

# Higher Walton CofE Primary School

## Curriculum Intent and Rationale

### Introduction

Higher Walton CofE Primary School is a village school located in South Ribble in Lancashire, close to the old road between Preston and Blackburn. Our school building is modern with spacious outside areas including playgrounds, a playing field and Forest School area. We are a small school, catering for 121 children from both the village of Higher Walton and nearby Bamber Bridge. Children are taught in five mixed-age classes from Reception to Year 6 and, due to our small class sizes, we are able to meet the needs of a range of abilities and interests.

### Intent

It is our intention that the curriculum at Higher Walton CofE Primary School reflects our school vision of **“Life in all its fullness”**. We want it to be enriching and forward-thinking, with learning opportunities which enable our pupils to make clear links between what they are learning and their own personal experience.

We feel our children deserve a curriculum which inspires greatness and creates a desire to learn more.

Our curriculum, with a focus on human flourishing, is designed to be aspirational, meaningful, creative and accessible for all pupils, reflecting the diversity of our pupils' needs.

### Rationale for Implementation

We use Dimensions 'Learning Means the World' Curriculum as the main vehicle for achieving our outlined intent.

This curriculum is underpinned by four highly relevant world issues, known as the four Cs:-

**Culture**

**Communication**

**Conflict**

**Conservation**

### Communication

At Higher Walton CofE Primary School, we believe effective communication is the key to all learning and personal development. Our pupils have been living through a time of change in recent years which has had a significant impact on their ability to communicate appropriately, especially in social situations. We want to address this through a curriculum which is rich in language development and provides opportunities for children to communicate their thoughts and ideas with increasing clarity and emotional literacy. We aim to teach our pupils that there are many different ways to communicate, including digitally, and to provide them with the skills to be able to do this effectively.

### Culture

We recognise that our school population of White British children lacks diversity or representation of cosmopolitan modern British life. Our pupils have very little personal experience or understanding of different cultures. To address this, we have implemented a

culture-rich curriculum to open their minds to the similarities and differences of different cultures and how these should be celebrated. We want our children to be able to ask questions, be curious about, and experience different cultures so that they can see life from a range of perspectives and formulate their own views and opinions.

### **Conflict**

As a caring family, Higher Walton CofE Primary School we recognise misunderstandings or misinterpretations by pupils are inevitable and these can lead to conflict. As pupils enter our school, we want them to understand how these conflicts can arise and what part they can play in resolving them positively. In our curriculum, children will explore how and why conflicts occur and what can be done to resolve them. We will help them understand that resilience is important when dealing with conflict and ensure they know who to ask for help and when. As our pupils progress through school, they will explore and learn more about wider conflict within society on a local and global level. They will also learn about the causes and consequences of war and its lasting legacy.

### **Conservation**

As a Church School, we believe that stewardship of God's world is important and central to our important life values. The school values of respect and responsibility are explored and debated through our curriculum themes and build upon our pupils' existing interest in the environment. Our curriculum themes address sustainability and provide our pupils with the opportunity and experience to be able to understand this at a deeper level, on a local and global scale. We have a Forest School and Eco Warriors that help to drive conservation initiatives in all age groups, and we aim to further develop this focus to embed a deeper understanding of everyone's responsibility towards sustainable action.

Our curriculum narrative begins with **Conflict**, as at Higher Walton CofE Primary School we believe our pupils have a major role to play in establishing the behaviour expectations for the year. We want them to take responsibility for their actions and realise other pupils' opinions are just as important as their own. Therefore, we want them to be able to share their opinions sensitively as equal members of our school community.

We follow this with the theme of **Culture**, as we want our pupils to embrace our mission statement of "**Life in all its fullness**" and be more open-minded in their learning and in their understanding of the rich tapestry of the world in which we live. We want them to be able to connect to the previous themes and be aware that misunderstanding of culture may lead to unnecessary conflict.

Our next theme is **Communication**, as we want to instil in our pupils the understanding that this a vital key life skill that needs to be developed. It is essential for their successful learning. If pupils can't communicate effectively then they will experience barriers to learning. During the Summer Term, there will be plenty of opportunities for outside learning in our extensive grounds and beyond, so we focus on **Conservation**. We want to encourage our pupils to take the good practices they learn about conservation and sustainability into the summer break and beyond.

We also encourage our pupils to have high aspirations by teaching them about human creativity and achievement through additional Competency Units about famous figures and groups of people that focus on Creativity, Commitment, Courage and Community.