

# Goldenhill Primary Academy



## Curriculum Policy: September 2024

**“Everyone Shines At Goldenhill”.**

**Mission statement:**

*Goldenhill Primary Academy provides a happy, friendly, secure and respectful environment; where everyone achieves their potential and develops a lifelong love for learning.*

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Statement of intent**

At Goldenhill Primary Academy, we value pupils' education and aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is accessible to all. We do not tolerate discrimination of any kind, and our curriculum celebrates the diverse nature of our society, enabling pupils to embrace the world around them, and encourages adherence with the fundamental British values. It also promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at our school and of society.

This policy outlines our dedication to establishing a well-rounded and robust curriculum, as well as the provisions surrounding its creation.

## **1. Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2002
- Children Act 2004
- The Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2013) 'The national curriculum in England'
- DfE (2021) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Homework Policy
- Primary Assessment Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Extended Services Policy
- Relationships and Health Education Policy
- SEND Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board is responsible for:

- Approving this policy.
- Liaising with the headteacher, subject leaders and teachers with regards to pupil progress and attainment.
- Formulating a curriculum committee who assists the school with the creation and implementation of the curriculum.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Devising long- and medium-term plans for the curriculum in collaboration with teachers and other members of the SLT.
- Communicating the agreed curriculum to the governing board on an annual basis.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Assisting teachers with the planning and implementation of the curriculum, ensuring their workload is manageable.
- Ensuring the curriculum is implemented consistently throughout the school and ensuring any difficulties are addressed and mitigated as soon as possible.
- Receiving reports on the progress and attainment of pupils and reporting these results to the governing board.
- Making any necessary adjustments to the curriculum where required.
- Keeping up-to-date with any relevant statutory updates and taking action where required.

- Creating and maintaining an up-to-date curriculum intent statement.
- Ensuring the curriculum is created in accordance with this policy.
- Updating and maintaining this policy.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy consistently throughout their practices.
- Ensuring lesson plans are reflective of the school's curriculum.
- Implementing the curriculum in creative ways, appealing to different learning types and keeping pupils engaged in content.
- Creating short-term plans for the curriculum with fellow colleagues and reporting these plans to the headteacher.
- Creating weekly lesson plans in collaboration with colleagues and sharing these with the SLT where required.
- Collaborating with the headteacher and the SENCO to ensure that the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Working closely with the SENCO and TAs to ensure those in need receive additional support in lessons.
- Ensuring academically more able pupils are given additional, more challenging work to celebrate their talents.
- Celebrating all pupils' academic achievements.
- Reporting progress of pupils with SEND to the SENCO and ensuring any difficulties identified are discussed and resolved.
- Monitoring the progress of all pupils and reporting on this to the headteacher.
- Working to close the attainment gap between academically more and less able pupils.

Subject leaders are responsible for:

- Providing strategic leadership and direction to their team.
- Supporting and offering advice to colleagues on issues relating to the subject or curriculum area.
- Monitoring pupil progress within the department and reporting on this to the headteacher.
- Providing efficient resource management for their department.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Ensuring there are specialist resources and equipment available for pupils in need so that everyone can have full access to the curriculum.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Collaborating with the headteacher and teachers to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all.
- Ensuring teaching materials do not discriminate against anyone in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Carrying out SEND assessments where necessary and ensuring pupils receive the additional help they need.
- Liaising with external agencies where necessary to ensure pupils who require additional support receive it.

### 3. Curriculum intent

Pupils' learning and development is at the heart of our school's curriculum; it is broad and balanced and equips pupils with the skills necessary to succeed in life after school.

This curriculum intent statement outlines how the school has created the curriculum and the benefits it will bring to pupils' learning and self-improvement.

#### Our Philosophy:

We, at Goldenhill Primary Academy believe that primary school should be a safe and wonderful place where children want to be, and learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. Learning should be through a mixture of exploration, discovery, creativity and a variety of sensory and kinaesthetic experiences which encourage learners to want to explore more in a journey of lifelong learning. They will learn the English and Maths skills needed for life and learning and to progress in their education. Children will learn to shape their futures and develop their unique capacities and skills. They will be encouraged to be curious and use thinking skills to innovate, be creative and problem solve. They will develop the first understandings of employment and entrepreneurship. A primary education should set up learners for life, with the knowledge and skills to be well-rounded individuals, emotionally and physically healthy, with an appreciation for and a generosity towards people, the world and the universe around them.

