



Our Curriculum Intent

Enquiring Minds for Inspiring Futures

At The Palmer Academy we are committed to inspiring the futures of the children we serve through a creative, inclusive and relevant curriculum which enables and encourages them to question the world around them and be curious learners. This results in our children understanding that 'enquiring minds' result in 'inspiring futures'.

Confident, Determined and Respectful

We nurture and support our children and equip them with the skills, knowledge and attitudes they need to become confident, determined and respectful young adults who have exciting and ambitious aspirations for their futures.

Academic Success

Palmer children will achieve academic success through a curriculum and ethos which teaches them essential skills and traits for life, such as tenacity, resilience and determination. They leave our school well prepared for the next stages of their education and life in the modern world, with a rich understanding of the subjects they have been taught.

Skills, Knowledge and Values

We provide a range of opportunities for children to move learning from the short-term to their long-term memory, resulting in a deep and connected understanding of the subjects taught and the world around them. By the time learners leave The Palmer Academy, they have had many opportunities to learn and practise a range of skills, knowledge and values which prepare them to be citizens of the world.

All Embracing and Community Citizens

We respect and embrace all cultures, ethnicities, races, values and beliefs within our community, and celebrate the positive contribution and impact they have on the school. Working together in partnership leads to our children making connections between what we are learning in school and how it relates to the community and world around them.

Our Golden Threads

In delivering our intent we have three golden threads which weave our curriculum together and support the development and growth of our pupils.

Enriched Vocabulary

Our curriculum ensures that pupils gain/develop rich language and vocabulary so that:

- Pupils can successfully communicate their thoughts and feelings across all subjects.
- Pupils can articulate what they are learning about and why.
- Pupils' vocabulary progresses each year to build upon previous knowledge.
- Pupils can communicate their ideas.

Citizens of the Future

Teaching children to be citizens of the future in primary schools is crucial for fostering a sense of responsibility and belonging in their communities. It equips them with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in civic life and contribute positively to society. Understanding their role helps children develop empathy, cooperation, and leadership qualities, which are essential for building cohesive communities. Additionally, encouraging aspirations and goal-setting from an early age inspires children to pursue their passions and become proactive, engaged adults.

Civic Education:

- Introduce basic concepts of democracy, governance, and civic responsibility.
- Engage students in discussions about current events and their impact on the community.

Community Involvement:

- Encourage participation in community service projects and local events.
- Create classroom projects that address community needs, such as recycling programs or charity drives.

Role-Playing:

- Use role-playing activities to simulate community roles and responsibilities.

Cultural Awareness:

- Teach about different cultures, traditions, and histories to promote understanding and respect.
- Celebrate cultural diversity within the classroom through themed projects and events.

Ethics and Values Education:

- Integrate lessons on ethics, empathy, and respect for others.
- Discuss the importance of integrity, fairness, and justice in everyday life.

Collaborative Learning:

- Implement group projects that require teamwork and collective problem-solving.
- Encourage peer-to-peer teaching and learning to build a sense of community within the classroom.

Extracurricular Activities:

- Offer clubs and groups focused on civic engagement, such as debate clubs, environmental groups, or student councils.
- Provide opportunities for leadership roles in school activities and organizations.

Skills for Life

Incorporating life skills into the curriculum is essential for equipping children with practical tools for managing their health and social well-being. Teaching these skills early on helps children develop healthy habits, emotional resilience, and effective communication abilities. These competencies are crucial for navigating everyday challenges, fostering positive relationships, and maintaining mental and physical health. By learning these skills, children are better prepared to lead balanced, fulfilling lives and contribute meaningfully to society.

Health and Wellness:

- Incorporate physical education classes to promote fitness and healthy living.
- Teach nutrition and the importance of a balanced diet through interactive activities and discussions. As well as teaching children the importance of personal hygiene and self-care routines.

Emotional and Mental Health:

- Introduce mindfulness and stress-relief techniques such as deep breathing and meditation.
- Create a safe space for students to express their feelings and discuss emotional challenges.
- Teach coping strategies for managing emotions and resolving conflicts.

Social Skills:

- Implement cooperative learning activities to encourage teamwork and collaboration.
- Role-play scenarios to practice communication, empathy, and active listening.
- Teach manners, respect, and the importance of building positive relationships.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:

- Use puzzles, games, and real-world problems to develop analytical and creative thinking skills.
- Encourage questioning and exploration through inquiry-based learning and hands-on projects.
- Teach decision-making processes and strategies for effective problem-solving.

Financial Literacy:

- Introduce basic concepts of money, saving, and budgeting through age-appropriate activities and workshops.
- Discuss the value of work and the importance of financial responsibility.

Safety and First Aid:

- Teach basic safety rules and emergency procedures, both at school and at home.
- Provide lessons on basic first aid skills and when to seek help from adults.
- Discuss online safety and responsible use of technology.

Practical Life Skills:

- Offer activities that teach everyday skills such as cooking, cleaning, and basic repairs.
- Integrate lessons on gardening and environmental sustainability.
- Encourage independence and responsibility through classroom jobs.

Enquiring Minds

Fostering an enquiring mind in primary school is vital for promoting curiosity and a love for learning. Encouraging curiosity helps children develop critical thinking skills, enabling them to analyse information and solve problems creatively. An enquiring mindset leads to a deeper understanding of the world, driving innovation and discovery. By nurturing this trait, we prepare children to adapt to an ever-changing world and pursue lifelong learning.

Inquiry-Based Learning:

- Lessons that start with open-ended questions and encourage students to explore answers.
- Incorporate hands-on experiments and activities to stimulate curiosity and engagement.

Encouraging Questions:

- Create a classroom culture where questions are welcomed and valued.
- Encourage students to ask "why" and "how" about the world around them.
- Use "question of the day" prompts to spark curiosity and discussion.

Critical Thinking Exercises:

- Introduce activities that require analysis, comparison, and evaluation of information.
- Use logic puzzles, brain teasers, and problem-solving tasks to challenge students' thinking.
- Teach students to evaluate sources and evidence critically.

Exploration and Discovery:

- Provide opportunities for exploration, such as nature walks, field trips, and science experiments.

Literature and Storytelling:

- Use books and stories that inspire wonder and provoke thought.
- Encourage students to create their own stories and scenarios to explore imaginative ideas.

- Discuss the “what ifs” and alternative endings to stories to stimulate creative thinking.

Use of Technology:

- Integrate educational technology tools that allow for exploration and creativity, such as coding games or virtual field trips.
- Encourage the use of digital resources for research and discovery.
- Teach students how to use technology to find answers and solve problems.

Interdisciplinary Learning:

- Connect subjects in interdisciplinary lessons that show how different areas of knowledge intersect.
- Encourage students to draw connections between what they learn in different subjects.

Reflective Practices:

- Encourage reflection on what they have learned and what they want to explore next.
- Use think-pair-share activities to promote sharing and reflection on ideas and questions.

Palmer Powers

There are 6 Palmer Powers which encapsulate the explicit qualities, values, and principles we build in our pupils. Each half term celebrates a specific power.

- Resilient
- Independent
- Focused
- Responsible
- Collaborative
- Enquiring