



What does cultural capital mean at Arnside National Primary School?

Every child and family who joins our setting will have their own knowledge and experiences that will link to their culture and wider family. This might include: languages, beliefs, traditions, cultural and family heritage, interests, travel and work.

Research shows that when children and families' cultures are valued, both the child's experience of learning and progress can benefit (Husain et al., 2018, p. 4 and Gazzard, E. 2018 in Chalmers, H. and Crisfield, E. 2019)

Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a child can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence; it is one of the key ingredients a pupil will draw upon to be successful in society, their career and the world of work.

Cultural capital gives power. It helps children achieve goals, become successful, and rise up the social ladder without necessarily having wealth or financial capital. Cultural capital is having assets that give children the desire to aspire and achieve social mobility whatever their starting point.

Ofsted define cultural capital as...

"As part of making the judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider the extent to which schools are equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

Our understanding of 'knowledge and cultural capital' is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum: 'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.' "

At Arnside National Primary School, children benefit from a flexible curriculum that builds on what they understand and know already. We believe that exposure, not only to culture but also to situations of which the children might not have previous experiences, is of paramount importance to their ongoing successes. Gradually widening children's experiences as they progress through school is an important step in providing rich and engaging learning across the curriculum. We plan carefully for children to have progressively richer experiences in nursery and beyond. These include trips to the local area and beyond, shops and visits to places of worship, museums, sports and theatre venues to name just a few.

Building Experiences and knowledge by immersing children in the world around them

- Thinking about people around the world (having a twin school in Senegal)
- Appreciation and love for music (theatre groups and music concerts)
- Understanding how history has shaped our future (local and regional)
- Celebrating different cultures, traditions and faiths (visiting synagogue, churches, cathedrals and mosques)
- School community Fairtrade activities
- Educational visits linked to our topics
- Learning about people in our community
- Understanding how our local supermarket produce fresh food
- Having a say about road safety (Twenty's Plenty campaign)
- Planning and running charity events
- Celebrating talents (Celebration Worship)
- Bringing financial skills to the curriculum (Planning fairs and fundraisers)
- Getting creative and cooking in the classroom
- Curriculum information evenings for parents / carers
- Growing fruit and veg and learning about healthy food
- Learning outside the classroom (Ashmeadow and The Knott)
- Supporting our local community (Carol singing in care homes)
- Taking care of our local environment (Verges project, litter picking)
- Learning about animal welfare
- Bringing history to life (Golden threads in foundation subjects)
- Growing together
- Serving the delicious lunches in the kitchen
- Celebrating sporting stars and pupil achievement
- Visitors sharing their cultures and traditions
- Being informed, feeling empowered and making a difference
- Engaging in after school activities
- Learning to sing and playing an instrument
- Discussing and debating issues, listening to others with respect
- Sharing reading books and experiences between home and school
- Visiting the local library
- Being ambassadors for Anti-Racism Cumbria
- Having an integrated and diverse curriculum
- Taking part in Pupil Parliament and learning about democracy