#### Curriculum intent

The aim of our curriculum is to provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident, successful learners with high aspirations who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society. There is a high focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding. Our broad and balanced curriculum has been carefully designed and mapped out to ensure coverage and progression. It has a project-based, thematic approach and provides children with a range of rich and memorable learning experiences.

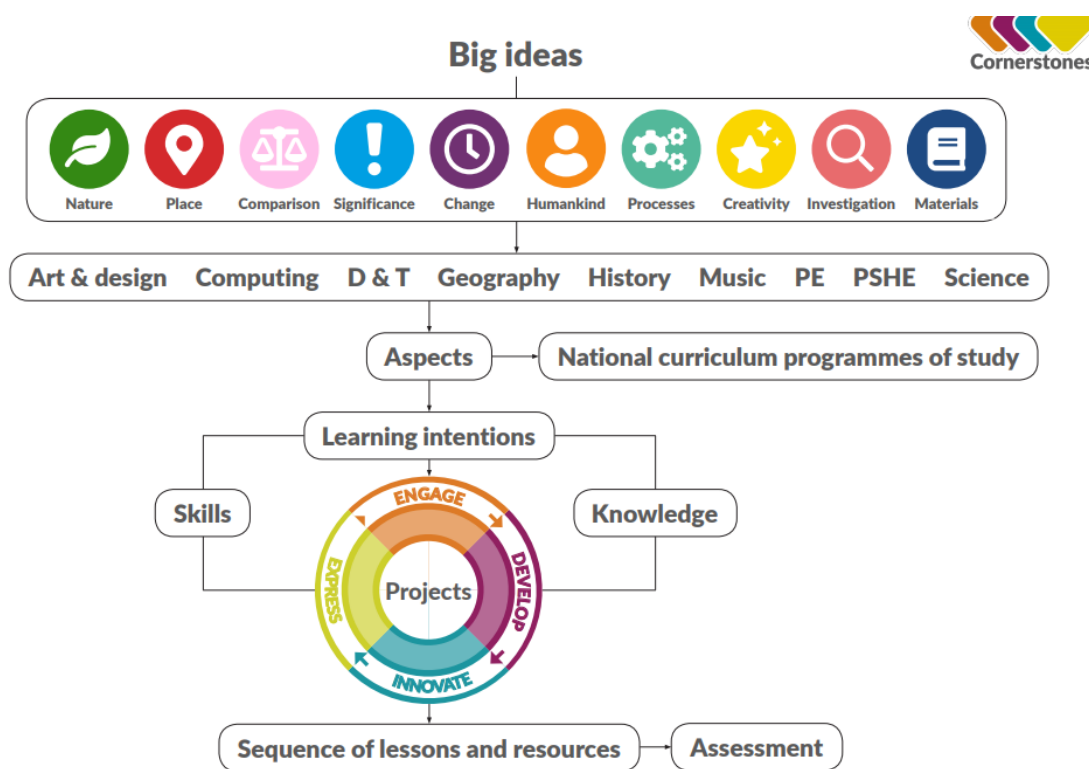
#### Aims

1. engage children through interesting topics and hands-on activities.
2. Make meaningful links between subjects.
3. ensure that children know, understand and remember more so that they are well prepared for the next steps in their learning.
4. make effective connections to the real world.
5. help children to think creatively and solve problems.
6. develop children's capacities to work independently and collaboratively.
7. enable children to make choices about their learning.
8. take account of children's interests and fascinations.

## Our approach:

1. develops children to ensure they reach their potential
2. helps children to find their passions and interests
3. supports children's acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding
4. helps children to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and morally
5. assists children in becoming independent, responsible, useful, confident and considerate members of the community
6. promotes a positive attitude towards learning, so children enjoy coming to school
7. helps children to acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning
8. creates and maintains an exciting and stimulating learning environment
9. enables children to flourish within a culturally diverse society

