

Butler's Hill Curriculum Statement



At Butler's Hill Infant School, every child matters.

Our curriculum has been designed to ensure our children have the possible best start on their educational journey and are well prepared for the next phase of their education. Our curriculum allows children to develop their language and vocabulary and understanding of the world around them through first-hand learning experiences; making learning meaningful and memorable. Topics and learning sequences have been carefully planned to ensure they are relevant to the children and allow them to reach identified end points, gaining the skills and knowledge they need to be successful learners and be well prepared for life beyond our school.

At Butler's Hill we make 'learning irresistible' sparking the interest, enthusiasm and curiosity in our children. This motto sings through everything we do from day to day lessons, our learning environment, visits and visitors, extra-curricular activities. We want our curriculum to be meaningful for children giving them a real sense of purpose when they learn. Children learn where they feel safe and are listened to, where they are valued and loved, where they are stimulated and challenged and where they 'have fun!'

We understand and are committed to the development of the 'whole child' and acknowledge literacy and numeracy skills are essential

but are only part of the education jigsaw. All pieces are important. We want children to leave Butler's Hill with a thirst for learning, to be independent thinkers and to care for the environment with self-worth and confidence, with a care for the world and care for each other.

We want our school values to be embedded within our children and we want to educate them to be 'good people' who care for others and the community, who care for all things around them, including animals and the environment.

We aim for our curriculum to be skills based and knowledge rich. We also recognise the need for intelligent repetition as nothing has been learnt until it goes into your long term memory.

Our Curriculum Aims:

1. To provide all children with equal access to a creative, broad and balanced curriculum, that is sequential and has language at the core.
2. To strengthen the connection our children have with the world around them by providing a wealth of opportunities to experience this first hand.
3. To develop the sense of belonging all children have to the community in which they live and the wider world.
4. To enrich the curriculum and develop the cultural capital of our children through the Arts, ensuring learning is memorable.

Where does our curriculum come from?

We choose inspiring topics where PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) is entwined throughout.

We ensure children are exposed to the 'bigger picture' including global and environmental issues which are part of all our lives and which we care about.

We deliver a curriculum saturated with quality children's texts and will foster a true love of stories in all our children.

We start each topic with a hook or an exciting immersing day/week asking a question to create curiosity and excitement for the children.

Why do we start with a big question?

- To develop curiosity
- For children to lead their own learning
- So children can share their interests and experiences
- To centre our topic around the question

Widening the experiences for our children is fundamental to us at Butler's Hill - including the outdoors, visits and visitors in all our topics. This includes planning a visit and a visitor into school (at least) for each topic. Also planning a residential trip for Year 2s to build confidence, independence and co-operation.

What certain things do we include in our curriculum?

- A launch (to excite and enthuse) and a project or end product (purpose and achievement)
- Talk for writing, speaking and listening, drama, rainbow grammar, quality texts
- Teaching values (e.g. resilience), modelling behaviour, supporting our children and families
- Arts – theatre, dance, music, professional visiting artist, puppets
- Outdoor learning as much as possible

What is close to our hearts? And what do we want to achieve?

- Providing wider experiences, improving life experiences, nurturing our children, confidence building and providing stability
- Caring for the environment, promoting eco and valuing the great outdoors
- Importance of values
- Aspiration – encouraging our children that they can steer in any direction they choose

Why have we got the curriculum we've got?

- To broaden experiences
- To provide a deeper understanding of different skills within our topics
- To improve our cross curricular links and develop a skills based curriculum
- To develop our arts provision

- To increase awareness of environmental and world issues and our own impact on the bigger picture.
- To encourage children to be critical thinkers with high aspirations and to be passionate about the world we live in

What drives our curriculum?

- Giving children more opportunities
- Making learning irresistible – sparking the interest, enthusiasm and curiosity in our children
- Providing a 'launch experience'

Overall we aim for our curriculum to allow our children to be:

'creative, caring & confident'

Whilst following the philosophy to:

'Dream big, aim high'