

Our vision :

“ Learning today for a brighter tomorrow “

Our children deserve the very best high quality education across all areas of development, not just those of an academic nature .

Our context

At Blackpool Gateway Academy we are building a curriculum to develop knowledge, understanding and key skills for all children, regardless of their starting points.

Our children enter school with levels of ability that are often lower than those considered to be average for their age. This includes significantly low levels of maturity in speech and language however our Early Years Team and school, in its journey towards Communication Friendly Schools award, is well equipped to manage this need from admission into school for each child. Our school is located in an area of Blackpool that has high levels of deprivation and is engaged with the Government's Opportunity Area delivery plan. Due to the social mobility issues alongside high levels of transiency, our children are not easily able to achieve expected levels of attainment, but do make good progress. Progress and results in Early Years and Key Stage One are improving based on high quality teaching and learning through a broad and engaging curriculum. The improvements year on year are evident particularly for our stable children. We have attained national results for the Good Level of Development for Early Years which was 71%, Phonics Screening in Year One reached 81% and our Key Stage One data as a combined score was at a very near national at 62%.

Based on the issues children and families face, we believe the curriculum at Gateway Academy needs to be broad and balanced, but with a significant emphasis on the needs of the community, reference to the next stage of learning and ultimately the future lives of our children as local citizens. As such the need to widen children's experience so they have an awareness about their place in society and why good citizenship and self efficacy are important qualities.

Our Intent

We work hard to ensure that our children receive the very best education possible. We wish to provide all children with the necessary and best skills in core and foundation subjects to succeed.

Across subjects we wish to provide carefully sequenced schemes of work and retention of knowledge that is committed to memory. This is being continually developed through close scrutiny and monitoring by leaders across school as well as discussions with all stakeholders.

Progression of knowledge, skills and understanding is carefully planned, reviewed and adapted yearly to ensure that children's learning builds effectively over time to ensure

children are ready to meet the expectations of secondary school and beyond. Our teaching practice will be rooted in evidence-based research. Teachers will be self-reflective and will enhance their teaching skills and strategies to help raise standards across the full breadth of the curriculum.

The drivers for Gateway Academy's curriculum are based around three principles namely, **possibility, growth** and **community**. Each of these drivers resonates with the needs of the children and community, the development of self-efficacy and the knowledge that anything is possible if we work hard for it. This links in closely with our overall school vision and ethos.

All 'units' of learning will have an initial 'hook' to excite and engage the children and a 'purpose' for study so that learning is meaningful and relevant for them. Where possible, learning will be supported and enriched by field study visits, workshops, artefact boxes, role-play and practical resources.

Links are made with the local community including charity events for local benefit, Harvest collections for the Blackpool Food Bank and elderly residents visiting school for Christmas concerts to name a few.

Through assemblies and class teaching and in general conversation, children learn about the fundamental British Values and our school Core Values as part of our social, moral, spiritual and cultural curriculum. There is also work conducted and interwoven around personal development and character building with particular emphasis on resilience, independence and ambition.

Our passionate and dedicated staff have the highest expectations for our children and maintain this standard through class and the learning journey through school. Lessons offer challenge at all levels with expectations that all children have an active role in their learning and are ambitious to keep persevering.

Our Commitment

Our overall commitment at Blackpool Gateway Academy through our curriculum is to fundamentally help our children to :

- develop inquisitive minds, a spirit of curiosity and a lifelong love of learning
- be equipped with the communication skills to fully participate in an ever changing world
- be respectful and productive members of the community
- uphold the ethos of the school whilst respecting a range of cultures and beliefs
- have high expectations, self efficacy and self discipline to enable them to fulfil their potential
- promote independent thinking, curiosity and the ability to reflect on their learning and seek to extend themselves mentally, physically and spiritually
- persevere and learn from their mistakes, developing their own self-esteem and resilience
- have the courage and confidence to take calculated risks
- develop an understanding and respect for others and the environment
- have first hand memorable experiences through our enrichment curriculum