## Our Curriculum Design

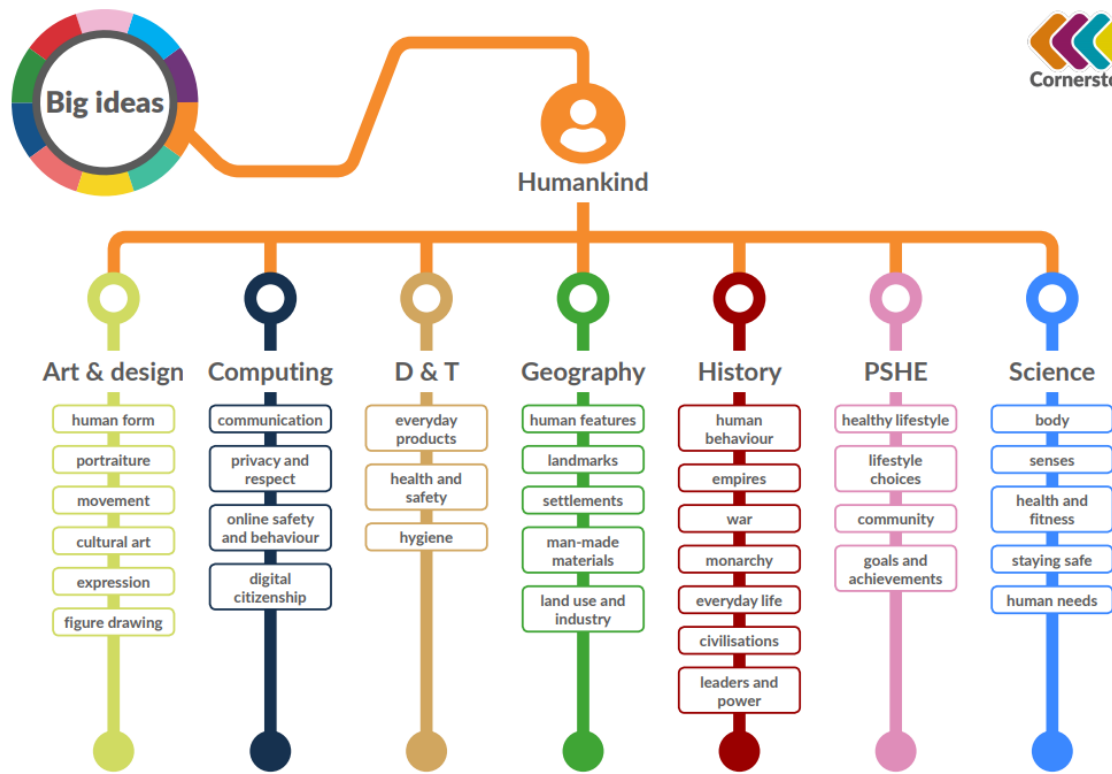


## Our Big Ideas



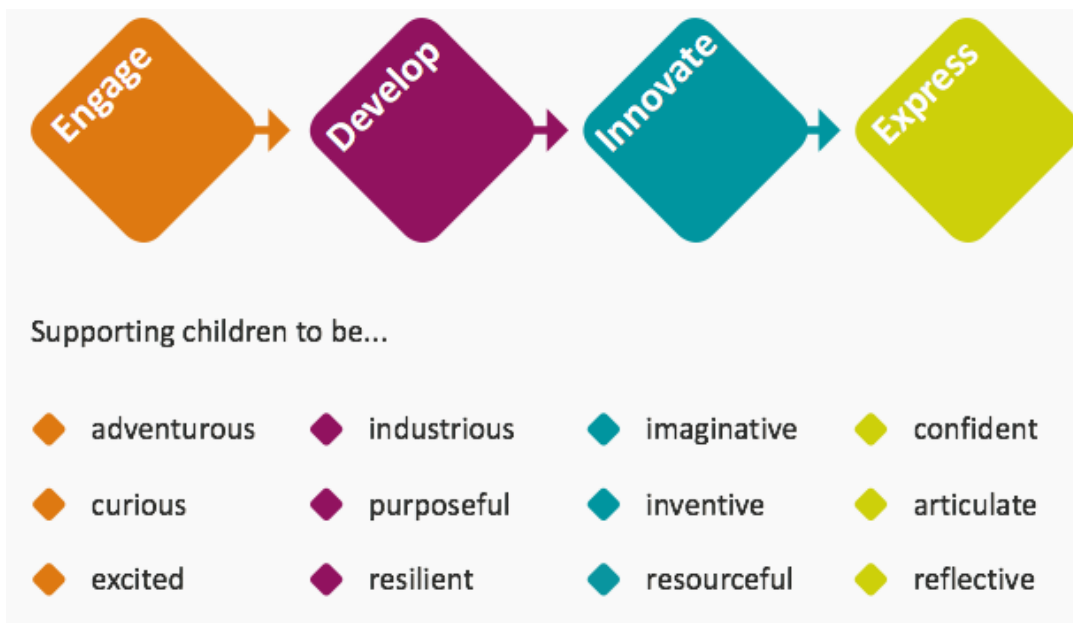
## An Example of How Our Big Ideas Thread Through Our Curriculum.

### Humankind Throughout The Curriculum



### Structure: (Implementation)

Our curriculum is built on The Four Cornerstones of Learning – Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. These are four distinct stages that actively promote children’s learning and thinking



The Four

Cornerstones of Learning link explicitly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

The focus for teaching and planning in each Cornerstone is as follows.

