



# High Down Schools

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

## CURRICULUM STATEMENT 2017

**HIGH DOWN'S VISION: We believe that every child is entitled to a rich and inspiring high quality education. We will nurture them as well-rounded individuals with the self-belief and confidence to achieve their ambitions; and the values and passions to make our community and the wider world a better place.**

Our main priority is for the children to enjoy learning, to be curious and interested in the world around them and literate and numerate. We want them to flourish and develop confidence as learners for the rest of their education and lives ahead. We aim to foster this love for learning through providing a rich and inspiring curriculum with many first hand activities and memorable experiences.

At High Down Schools we create a warm, happy and purposeful learning environment where every child is stimulated and encouraged to acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities, with the self-belief and confidence to use them.

Children in our Nursery and Reception classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Our curriculum planning focuses on the Early Learning Goals and on developing children's skills and experiences. The children's curriculum is play based, and involves a balance of children self-selecting activities, whole class, small group and individual activities which are adult led by the teachers and support staff. Adults very carefully observe the children and plan progress for each child by intervening in play and also planning targeted teaching to move learning forward. Long term planning in the Foundation Stage is based on 'themes' identified and developed according to the children's interests and also considering the need to ensure coverage of the EYFS framework.

Our Infant and Junior school curriculum is drawn from the National Curriculum for England, which sets out the content and programmes of study for primary schools. The National Curriculum outlines the entitlement for children to access all subjects, thus providing them with a broad and balanced education that acknowledges the significance of English, mathematics and Science but equally the importance of the Arts, History, Music, Languages, Geography, Technology, Computing, Religious Education and British values in a modern world.

High Down's learning programmes are carefully planned as a whole school to ensure continuity and progression within a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and beyond.

## **Aims**

Our curriculum aims to:

- share the joy of learning and growing together
- enable children to become confident, reflective, enquiring and independent learners
- develop key learning skills to enable children to flourish as learners for life
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships
- encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others
- develop children's sense of belonging in their school and wider community and their responsibilities as custodians of the planet and global citizens

## **Our Values**

- Care and kindness
- Creativity
- Optimism and hopefulness
- Respect
- Trust and honesty

Much of our school curriculum is organised in a thematic way, into Learning Expeditions which are often enriched with trips and visitors that bring the curriculum alive and provide children with real life experiences. The Learning Expeditions are carefully selected and structured to develop key skills, wider knowledge and children's understanding of the community around them in Portishead, the South West, Great Britain and its place in the wider world. Through the Learning Expeditions children are able to make connections across subjects and disciplines. Importantly, our curriculum also develops both academic learning and character traits such as collaboration, communication, planning skills and entrepreneurship.

We also have a range of special weeks during the year with a particular focus to extend the curriculum for example Arts Week, Science Week, Sports Week, Anti-bullying, E-safety.

Curriculum plans and further information are on our school website and shared with parents.

For information about the National Curriculum please click on the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

The school enhances the curriculum by offering our children a wide range of extra curricular activities. This is very important as it encourages children to not only develop specific skills and interests but also become independent, confident and successful members of the community. Some clubs are run by our school staff at no cost and other clubs are run by external providers and are provided at a cost to parents. Bursaries are available for families in receipt of free school meals. The list of clubs is ever changing but includes a range of Sport and Music activities. The children are also encouraged to learn to play a musical instrument and at the junior site specialist teachers come in to the school to give lessons each week.

Please see Infant and Junior sections of the website for detailed curriculum information.