

## **Featherstone Primary Academy Curriculum Statement 2022-2023**

Featherstone Primary Academy – a proud and vibrant school at the heart of the community in the village of Featherstone, Staffordshire. Our small village can be traced back to the Domesday book of 1086, when the area was owned by the Church of Wolverhampton. Today, we carry on our strong links with the city by being a University of Wolverhampton Multi-Academy Trust. Our village only numbered 39 inhabitants just over 100 years ago. Our village grew with the opening of a coalmine in the 1920s, but this closed in 1969. Our village still numbers under 4000 people in the last census. This is the 'Curriculum Overview', a document that summarises and presents all elements that make up the excellent practice at our school: from our vision and our aims, to our curriculum, planning and assessment and even the content/set up of our learning. We are very proud of what we stand for, offer and give our children every day. Our children will be proud of the rich history their local community offers and prepared for life in Modern Britain.

### **Curriculum Vision: What is the shared vision for our children?**

- Our EYFS and KS1 pupils are offered a balanced education with a higher focus on Reading, Maths and Writing to ensure a solid foundation is built for the children to progress. Early Reading (and Phonics) is delivered through RWI, with provision continuing into KS2 where needed.
- The early curriculum meets their needs and gives them the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them for a broader curriculum in KS2. This knowledge-based approach is aimed at providing all children with the knowledge and experiences (Cultural Capital) needed to become successful members of the local, national and international community
- Our children will achieve personal academic success relative to their ability through experiencing creativity and problem solving, demonstrating reliability, responsibility and resilience. They will be supported through: their physical and emotional development, developing an understanding of well-being and mental health and the promotion of enquiry. These are all the key elements that we believe support the development of the whole child and promote a positive attitude to learning.
- Our children will celebrate their diversity, utilise their skills and knowledge to understand the cultural wealth of the community whilst enhancing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Intent**

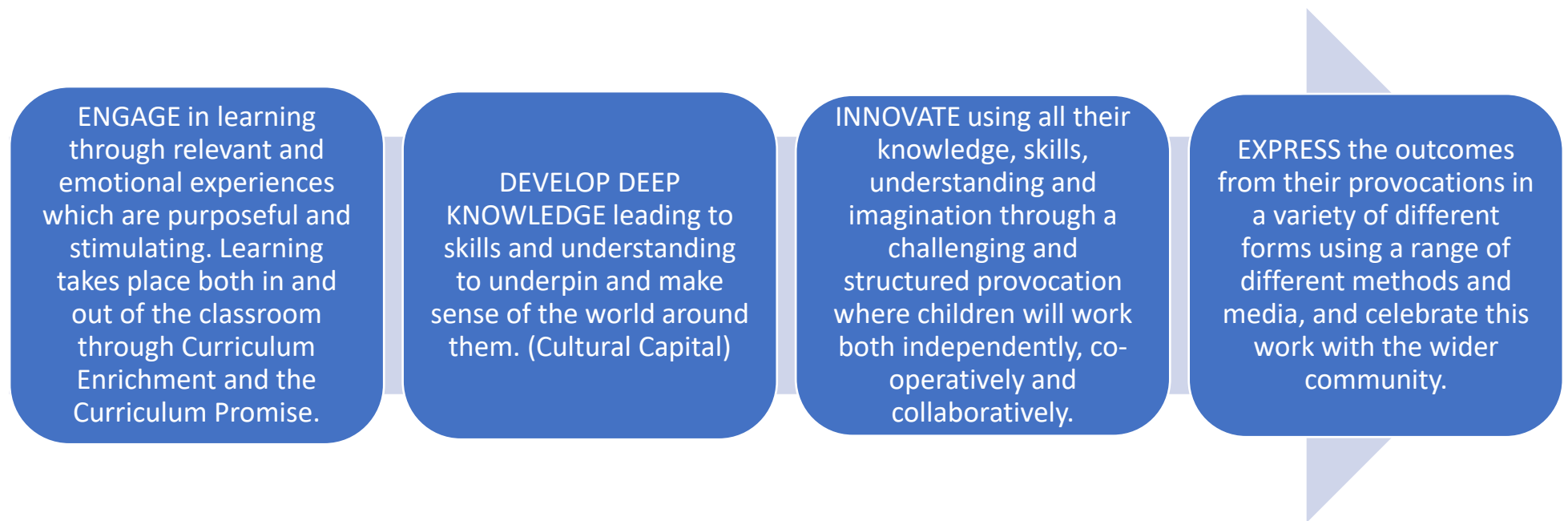
The curriculum at Featherstone Primary Academy is designed to provide a broad and balanced education that meets the needs of all children.