### **Engage**

1. hooks learners in with a memorable experience
2. set the scene and provide the context
3. ask questions to provoke thought and interest
4. use interesting starting points to spark children's curiosity

### **Develop**

1. teach knowledge to provide depth of understanding
2. demonstrate new skills and allow time for consolidation
1. provide creative opportunities for making and doing
2. deliver reading, writing and talk across the curriculum

### **Innovate**

1. provide imaginative scenarios for creative thinking
2. enable and assess the application of previously learned skills
1. encourage enterprise and independent thinking
2. work in groups and independently to solve problems

### **Express**

1. encourage reflective talk by asking questions
1. provide opportunities for shared evaluation
2. celebrate success
3. identify next steps for learning

### **Memorable Experience**

Each Imaginative Learning Project (ILP) begins with a memorable experience that stimulates children's curiosity and prepares them for a new theme. A memorable experience often involves an educational visit out of school or a visitor coming into school to share their expertise with the children.

### **Cultural Capital At Goldenhill**

At Goldenhill Primary Academy we view 'cultural capital' as the characteristics, knowledge and skills that promote social mobility, both now and in the future. We ensure that children are exposed to a wide range of experiences that will develop their cultural capital and give them an advantage in later life.

**Classroom-based learning:** Accessing different learning resources and equipment to broaden pupils' knowledge, and making cross-curricular links where possible within lesson plans, so that pupils can draw upon knowledge from different subjects and understand how each topic plays a part in everyday life. Classroom teaching also includes one-to-one and small group tuition for pupils who require additional support.

A full list of the subjects available to our pupils can be found in [section 7](#) of this policy.

**Extra-curricular activities:** We provide a variety of extra-curricular activities for pupils that enhance their learning experience, form personal connections with their peers, and teach skills essential for life after school.

## 4. School ethos and aims

The overall aims of the curriculum are to:

- Enable all pupils to understand that they are all successful learners.
- Enable pupils to understand the skills and attributes needed to be a successful learner.
- Enable pupils to develop their own personal interests and develop a positive attitude towards learning, so that they enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- Teach pupils the basic skills of literacy, numeracy, ICT and science.
- Enable pupils to be creative through art, dance, music, drama and design and technology.
- Enable pupils to be healthy individuals and appreciate the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Teach pupils about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- Help pupils understand the fundamental British values, and enable them to be positive citizens in society who can make a difference.
- Fulfil all the requirements of the national curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus for RE.
- Teach pupils to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong.
- Help pupils understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- Enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.
- Enable pupils to be passionate about what they believe in and to develop their own thoughts on different topics.
- Enable pupils to develop their intellect including their emotional development, ask questions and take appropriate risks.
- Enable pupils to experience playing a musical instrument.
- Teach pupils about the importance of forming healthy relationships with friends, family and peers.

Through the aims outlined above, pupils will benefit by:

- Learning how to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

- Understanding that failure is part of the road to success.
- Being rewarded for academic successes.
- Being supported with their next stages in education and feeling prepared for life after school.
- Becoming responsible individuals who contribute to community living and the environment.
- Achieving to the best of their ability.
- Acquiring a wealth of knowledge and experience.
- Becoming critical thinkers.
- Finding a sense of belonging to the school and its community.
- Learning how to cooperate with their peers and respect one another inside and outside the classroom.

## 5. Organisation and planning

The school's curriculum will be delivered over 190 days and will be delivered equally throughout the school week.

Each school day will be split into two sessions and pupils will receive at least one break (lunch).

In general, lessons will be separated into three core stages:

- **Introduction to the topic and thinking time** – this is the time where lesson objectives will be set.
- **A main teaching event** – this will vary day-to-day based on the teacher's plan.
- **Plenary** – this will summarise what pupils have learnt in the lesson and will address what will be covered in the next lesson.

Lessons will use a range of teaching techniques to appeal to different learning types, e.g. visual, audio and kinaesthetic.

The different learning techniques include:

- **Using different kinds of questions** to engage pupils and prompt them to apply their knowledge to different examples, e.g. using 'why' and 'how' questions.
- **Opening discussions** around topics so pupils can learn from their peers and learn how to hold conversations with others.
- **Holding structured debates** to expose pupils to different points of view and teach them how to negotiate situations where there is a potential conflict of interest, whilst still respecting others' beliefs.
- **Using assessments** to test pupils' skills and knowledge and consolidate learning; these can be through both informal and formal assessments testing both substantive and disciplinary knowledge and skills.
- **Role playing and acting** to develop pupils' empathy and give them the opportunity to explore topics in a more interactive way.
- **Labelling, ordering and identifying** key themes within texts, dialogues and films to help pupils coordinate series' of events.
- **Written and spoken tasks** to encourage different methods of expressing ideas, as well as identifying key differences between writing and speaking conventions.

