

The following statement is our school vision for teaching and learning, on which we underpin our curriculum and daily teaching.

At Castleford Park Junior Academy we strive to ensure that our school is child-centred and our pupils have the self-belief, motivation and confidence to achieve their most aspirational goals, knowing how to overcome challenges along the way.

They will understand the importance of being independent and resilient, taking responsibility for and showing commitment to their learning in order to become self-motivated individuals who will achieve their full potential. They will understand the importance of being inquisitive and how this helps them broaden their understanding and knowledge of the world. We expect our pupils to see the value in taking pride in everything they do and the importance of having the ability to work cooperatively with others. We will also build tolerance and respect within our pupils, reflecting the growing diversity of our school and community, within a safe and caring environment. By cultivating such attitudes, we aim to provide them with everything they may need to lead a successful life in the future and become a valued member of society.

Below, are the ways that we achieve this:

To ensure a child centred curriculum we...

- Teach engaging lessons that focus on the interests of the children and ‘hook’ them into learning in various ways – for example: Using a central topic-based theme for each half term’s work, linking as much of the curriculum as possible to this
- Teach through a skills-based foundation curriculum in order to maintain relevance with the outside world
- Provide exciting experiences that enhance the children’s learning and open them up to a wider world they may be unfamiliar with – for example: residential visits, enterprise weeks, numerous visitors who can widen our curriculum through sharing their experiences with the children
- Ensure challenge and support for all our pupils, through individual education and behaviour plans, enriching activities to foster the enthusiasm of our more able and challenge activities, focusing on higher order questioning, that motivate and inspire (See our SEN policy)
- Will manage behaviour effectively through the use of engaging lessons and positive praise (see behaviour policy)
- Will provide well-structured and organised classrooms in order to foster curiosity and support with independent learning at each child’s level

This will be evidenced by...

- A thoroughly considered long term plan for each year group which focuses on ensuring coverage of the relevant subject skills, grouped effectively into useful topic areas to ensure that they are taught within a relevant and engaging context
- A half term plan that centres around the year group theme and indicates cross-curricular links, exciting visits and information for parents
- Well-planned and resourced lessons that ensure progression throughout the week – using either APP, or our foundation subject levelled skills to plan from
- Clear and organised planning that includes: skills based learning objectives for the lesson (staff share the building learning power muscle to which the lesson is linked), steps to success that support independent work, clear differentiation to aid and challenge each learner and opportunities for collaborative and practical work to engage each pupil
- Monitoring of levelled skills coverage by subject leaders
- Providing well-organised and attainable resources that aid smooth lesson organisation – monitored and updated by subject leaders (aided by designated TA/HLTA)
- Performance management targets that relate to improving pupil engagement and deepening teacher subject knowledge

To ensure we are focused on the future we...

- Teach each lesson with a skills, rather than content, focus in order to provide our pupils with a bank of transferable competencies that will support them in their future life and across a range of subjects
- Specifically teach problem solving and feelings-management strategies taken from the SEAL curriculum in order to provide our pupils with the tools to communicate and work effectively with each other and foster a culture of respect and understanding
- Aim to link as many lessons as possible to the core subject areas, including ICT, to continue to emphasise the importance of skills for life and how fluency in these areas will aid this
- Teach collaborative and cooperative learning strategies to enable our pupils to see the value of working effectively with others
- Have consistently high expectations for behaviour and work in each lesson, encouraging our pupils to aim high and believe they can achieve – having a ‘growth mind set’ mentality
- Nurture children’s self-esteem through the use of praise and positive feedback in each lesson
- Show respect for a range of cultures, communities and ways of life helping pupils understand the life choices they can make

This will be evidenced by...

- Monitored lesson observations
- The range and breadth of children’s work on display in classrooms and around school
- A thirty minute SEAL session each week that takes place immediately after the SEAL focus of the week assembly
- A Social Problem solving and calming down area near the playground to aid children with solving their own problems if possible and a reminder of the growth mind set in displayed posters and sayings around the school
- Links to literacy, numeracy and ICT across the curriculum highlighted in medium term planning and on half term summaries
- The use of Kagan strategies throughout school to develop cooperative learning and the embedding of collaborative ‘learning muscles’ which increase pupils’ ability to communicate and work effectively together with less problem
- A range of contexts, cultures and community experiences planned and delivered through a range of subject areas

To ensure we are promoting independence and a commitment to learning we...

- Teach the children how to use ‘learning muscles’ to aid them with independent and collaborative learning,
- Use assessment for learning strategies throughout lessons and when marking, to aid self and peer assessment ([see marking and feedback policy](#))
- Use cooperative learning strategies within the majority of lessons to foster independence and encourage children to develop their own learning skills
- Use high quality questioning as a stimulus to learning, throughout the lesson and sometimes when marking books to aid higher order application and synthesis of learning
- Use personalised targets for writing and numeracy linked to APP objectives to ensure accurate progression and to indicate useful next steps to each pupil
- Provide a secure learning environment where mistakes are welcomed as the best way to learn and challenge in each lesson is imperative- valuing each contribution to the lesson made by the pupils
- Involve parents in encouraging their children’s learning through the use of a home-school planner, making children’s learning for the half term explicit and inviting parents in to take part in and witness their child’s triumphs

This will be evidenced by...

- A ‘Building Learning Power’ classroom display in each classroom and dual learning objectives where possible that focus on the learning muscles needed to successfully practice using the skills required
- Children being able to talk about their learning in relation to the learning objective and steps to success, giving each other advice and support to achieve where possible

- Producing confident, resourceful and enquiring learners who have high self-esteem and can problem solve effectively independently
- Next step comments used in core subject books to support children with understanding where they need to develop and giving them an instant opportunity to try this out
- Cooperative learning strategies and higher order questioning evidenced in planning and on display in lessons when observed
- Target cards evident for each child in class and target ladders on display in classrooms to indicate what each level means
- Children's pride in their achievements being evident coupled with their knowledge of what they must do to improve even further.
- Postcards home celebrating achievements, weekly celebration assembly, CBG tickets etc