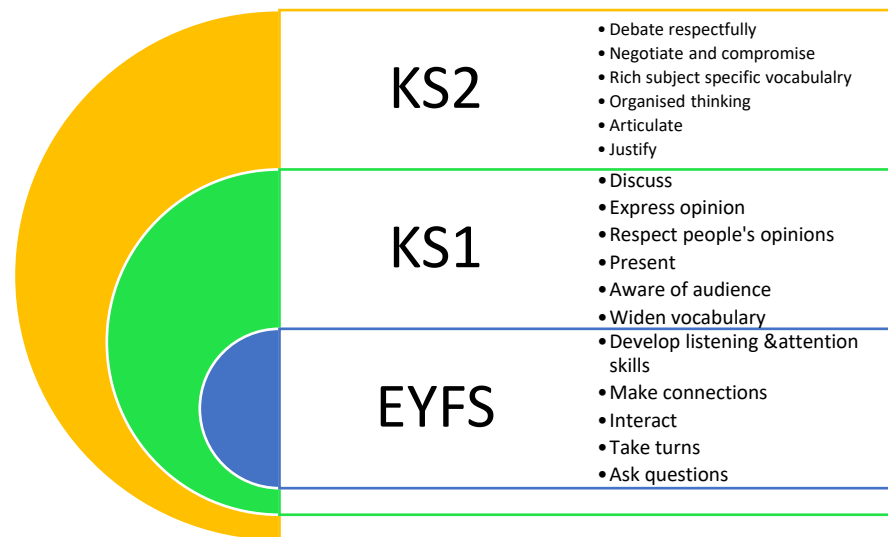
2. Problem Solving



3.Evaluation



4.Communication



What do we teach?

The provision we offer is guided by the requirements of the EYFS Curriculum, National Curriculum and the requirements of the Local Authority Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Our provision takes into account every aspect of a child's development. The curriculum gives all of our children the aspiration and opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards in all subject areas. We recognise that reading is the key to unlocking our curriculum and a high emphasis is placed upon it from the moment a child arrives at our school. To enable our children to develop socially, morally, physically, emotionally and spiritually, we provide stimulating learning environments in which children are encouraged to learn how to learn through their own experiences and apply their knowledge independently. Within this framework of both a broad and balanced curriculum, our planning and progression documents ensure that our curriculum suits the needs of all pupils in school. It includes practical

lessons with real-life context where possible to provoke curiosity so that pupils fully engage in our exciting curriculum. The individual needs of each child are met through well planned and varied learning activities, including visits, visitors, workshops and specialist tuition.

Teaching for depth of learning

At Knypersley First School, our progressive curriculum has been carefully designed, organised and planned to ensure that our children are not merely covering the statutory content of the EYFS and National Curriculum but achieving a depth of learning through the widening and deepening of essential knowledge and skills thus allowing these to be used across all areas of the curriculum. Within our curriculum, we build in many opportunities for repetition and practise to ensure that children are able to revisit previous learning, which allows them to gradually develop and build upon this to achieve a clear depth of understanding. This includes time to teach subject specific language and time to use such language in the correct context.

Teaching for a breadth of learning

At Knypersley First School, we carefully design, plan and implement our curriculum to provide balance across areas of learning to allow for children to develop both academically, personally and socially. It is part of our underlying belief that every child should feel valued and experience feeling success in a wide range of curriculum areas as responsible and resourceful pupils who reflect on their learning, building resilience and taking risks whilst understanding that we learn from our mistakes. In addition to this we want to ensure that our children build and develop and maintain strong relationships.

Furthermore, we place high priority on ensuring children's physical and mental wellbeing are met. We understand that children will not be successful learners unless they are emotionally secure, therefore we adopt a flexible approach through the effective use of assessment for learning techniques so that we can meet and respond to the needs of our pupils, both in advance via prior learning opportunities, and in the moment during our learning pathways via effective questioning, learning facilitation and the informed and timely use of a wide range of resources and learning prompts.

Our balanced curriculum is not at the expense of high standards in core subjects; in fact, we believe the more curriculum breadth and depth we offer our pupils the wider range of knowledge and skills they will have to achieve high standards. This approach to learning ensures that high standards and expectations of our children's work and outcomes are consistent across all areas of their learning.

Our full, rich and varied curriculum, with its excellent range of experiences, ensures that every pupil at Knypersley First School makes excellent progress both academically and personally. It is unique to our school and allows our children to flourish.

