

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Luke 2:40

The Curriculum at Denton and Harlaxton CE Primary Schools

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum within the structure of the *statutory curriculum* (September 2014). Our school community, coming from local surrounding villages as well as town locations, is largely mono-cultural with some deprivation and some diversity. Our curriculum is designed to give our children opportunities to learn about their diverse and culturally rich world through considering ethical questions within a cohesive and real-life context. Through the relevance of their learning and a foundation of Christian values, we encourage our children to see themselves as global citizens.

Intent

The fundamental intent of the curriculum at Denton and Harlaxton is to prepare our children with secure foundations, regardless of their starting point, so they have every chance of achieving their potential with their next phase of education. This is underpinned by our school's Christian Values and vision statement:

'Together we Learn, Encourage, Aspire, Respect and Nurture'.

Our curriculum is well sequenced and ambitious with knowledge and skills developed incrementally; providing rich vocabulary and is founded on first-hand experiences where children are encouraged to immerse themselves in real learning environments. We promote *project based learning* as a tool to encourage children to work towards real outcomes and real purposes. This focus on their needs and interests allows us to provide an equality of opportunity which enables excellence and inclusivity.

We have a *reflective and evaluative style of teaching* where the process of learning is valued as much as the outcome. Through a variety of curriculum areas, we encourage our children to understand the purpose of the law and justice in this country and how tolerance and respect are key *British values*. We promote this further through our *'Leader in Me'* philosophy which is based on 7 life 'values' aimed at promoting self-respect and independence, interaction with others and selflessness.

Implementation

To implement the curriculum, a number of conceptual and organisational frameworks are adopted that create a distinct offering by our schools.

- The Curriculum provides an outcomes based framework for each development phase with a review termly to make sure the content is relevant and also makes best use of the skills of key staff. This is backed up by team planning, both short and medium term, that ensures progression and focus on delivering the overall curriculum.
- Where possible, subjects are taught through Project Based Learning. Where they are taught discretely, we use a maths mastery approach to teaching mathematics; Science is taught through a mixture of theoretical and practical approaches as well as opportunities to put 'working scientifically at the core.'
- We have a spelling and *phonics* scheme called 'Read Write Inc' which is introduced in Reception and is taught throughout the school. *Reading is a core skill* which is promoted and reading at home is encouraged and rewarded through our house point system. Writing is further promoted through 'Talk for Writing' techniques.
- We have high quality, often specialist, resources to give value to learning and we make use of Music, RE and PE specialists. These *specialists* help us to give the highest quality provision in these specialist areas

- Parents and members of the local community are a core part of the strategy and we make use of their expertise to assist in the delivery of the curriculum
- Our '*My Style*' approach to homework encourages parents to get involved with their children's learning and allows them to utilise their preferred learning style.
- An important process in all our learning is critique. This enables children to reflect on their and others' work several times before submitting a final produce.
- Our *excellent staff* plan together, share ideas and resources and dedicate time to evaluating the best approaches for implementing out creative curriculum. They work hard to make our children's learning *fun and enjoyable* as well as challenging and purposeful. They value the children's opinions and interests and allow children to influence plans and enhance their own curriculum.
- In order for this to happen we invest in good quality training provision for our staff in order to give them the best tools for current teaching methods, practices and strategies.

Impact

The Denton and Harlaxton Federation's continued focus on the curriculum improves continually through:

- Developing rigorous assessment systems based on learning outcomes and ambitious expectations, which inform future teaching and interventions.
- Providing opportunities for staff to develop professionally and collegiately to support education of the children.
- Developing a deep sense of self-worth in our children through a firm core of spiritual and ethical values.
- Enabling children, parents, staff and governors to engage successfully in new developments and opportunities each term.
- Ensuring each child reaches their academic potential and learns skills and knowledge which enable them to develop an awareness of how they can contribute to the world which influences them.