The Curriculum:

- Provides opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident and successful learners, with high aspirations, who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society.
- Expects academic success by promoting creativity and problem solving, reliability, responsibility and resilience, as well as physical development, well-being and mental health.
- To create a positive, safe learning environment and to endeavour to develop key elements that nurture the whole child and promote a positive attitude to learning, where differences are recognised, celebrated and appreciated.
- Celebrates diversity and utilises the knowledge, skills and cultural wealth of the community while supporting the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Includes knowledge of key historical and contemporary people from History, Arts and Science, ensuring that children are well prepared for the academic, physical and cultural life in modern Britain.
- Aim for each child to achieve their full potential in all areas of the curriculum, so that they are equipped and prepared for their Secondary transition.
- To encourage pupils to be responsible British citizens for the future who can actively contribute to a diverse society.

## **Implementation**

Implementation of our curriculum is through what we consider to be the four important corners of learning



The curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum 2014 and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the children in our school. Our Curriculum is split into individual subjects to ensure coverage and progression in all curriculum areas. This approach enables knowledge-based learning, fostering each child's curiosity and interest throughout each subject and also enabling the achievement of depth in knowledge and skills. Opportunities for child voice are planned at the beginning of each new subject area and this is used to inform the learning in each subject to ensure relevance.

The curriculum provides children with memorable experiences, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. We also offer a wider curriculum, outside that which is taught. Therefore, we offer children to experience the curriculum through a range for trips, residential visits, in-school workshops, visitors and before and after school clubs. This includes but is not limited to:

- Residential trip.

- Visits to farms or zoos.
- Visits to museums and art galleries.
- Community links – planting trees
  - Exhibitions.
- Visiting expert – musicians, poets, historians
- Clubs – maths, homework, sports (according to seasons), science
- Children’s University.
- Choir – Young Voices
- Musical tuition such as keyboard, recorder, violin.
- Links with the University of Wolverhampton

The school’s curriculum is broad and balanced and all subjects have equal importance (except Reading, which runs throughout every subject). The outdoor environment and the local community are considered an opportunity for active learning for all our children. The school grounds have been developed so they can enrich different curriculum areas. PE has a high profile in the school with each child receiving weekly lessons. A varied timetable for extra-curricular activities is offered by the school, with clubs that support the core curriculum offer, as well as those which develop specialist skills, such as netball, football and cricket whilst also extending the range of children’s experiences. A primary focus of our curriculum is to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in achievement, and provide a purpose and relevance for learning.

The school takes pride in providing a highly inclusive environment, where learners demonstrate high levels of enjoyment in their education and most make very good progress in most subjects and areas of learning. Children at all levels are helped to achieve their potential. Those who are most able are challenged and supported through being offered tasks which provide opportunities for greater depth and those who

struggle are encouraged and given targeted support to embed knowledge and skills, to develop at their own pace or simply to learn in a style that best suits their individual needs.

Subject leaders play an important part in the success of the curriculum by leading a regular programme of monitoring, evaluation and review and the celebration of good practice contributes to the ongoing commitment to evolve and improve further. All subject leaders are given training and the opportunity to keep developing their own subject knowledge, skills and understanding, so they can support curriculum development and their colleagues throughout the school.

## **Impact**

The innovative practice across the school provides a strong foundation and opportunities for children to collaborate and develop social skills both indoors and out. This curriculum design ensures that the needs of individual and small groups of children can be met within the environment of high quality-first wave teaching, supported by targeted, proven interventions where appropriate. In this way it can be seen to impact in a very positive way on children's outcomes which is evidenced by the outcomes for pupils at all Key Stages being at or above national averages.

Enjoyment of the curriculum promotes achievement, confidence and good behaviour. Children feel safe to try new things. High quality visits and visitors to the school enhance the curriculum and provide opportunities for writing for a purpose Children have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based and external exhibitions, performances, competitions and events involving other schools. Developing their independence and motivation as learners and their sense of responsibility as future citizens is at the heart of all our teaching and learning.