



Learning at Mellor Primary School

When we talk about a school curriculum, what is it that we mean by this all-encompassing term, that is at the core of the school experience?

What is it that you would wish to see for your children in the school that you choose?

A school curriculum is incredibly complex and weaves hundreds of learning experiences in order to provide our children with increasing knowledge, skills and understanding.

Through careful consideration and construction, we have developed a fully inclusive, ambitious curriculum with the intention that learning at Mellor Primary School will provide all our children, including those with a special education need and/or disability, with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to be citizens of the future who will make a significant contribution to society.

It is important to recognize that our children live in a world that is rapidly changing and subsequently our curriculum has to be dynamic with a flexible approach in order to respond to changing needs for the future.

Through our comprehensive curriculum there are clear end points developed. These are achieved through a carefully planned sequence and where possible, using the local resources and context to enhance learning.

As a result, we wish our children to gain a sense of self; their personal skills and talents, enabling them to lead fulfilling lives.

Lord Richard Layard asked – ‘What is the purpose of education?’

The sole purpose of education: To develop capacities that will increase the happiness of the pupil (as child and adult) and the happiness of the rest of society”

At the heart of our curriculum intent, is our desire to develop the capacities to increase the happiness of our children and staff in order to build happiness and therefore success in our community.

The core principles of Safe, Ready, Respect run through every facet of our expectations and ethos. The school is built on these and supported by the values of Friendship, Trust, Determination, Courage, Excellence, Inspiration and Equality. These values were decided by our Pupil Parliament in 2012 and have continued to echo through our work.

The basis for success in future life must be through a mix of academic successes and building the unique character of the individual child.

Our curriculum enables our children to be passionate about reading, writing and mathematics whilst developing their human characters; their interpersonal and intra-personal skills alongside curious, creative minds.

The headings below, enable the narrative to share with you what we see as the core intentions for our curriculum, demonstrating what it means to be a child at Mellor Primary School.

Mind Body and Soul : Mental Wellness, Physical, Health, Leading Learners - Resilience

Through our PERMA programme, PE, residential visits and PSHE/RSE programmes our children learn to understand their emotions, their feelings; their physical development and develop ways through which they can manage these effectively therefore building grit, determination, resilience and strong relationships, a sense of active lives for the future: Core skills that enable them to meet the challenges that life will present for them in their future years.

Through our opportunities in the arts, we wish our children to develop a love of music and appreciate the visual/tactile creativity of the human spirit; to enhance their personal development through performance in the Early Years, KS1 and KS2 and through such experiences as the Shakespeare festival, gain a knowledge of our heritage and cultural capital.

Caring For The Planet, Nurturing Nature and Sustainable Development

Our well established 'Forest School' is an effective cross-curricular facilitator of other subjects enabling a mixture of purposeful outdoor learning and generating a love and care of the natural world. In its own right, Forest School learning enables children to develop an understanding of collaboration, team work, problem solving, resilience, resourcefulness and reflection with high degrees of responsibility. Our children engage in purposeful learning to understand climate change so they can begin to make an active contribution now and be provided with the desire to find solutions to the problems that will present in the years to come.

The responsibility for a class garden enhances our children's understanding of where food comes from; the science of plant growth and the challenges that exist in food productivity and subsequently builds an appreciation of the value of the resources that we have.

Locality, Nation, Globe Place in The World - Our World United

Through our curriculum we develop a knowledge of local geography and history. It is essential for our children to leave our school with a strong sense of belonging and understanding the place within which they live. They will know why the landscape is as it is; the impact of human activity; key characters and places of importance. Our children will understand that they are part of an extensive metropolitan borough which embraces a rich social, cultural, spiritual and ethnic diversity.

Our children will understand the differences and similarities of the North West region and Peak District in comparison to other regions of the United Kingdom.

In addition to this, through our studies of other countries and our link with a school in Nepal we build in our children a sense of global citizenship.

British Values/Society and Law, Power and Governance

Through our Pupil Parliament we build an understanding of democracy and the political system that exists within our country. Our children develop a strong sense of moral imperative; they are keen to help others and develop a keen sense of right and wrong.

Relationships - Equality and Diversity

Through the curriculum, we endeavour to improve the lives of children, young people and families. We celebrate our rich diversity and tackle all kinds of bullying. In doing so we believe that children will attain more at school and our community will be happier.

We celebrate all our children and their families without discrimination.

In school we have 'No-Outsiders' and through this our children learn to be understanding and tolerant of the rich diversity that is the human condition.

The link with a partner school in Stockport, with a high ethnic diversity, further enhances our children's understanding of the fabric that makes up our society due its cultural diversity. This element strengthens our community cohesion.

Economic and Personal Contribution

We wish our children to understand the world of work; to understand remuneration; to understand how innovation and income generation can come together through entrepreneurial activity; to have knowledge of, and understand factors that affect personal finance.

Our children work with members of the local community to care for the war memorial, attend community events where they give of their time such as selling poppies for the British Legion. We support charities both local and national in order for our children to see and feel the effects of supporting others. This is further echoed through our Forest Ranger team who manage our extensive grounds. Caring and giving become evident in their everyday behaviours.

At the heart of our children's experience and development at Mellor Primary, we wish them to become future citizens of the world who will connect with others, be active, take notice of the world around them, keep learning and give of their time and presence to contribute to wider society. This is what it means to be a learner at Mellor Primary School.