Teachers will plan lessons which are challenging for all pupils and ensure that there are provisions in place for more academically able pupils, e.g. completing additional work that is above the academic level of their peers.

Teachers will plan lessons to accommodate for pupils of mixed ability, making cross-curricular links where possible.

A full list of subjects covered in school can be found in [section 7](#) of this policy.

Teachers will have due consideration for pupils who require additional help within their planning and organisation of lessons.

Disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND and EAL will receive additional support – this will include dedicated time with TAs and access to specialist resources and equipment where required.

TAs will be deployed within lessons strategically so that they can assist with pupils who require additional help, but are also able to minimise disruptions where necessary.

Pupils with EAL will be given the opportunity to develop their English ability throughout lessons where necessary.

Planning will be used to identify any possible difficulties within the curriculum and will break down barriers to learning. Any difficulties identified will be addressed at the outset of work.

Classrooms will be organised so that pupils have full access to resources and equipment – they will be provided with a rich and varied learning environment that will enable them to develop their skills and abilities.

## **6. Remote learning**

Attendance at school is mandatory for all pupils; however, there may be circumstances where in-person attendance is either not possible or contrary to government guidance.

The school's Remote Education Policy sets out how education will be delivered if pupils cannot attend school in person.

## **7. Subjects covered**

The school will have due regard to the national curriculum at all times throughout the academic year.

The school will have due regard for the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'.

The school will ensure every pupil has access to the following core subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- RE
- Relationships and health education

The school will ensure pupils also have access to the following foundation subjects:

- Art and design
- ICT
- Design and technology
- Languages (at KS2)
- Geography
- History
- Music
- PE
- PSHE & RSE

Details of what is included in the curriculum for each subject can be found in a specific curriculum policy for that subject. All of these policies are accessible via the academy website.

## **8. Reporting and assessment**

Homework will be challenging and assess pupils' knowledge and understanding of concepts covered within lessons.

Homework will be set on a weekly basis in accordance with the school's Homework Policy.

Informal assessments will be carried out once each term to measure pupil progress. The results of the assessments will be used to inform future planning and target setting. Results of informal assessments will be recorded and reported back to the headteacher, pupils and pupils' parents.

Pupils will also complete national assessments. The results of these assessments will be reported back to the headteacher, pupils and their parents.

Assessment of pupils with EAL will take into account the pupils age, length of time in UK, previous education and ability in other languages.

Special measures will be given to pupils who require them, e.g. pupils with SEND, pupils who are ill, or pupils who suffer from conditions that inhibit their academic performance.

All reporting and assessments will be conducted in line with the school's Primary Assessment Policy.

## **9. Equal opportunities**

The school will not discriminate against, harass or victimise any pupil, prospective pupil, or other member of the school community because of their:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race

- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Any pupil or teacher found to be discriminating against any of these characteristics will be disciplined in line with the relevant school policies.

The school's curriculum will celebrate diversity and the SLT has a responsibility to ensure that the curriculum does not discriminate against any of the above characteristics.

The school will have due regard for the Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy at all times when planning and implementing the curriculum.

## **10. Supporting pupils with SEND**

Pupils with SEND will receive the additional support they require both academically and with their personal development, in line with the school's SEND Policy.

Pupils with SEND will work with TAs in smaller groups throughout the week to pre teach work on topics to be covered in lesson to ensure they do not fall behind their peers.

Pupils with SEND will not be discriminated against in any way and they will have full access to the curriculum.

The progress of pupils with SEND will be monitored by teachers and reported to the SENCO. The SENCO will work closely with teachers to help them break down any barriers pupils with SEND have to education.

## **11. Extra-curricular activities**

The school offers pupils a wide range of extra-curricular trips and activities to enhance their academic learning and personal development.

Extra-curricular trips and activities occur outside school hours and can include overnight stays both in the UK and abroad.

All pupils are able to participate in the activities and trips available. Wherever there is an instance where a pupil cannot participate, the trip or activity will be adapted so that the pupil can take part.

All extra-curricular activities and trips will be planned and executed in accordance with the school's Extended Services Policy.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed annually by the headteacher and the governing board.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and relevant stakeholders.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2024