

**METHERINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**OUR CURRICULUM RATIONALE**

**What is a Curriculum Rationale?**

When a school has a rationale for its curriculum, it means that everyone involved with the school can answer the questions 'What is it we want for our children?' and 'What are we going to do to achieve it?'

**Why is a Curriculum Rationale necessary?**

It is important to ensure that everyone within the school is clear about what they are aiming to achieve through the curriculum, which is the totality of a child's experiences.

**VISION, VALUES AND AIMS**

**OUR VISION**

- To inspire a lifelong love of learning for everyone in our school community

**OUR VALUES**

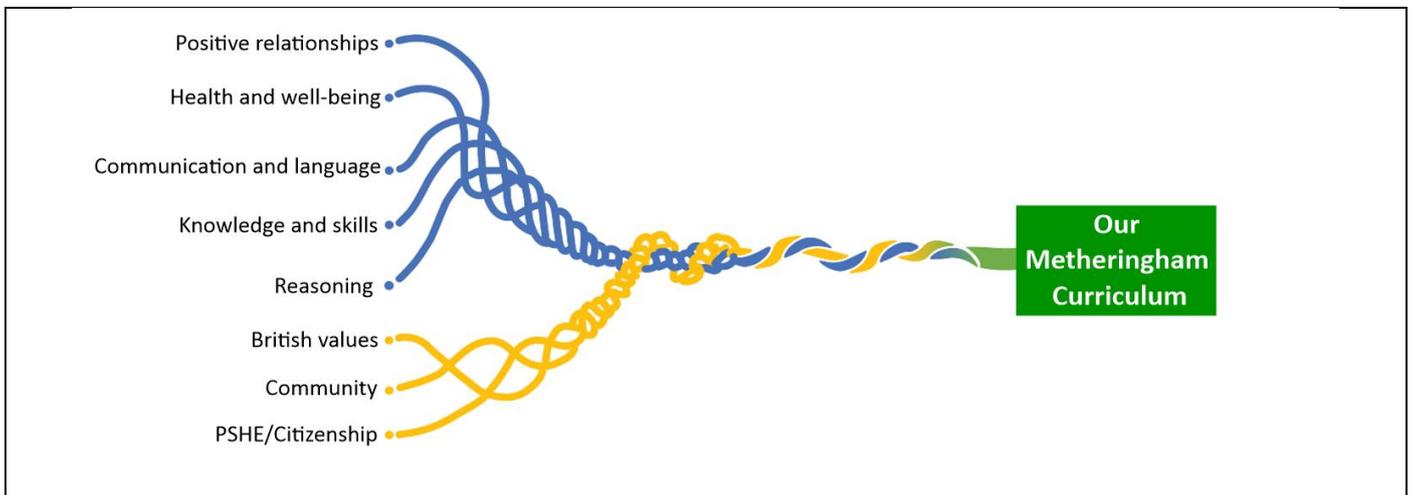
- Friendship
- Respect
- Resilience
- Determination
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Co-operation
- Understanding

**OUR AIMS**

- To support children as independent learners and thinkers
- To provide a stimulating curriculum for all to discover
- To help children to value themselves and others
- To provide a happy, safe, secure and caring environment for all
- To raise aspirations and encourage children to shine
- To make learning purposeful and fun

Our vision, values and aims have been created in collaboration with our children, staff and the wider school community. As a school, we regularly reflect on what they mean and how we can apply our vision, value and aims to our daily life in order to be the best that we can be. At Metheringham Primary School, we value our whole school community and we believe it is a place where children, adults, families and professionals all learn together. With this in mind, we aim to... **'Inspire, Believe and Achieve'**.

**CURRICULUM THREADS**



### **INTENT - What we want to achieve**

At Metheringham Primary School, we have designed our curriculum knowing that all children must have the building blocks of **knowledge and skills**, as well as the ability to **communicate and reason**, to become successful in both learning and in their later lives. At the heart of our school are a set of **core values** which embody the **British values** (Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs) and seek to promote learners who will become **good citizens**. These underpin our curriculum and the ethos of our school. At Metheringham Primary School, we place great importance on a curriculum which develops the whole child and their **positive relationships** with others, in our school **community and the wider world**. Through our core values, we foster an environment where the **emotional, physical, academic, social, moral, spiritual and cultural** development of each child is considered. We firmly believe that everyone is entitled to an ambitious curriculum and our curriculum design is accessible for all, including children with SEND and disadvantaged backgrounds.

