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## Curriculum

Shirland Primary School

July 2023

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Last Reviewed	July 2023
Written By	Louise Needham
Reviewed By	Governors
Next Review Date	July 2027

## **Curriculum Policy**

### **Introduction and Rationale**

Our bespoke curriculum is designed especially for the children at Shirland and was launched in September 2022. It is the result of research of different models of curriculum, consultant support and training with the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) since September 2020.

At our school, teachers have been trained to develop teaching strategies that improve metacognition (ability to learn) and to map a curriculum that allows children to 'know and remember more'. Further links have been made with our local Teaching Hub and Roger Sutcliffe, who champions metacognition strategies.

We value the children as individuals, with their own unique interests, talents and personalities. We want our curriculum to enable our children to achieve, develop and refine skills and concepts in a sequential and sustainable way.

Children have the opportunity for a broad and balanced curriculum, where they can benefit from a full spectrum of academic, physical, spiritual, moral, social and cultural activities. There is equal balance between social and academic learning and we provide a variety of ways in which we help children to protect and learn about their own mental health.

We aim for our curriculum to be appropriately balanced by ensuring:

- an excellent mix of academic and personal development
- equal importance to core and foundation subjects
- physical well-being and mental well-being are both valued and prioritised
- children to experience the feeling of accomplishment
- children to feel safe making mistakes and learning from them
- memorable experiences that deepen learning and light up childhood

### **INTENT**

Our school vision is for all children to ***'be the best you can be'***. We aim to install a strong sense of moral responsibility and high expectations of behaviour through our teaching. We aim to prepare our children for their future, beyond Shirland Primary School, so that they can be respectful citizens and part of their communities. We also aim to;

- engage children in a relevant, meaningful and challenging curriculum that encourages children to question and explore new themes;
- provide excellent delivery of a carefully planned and sequenced curriculum so that children can make links between subjects and phases of their education and life experiences;
- ensure that every child reaches their full potential within school;
- allow children to grow as individuals, develop resilience and emotional maturity.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

In addition to year group learning, we regularly engage in whole-school initiatives to bring together and excite our whole school community. These initiatives compliment our curriculum and enrich learning and life experiences. Examples include antibullying and online safety weeks, science enterprise projects, charity events, Arts Award, planetarium and theatre visits and Tough Runner.

Our curriculum is carefully planned around topic areas using the National Curriculum with curricular links whenever appropriate. Appropriate consultants have worked with subject leaders to ensure that our curriculum is progressive and taught in a timely order. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum complimented by promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of children and preparing them for the opportunities and responsibilities of later life.

We have excellent outdoor facilities and these allow us to enrich children's learning experiences. We are proud to be able to offer every child access to our onsite Forest School and be taught by our Forest Schools leader. The children have access to a spiritual 'quiet' garden during free time or with our learning mentor during therapy sessions. Our outdoor classroom areas, orchard area, trim trail, gym equipment and pathways provide extensive opportunities for children to be in touch with nature and their well-being.

## IMPACT

Children leave Shirland Primary School with a secure understanding of the academic content and with a secure sense of self; understanding how to be socially, morally, spiritually and culturally responsible and globally aware. We aim for our children to leave Shirland as respectful, skilful and ambitious individuals who make positive contributions to their local community: to '**be the best you can be!**'

See Appendix 1 - ***How do we know that our curriculum is having the desired impact?***