Teaching for knowledge, understanding and skills

Our subjects are taught discreetly through themes and key questions which may last a half term or term so that our children are aware of the many subjects within our curriculum and the skills within these (both subject specific and transferable), alongside knowledge and understanding. Our themes and key questions have been selected to enthuse and motivate our pupils alongside the need to create a cohesive long-term plan which utilizes our school resources and local contexts effectively. We plan very carefully to always ensure there are purposeful links to interweave subjects where it naturally fits. *Our topics are not the driver for learning but are instead a vehicle to help us get there- delete this sentence* . This ensures that planning and learning is sequenced appropriately to help support understanding and for progression and to allow children to be able to obtain knowledge whilst applying the skills necessary and vice versa. This is done through our unit pathways and non-negotiables for lessons, all written individually by leaders for their subject areas.

Our intent is to ensure that our children develop the knowledge and understanding needed in what we must cover statutory from the EYFS and National Curriculum as a starting point, but to also take their learning deeper to ensure it has 'stickability'. Alongside the knowledge and understanding, are the many subject specific and transferable skills we teach. We recognise the need for children to both know and remember what they have taught in order for longer term memory gains to occur and transferability and recall to be achieved.

Beyond the Classroom

We are fully committed to providing the children with a wide and rich range of learning experiences beyond the classroom and this is based on the resources we have and the needs of our children. Offering pupils these opportunities and context leads to high engagement by pupils and allows children to grasp knowledge first hand developing a 'cultural capital'. We want to open our pupils' eyes to the world beyond their community, promoting aspiration and an inquisitiveness to explore and gain a thirst for future knowledge.

Educational Visits

We build opportunities for children to visit museums, galleries, theatres, parks, places of worship and historical landmarks. Not only do our children regularly explore our local area, visiting places such as local parks we also take full advantage of the wealth of our local heritage. We expect that all children will participate in all educational visits as it links and enhances their classroom learning.

Specialist Visitors and Projects

Artists, musicians, authors, religious leaders, sports coaches and theatre groups frequently visit our school to work with children, providing specialist support in developing new skills. The children have swimming lessons from nursery through to Year 4 to develop this very important life skill. A forest schools programme is also integrated throughout the year for all classes including Nursery - learning is linked to themes/key questions to deepen knowledge as well as developing key skills. The programme of forest schools is delivered by a specialist forest schools teacher in conjunction with our staff. Children in year 4 also benefit from ukulele music lessons delivered by a peripatetic music teacher.

School Residential

We feel it is important that children experience a residential as part of their learning experience to help in their personal and social development. Children have this opportunity in Year 4. Parents pay a contribution towards the cost of these.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are committed to developing the whole child. We extend the curriculum by offering a wide range of extra extra-curricular activities, including: sporting clubs, construction, gardening, cookery, Spanish, art & design, singing, dancing, and music clubs. Such provision is delivered by both school and specialist practitioners.

The role of the Headteacher:

- Provide strategic lead and direction for the curriculum ensuring it matches the school intent and planned implementation,
- support and offers advice and challenge to colleagues on issues related to their subject,
- provide appropriate subject specific CPD,
- provide efficient resource management,
- (alongside subject leaders) monitors how their subjects are taught through monitoring the medium and short term planning and ensuring that appropriate teaching strategies are used,
- ensure evidence of the impact of the curriculum intent is gathered effectively and used to inform future actions.

The role of the Subject Leader:

Within the school's organisation, each class teacher takes on the responsibility for leading a subject area. It is the role of the subject leader to:

- Provide a clear and relevant vision for their subject intent and implementation,

- keep up to date with developments in their key area of learning both at local and national levels,
- review the way the subjects are taught in the school and plan for improvement linking to whole school priorities,
- monitor how their subjects are taught through monitoring the medium- and short-term planning,
- lead improvement through supporting colleagues,
- review curriculum plans for their key areas ensuring there is full coverage of the National Curriculum and that a coherent and progressive gain in knowledge and skills is planned for,
- oversee the mechanism and analysis of the impact of their subject provision within the whole school curriculum,
- audit, order and manage resources to enhance learning experiences for the pupils.

Monitoring and Review

Our Local Advisory Board Curriculum Link Governor and Children First Learning Partnership Curriculum Champion are responsible for monitoring the way our school curriculum intent is implemented and the impact it has on pupil outcomes. This may be through the analysis of data, the impact of CPD, pupil voice or by scrutinising the monitoring findings and actions of the Headteacher and subject leaders.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum and monitors the curriculum through planning, classroom observation, liaising with the Subject Leaders and School Leadership Team.

Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school ensuring their planned intent is implemented resulting in a clear and positive impact. They examine long-term and medium-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders have responsibility for monitoring standards and ensuring that teachers have the skills and resources they need.

REVIEW

Unless the need arises before this date, the Local Advisory Board will review this policy every 2 years via the Local Advisory Board Summer 1 meeting, modify or amend it as it considers necessary to ensure the policy meets the needs of Knypersley First School.

