

# Graham James Primary Academy



## Curriculum Policy

Agreed: October 2024

Next Review Date: July 2025



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## Graham James Primary Academy



### Curriculum Intent:

At Graham James Primary Academy, we aim to provide a curriculum for children that is engaging, exciting and empowering and equips them for the next phase of education and beyond. Our curriculum continues to develop with regards to year group termly topics which create fantastic engagement and outcomes for our learners.

Our curriculum provides opportunities for all children to develop a growth mind-set as independent, confident and successful learners, with high aspirations, who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the society around them. Our shared vision is to create a stimulating learning environment for the children in partnership with their parents and the wider community. Graham James is a caring, listening school and we take into consideration the needs and character of our children: the children's prior learning, children's experiences, the surrounding community, the National and Early Years curriculum and educational research that is relevant to our school.

Key Skills underpin our curriculum, these are the foundations for preparing our children to become the adults of tomorrow. We aim for our children to be: **Caring to Learn** - Resilient, creative, positive, inquisitive, confident, responsible, independent and **Learning to Care** - safety aware, sociable, respectful, compassionate, diversity, community, empathy.

We have designed a curriculum that teaches what matters so that children know more, remember more, understand more, and enjoy themselves more whilst learning.

Many children start at Graham James with poor language skills and as a result, our curriculum focuses on speaking, listening, vocabulary development, reading and writing. Our curriculum aims to enable children to be fluent readers by the time they leave key stage 1 with a progressively rich vocabulary that can be transferred into confident communicators.

Graham James serves a mainly white British community, this means that cultural and religious awareness is important to support pupils to be prepared for life in modern, multi-cultural Britain – this is reflected in our curriculum.

### Curriculum Implementation:

#### Engaging

Each year group have termly topics, led by subjects important to our children and the society we live in. We do this within lessons that provide a range of learning experiences and encourage children to be proud of their own achievements. We encourage our children to work in different ways and with different people to develop their confidence and result in them being sociable.

To ensure that children understand the society around them visitor's lead special assemblies and visit when related to topics, children take part in educational visits to further their learning and see it applied. This teaches our children to understand and be compassionate towards their immediate community and have a better understanding of modern Britain.

We understand the needs of our children, and that children learn in different ways; therefore, we provide concrete and visual learning throughout the school as well as challenging children in all subjects to reach greater depth and to challenge themselves to make their best better.

We provide a range of engaging resources to support the children's learning, from the use of technology, practical lessons using tools and equipment developing children's skills across the years.

Our school promotes reading to all children in order to develop a love of reading across the genres by our reading environments being stimulating, engaging and enticing. Reading is encouraged and celebrated throughout the school, and this is reflected in our consistently high levels of writing.

## **Exciting**

The Children at Graham James are inquisitive and excited to learn through topics that the year groups share, alongside topics that are required within the National Curriculum.

Children want to learn more due to their first-hand experiences, which support their learning and the rich environment in which they undertake these. Children can use their environment around them within their learning such as using the Playground area to support their Phonics and Maths, as well as within Physical Education.

We also provide a variety of extra-curricular activities that the children enjoy, and we participate in events outside of school. This can vary from sporting events, the choir singing within the locality, children helping to decorate the town centre at Christmas, these events foster an attitude of community and appreciation towards each other as well as being a celebration of their own achievements.

Our children are rewarded for their achievements, their perseverance, their attitude and their manners within class rewards, whole school Caring to Learn and Learning to Care Awards, this encourages children to be positive in their approach to learning and respectful at all times and in turn giving them confidence in themselves.

## **Empowering**

At Graham James we encourage the children to develop the skills towards independence, we provide resources that will support them and give them opportunities to practice key skills and apply these within their learning. Lessons encourage children to take risks and build their resilience whilst we also challenge them to explore their own creative interests.

To ensure that children have a voice within their school we hold focused buddy assemblies, giving children the opportunity to share their opinions as to what matters to them, this makes the children the decision makers for matters such as charities to donate to and future topics.

Children throughout the school are given responsibilities, and all children are expected to follow our Golden Rules, which are embedded within our assemblies with a focus on being responsible for yourself. All classes regularly take part in class assemblies sharing their work with their families as well as Christmas Performances always encouraging our children to share their work with pride and helping them to understand that they are part of a wider community.

## **Curriculum Impact:**

Through delivering a broad and balanced curriculum our children are observed to be independent and confident learners, happy to share their successes. They are motivated to learn and challenge themselves and willing to take risks. This secures improvements in outcomes for all pupils, including disadvantaged and those with SEND relevant to their starting points.

We continue to work hard to ensure good outcomes across all phases of learning. As a result of our curriculum, our results are consistently high and above national comparisons in the vast majority of areas.

Children are eager to learn and keen to arrive in the morning with children confident that they will be in a caring environment and have established friendships, develop responsibilities and know that they will be cared for.

Children have the support to try, the confidence to fail and the encouragement and challenge to reach their potential in a safe, stimulating and happy atmosphere.

*Caring to learn, learning to care*