

Harper Bell Curriculum Intent and Implementation:

Our Vision:

At Harper Bell, we recognise the powerful social capital that education can provide. We are committed to inspiring our children to set ambitious goals, develop resilience and strive for excellence in all that they do.

Our curriculum has been designed to be visionary, ambitious and inclusive, impacting positively on pupils both now and in their future lives. We aspire for our children to make meaningful contributions to life in modern Britain, to pursue excellence in education (academic or vocational), achieve financial independence, and embody the values, attitudes and behaviours that underpin humanity.

Alongside academic excellence, we place strong emphasis on life skills, character development and emotional wellbeing, recognising that success in life depends not only on qualifications, but also on confidence, self-belief, emotional regulation, communication and the ability to thrive in a changing world.

Approximately 50% of our pupils are in receipt of the Pupil Premium. National research shows a widening gap in access to higher education for pupils from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with the gap in university offers now at its widest recorded level. Furthermore, a large proportion of our pupils are of African or African Caribbean heritage, a demographic statistically under-represented at undergraduate and Russell Group university level, and disproportionately affected by poverty and its associated outcomes.

Our curriculum responds directly to this context. We believe educational equity is achieved through high expectations, cultural affirmation, nurturing relationships and purposeful opportunities, ensuring every child is supported to overcome barriers and fulfil their potential.

Curriculum Drivers:

Aspirations: Career, Employment and Life Opportunities:

We believe aspiration is a learned and nurtured mind set. Our curriculum raises aspirations by widening pupils' horizons and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to succeed in education, employment and life.

University graduates often gain professional qualifications recognised worldwide

Graduates typically access higher pay, greater financial stability and broader career pathways

Graduate routes provide opportunities to accelerate career progression

Alongside these academic aims, pupils are supported to develop life skills such as goal-setting, problem-solving, financial awareness, decision-making and adaptability, ensuring they are prepared for a range of future pathways.

Christianity: Values, Character and Care

Our Christian values are at the centre of everything we do at Harper Bell and are fundamental to our nurturing approach.

Pupils develop an understanding of Christian history, faith and values, which positively influence their life choices and relationships. These values promote inclusiveness, compassion and dignity for all, demonstrated through love, acceptance and forgiveness. Our Christian values are fully aligned with British Values.

Each week, a Christian value is explored explicitly through Collective Worship and reinforced across the curriculum. Pupils regularly reflect on how these values are lived out in school and beyond, and their application is celebrated weekly.

The teaching of Christian values supports pupils to:

Understand their rights and responsibilities through service to others (linked to UNCRC)

Recognise the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation and emotional repair

Show compassion, kindness and care within school and the wider community

Understand that faith can support mental, emotional and physical wellbeing

Listen empathetically and respond thoughtfully to the needs of others

These values underpin a nurturing culture, where pupils feel safe, respected and valued.

Cultural Heritage: Identity, Belonging and Respect

Our curriculum celebrates heritage and identity, enabling pupils to take pride in who they are and understand their place in society.

All cultures and histories are valued and taught explicitly. Our heritage curriculum highlights the historical and contemporary contributions of African and African Caribbean individuals, empowering pupils and challenging stereotypes.

This curriculum driver aims to:

Reduce ignorance and increase tolerance and respect

Build secure identity and self-worth

Develop deep knowledge of global and cultural contributions

Prepare pupils to contribute positively as responsible citizens

Implementation:

Who We Are

The implementation of the Harper Bell curriculum is underpinned by the character, commitment and ambition of our staff. All adults act as corporate parents, holding consistently high expectations and nurturing each child regardless of background or starting point.

The Learning Experience We Desire for Our Children:

Our curriculum is designed to ensure pupils:

Learn well and retain knowledge over time

Develop confidence, independence and articulate expression

Build emotional literacy, resilience and self-regulation

Apply learning independently across contexts

A nurturing approach ensures pupils' emotional needs are recognised and addressed so that they can fully engage, learn and flourish.

The Role of Leaders:

Subject leaders work collaboratively to ensure a coherent and ambitious curriculum. They design, review and refine bespoke Harper Bell Learning Journals, ensuring high-quality assessment and impact.

Leaders support staff through coaching, professional development and partnerships, embedding reflective practice and continual improvement.