### **IMPLEMENTATION - How we are going to achieve it**

Our knowledge-based curriculum is planned and delivered to meet the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum 2014. Our staff have worked hard to create curriculum maps for each phase from EYFS to Year 6 to incorporate the key elements of the National Curriculum and also to inspire and enthuse children. Declarative (information stored in the long-term memory) and procedural knowledge (the knowledge of how to perform a specific skill) are taught progressively across Key Stages, leading to knowledge building overtime. The planning of the curriculum is based around a two- or three-year cycle to ensure coverage of the big ideas by all children who progress through the school. These cycles are regularly reviewed to ensure compatibility with new directives or to make necessary improvements to the existing programmes of work.

At Metheringham Primary School, our curriculum is structured so that children build on previous learning, gain and retain subject-specific knowledge, are able to make connections between subjects and to reflect on their progress. Behind every decision made about our curriculum is the knowledge we have of our pupils' needs including an understanding of their starting points in Early Years and their emerging needs as they as they grow and develop throughout KS1 and KS2. All curriculum subjects provide opportunities for our children to develop their speaking and listening skills, enrich their vocabulary and develop reasoning and wider oracy skills. We believe that children learn best when they enjoy their learning and our various and engaging topics capture children's interest from the start through our 'engagement activities' and subsequent exciting learning opportunities. Our children are able to share their learning with each other and their parents and carers through their personal Seesaw account.

At Metheringham Primary School, our school values are woven into our teaching and learning in order to develop and improve the social and emotional skills that will positively affect our children's behaviour, attitude and happiness. Children's mental health and well-being plays an important part in their ability to engage with their learning and to be happy, so built into our curriculum are activities which develop strategies to maintain a healthy mind and body. We encourage children to be self-motivated to have a 'can do' attitude so that they learn to aim high and have aspirations for the future.

Our curriculum is further enriched through local community visits and projects, school trips, visiting speakers and residential trips. Because the majority of our children live in a rural area, opportunities are incorporated into the curriculum to visit places of cultural, sporting, or environmental interest that are not easily accessible to them.

Opportunities to explore the locality are included in the curriculum so that children learn about what is close to them in a way which aims to promote future use of local amenities.

- a visit to the village library helps to nurture a sense of pride, care and responsibility for looking after the local environment.
- a visit to Metheringham Airfield allows children to understand more about the role of people within the community and events during World War Two

Through these experiences children's horizons are broadened and the need for personal aspiration promoted. We firmly believe that real life experiences like these create lasting memories and strengthen their sense of belonging in the local community.

Developing children's independence and motivation as learners and their sense of responsibility as future citizens is at the heart of all our teaching and learning.

### **IMPACT - How will we know we have achieved**

Through our curriculum at Metheringham Primary School, we strive to ensure that our children's attainment in core and foundation subjects is in line with or exceeding their potential when we consider the starting points of our children. We measure this carefully using a range of materials, but always considering age related expectations. We intend that the impact is that children will be academically and physically prepared for life in their next school stage, in Modern Britain and the wider world.

We want our learners to become rounded characters with a clear understanding of complex values like honesty, friendship, respect and many others. From this, they will develop a character that prepares them for living in the community demonstrating tolerance, equality and understanding. We measure this not just by the work our children produce, but in the behaviours we see each and every day in all learners on the playground, in corridors, and in the many roles we give them.

Our learners are guided by all staff on how to approach challenges every day. This could be on the playground, in a game or disagreement, or in class in a complex learning challenge. The impact should be that children don't give up, are highly empowered to succeed, achieve at a high standard and are independent and nurturing.

Our learners will be motivated by a strong personal sense of morality. They will make decisions for the right reasons and in the best interests of their community. They will be able to decide what is right and what is wrong, and will be resilient to the influence of others.

In conclusion, our children will **'Inspire, Believe and Achieve'**.