

Dimensions Curriculum at Ballifield Primary School 'Learning Means the World' Curriculum

In response to our research and information gathering about the curriculum at Ballifield, we have decided to work with a company called 'Dimensions Curriculum' to further develop our school curriculum.

Through parent, staff and pupil voice we identified four key curriculum drivers that we felt our children needed to prepare them for life: initiative, possibilities, diversity and environment.

Curriculum Drivers:			
INITIATIVE	POSSIBILITIES	DIVERSITY	ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A willingness to get things done -To take responsibility -To take charge of my situation and do more than is required of me -To start something with the hope to continue -To show commitment and perseverance -To be self-promotional -To speak up and share my ideas -To consider every opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To develop experience of the wider world -To develop a sense of what is possible for me to achieve -To be ambitious in my thinking -To be aware of opportunities available to me outside of school -To generate ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To recognise, understand & celebrate individual differences -To respect the similarities and difference between people -To value and respect cultural, ethnic, racial and religious differences -To become more aware of the diverse community, and society, I live in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To develop an understanding of the school environment and my impact on it -To show care and respect for the school and local environment -To overcome barriers to environmental issues in school and the locality

Our curriculum drivers identify content that every teacher plans for regardless of the statutory content. They are designed to bring our aims and core values to life and to meet the needs of our pupils. These are the traits we would like to see in our children. They customise our curriculum and give our schools its personality. These drivers are at the forefront of our curriculum work and will be developed further through a curriculum based around four core **World Issues:**

- 1) Conservation**
- 2) Communication**
- 3) Conflict**
- 4) Culture**

These World Issues form the basis of a creative, thematic curriculum, which is both arts rich and knowledge-rich, called 'Learning Means the World' (LMTW) a brand new, highly relevant, global primary curriculum.

The **Thematic Units** are cross-curricular in nature, covering traditional subjects - science, history, geography, art, design technology, religious education, music, dance, drama, computing / ICT - as well as more contemporary areas of study, such as sustainability and personal wellbeing. These are all set within a global context, but also explore more local aspects of the theme.

Pupils are organised across four **Learning Pathways** which each highlight four traits for effective learning at each stage. These are developed through a skills-based approach.

The Learning Pathways are: -

Explorers (3-5 years)

Foundation Stage 1

Foundation Stage 2

Pathfinders (5-7 years)

Year 1

Year 2

Adventurers (7-9 years)

Year 3

Year 4

Navigators (9-11 years)

Year 5

Year 6



In total, there are **32 Thematic Units** which make up the 'Learning Means the World' Curriculum; eight units link to each one of the four World Issues, with two themes assigned to each Learning Pathway. Relevant topics are covered under the four headings such as extinction / endangered species in Conservation ('Going Wild!'), digital media in Communication ('Lightning Speed') and contrasting locations in Culture ('Picture Our Planet').

During the Summer term each Learning Pathway will focus on a theme that is relevant to the key skills and knowledge needed to ensure coverage and progression in the Foundation Subjects. These have been carefully selected from the Dimensions Primary Curriculum themes and include 'Walk like an Egyptian', 'Happy Families' and 'The Famous Five'. All themes are progressive and, together, provide curriculum cohesion and continuity.

We have the freedom to teach the National Curriculum in line with our pupils' needs and we believe our new skills curriculum for September 2019 meets the values and aims which our stakeholders requested at the start of the consultation. We are excited to teach our new curriculum and see the impact it has on our pupils' academic and whole well-being.

The Dimensions Curriculum meets our curriculum intent in the following ways:

- **Initiative** – Our 'Learning Pathways' outline key skills and values that our pupils will develop in every year group in school from Nursery through to Year 6. At the beginning of each theme, 'Pupil-led activities' hook children into the Learning Challenge and provide them with the opportunity to develop themselves as independent and individual learners. We aim to equip them with a range of learning skills that will allow them to thrive as they progress through the school and beyond. We envision that Ballifield learners will become determined and resilient pupils who will be problem-solvers, critical-thinkers and passionate acquirers of knowledge.
- **Possibilities** – Each Learning Challenge contains an Essential Learning Experience that aims to open the children's eyes to the possibilities of the future. We provide children with a range of trips, visitors and experiences that introduce them to possible careers and avenues of future study that may inspire them. 'Catalyst Questions' are integrated throughout each theme which require children to think more deeply, and critically, about local, national and global issues, reflecting on root causes and giving them the perspective to see their place in the world. We want our children to be active agents in their own aspirations, considering where they would like their futures to lead and providing them with an education that makes this possible.
- **Diversity** – a whole half-term's theme is dedicated to culture as well as diversity being threaded through all of the other Learning Challenges with the curriculum having a global focus. Culture at Ballifield encompasses language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts. This is important in supporting children in making sense of the world and their place in it. Children need to learn how culture affects perception, influences behaviour and shapes personalities. As they explore different cultures, children will understand how much we have in common and although people see the world differently, we are all human beings.
- **Environment** - a whole half-term's theme is dedicated to conservation and again, conservation is incorporated into other Learning Challenges. Children are taught how the practice of caring for Earth's natural resources is vital so that all living things can benefit from them, both now and in the future. We also develop children's understanding of sustainability so that they understand that small actions can make a big difference now, and for future generations.

We continue to welcome any support from families and the community in sharing knowledge and expertise from work and home life experiences relevant to the theme. We will still have Stunning Starts, Fabulous Finishes, home challenge activities and plenty of trips, visits and visitors to bring the curriculum to life.

Ballifield Primary School
September 2019