



Perryfields Primary PRU Curriculum Rationale (INTENT)



At Perryfields Primary PRU, our ambitious curriculum offers our pupils not only the National Curriculum but the life skills and experiences beyond this to **flourish** in their future lives.

Alongside teaching the requirements of the National Curriculum, key drivers have been identified. We have prioritised the key **knowledge**, skills and aspirations we want our pupils to experience and develop during their time with us. We use these 'drivers' to underpin the learning and experiences we undertake in all areas of school life and to ensure our curriculum offer is **enriched**. These key drivers are personal to Perryfields and reflect the social, emotional and educational needs of our pupils.

The following key drivers underpin our learning and are developed through the school. Our three key drivers for our school curriculum are:

1. Aspirations
2. Communication
3. Learning Powers

Aspirations:

At Perryfields, we want our pupils to **aspire** to be the best version of themselves. We have incredibly **high expectations** and are passionate about ensuring that every pupil is exposed to a range of possibilities to broaden their **aspirations**, **build their confidence** and deepen their **knowledge** of the world around them.

We recognise that inequalities in society reproduce themselves because of cultural capital. Our pupils are with us because they have experienced a period of turbulence in their mainstream schools. As a result of this, many of our pupils have a negative view of education. We passionately believe that it is our responsibility to turn this around. We want to develop our pupil's cultural capital, so that they do not impose limits on themselves for what they can go on to achieve. By planning for cultural capital within our curriculum we aim to help our pupils who may otherwise not have a high cultural capital and, in doing so, help improve their life chances.

At Perryfields, we see cultural capital as **valuable subject-specific knowledge** rather than life experiences; life experiences, such as visiting an art gallery, theatre or museum, are valuable, but are more valuable if they are used to develop our pupils subject-specific knowledge.

Communication

A central aim of our Perryfields curriculum is to help our pupils to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings successfully across the curriculum through a variety of outlets – this includes through the Arts, Sports and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mechanics (STEM). Pupils need to know how to speak and listen with respect in a variety of different situations. We prioritise the teaching of reading as the key to enable pupils to read well and widely. This broadens their horizons, enhances knowledge in the different subjects, develops their imagination and empowers them with a rich vocabulary through which to construct knowledge and understand the world. Being able to write clearly, comfortably and where necessary concisely in many different forms remains a key skill and our curriculum exploits every opportunity to develop this ability.

Building our pupils' Learning Powers (Personal Growth)

We have designed our Perryfields curriculum with the intention of helping our pupils to help themselves become more effective learners. We aim to develop our pupils' learning habits in order to prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

Developing our pupils' learning powers is central to everything we do; it is not an addition to our curriculum but underpins the whole learning process. Our learning powers are as follows:

Collaboration

A key component of our school vision is for our pupils to enjoy being together. In order to do this, we teach our pupils to positively interact with others as part of a group or team.

Resilience

Our pupils are with us because they have gone through a period of social and emotional turbulence: they have experienced significant personal challenges. We want to empower them to withstand and recover quickly from difficult conditions or situations. Likewise, within their learning, we want them to have the confidence to take risks and persevere when the going gets tough.

Reflection

We aim to help our pupils learn from their experiences, both educationally and socially. We encourage them to reflect about what has gone before and think how they could improve upon it next time.

Independence

At Perryfields our pupils are encouraged to develop their independence and self-help skills. Many of our pupils arrive with low self-esteem and lacking self-motivation. We strive to support them in developing these important life skills. Our aim is to help our pupils learn to learn, thus taking responsibility for their own learning, so that they can successfully return to mainstream education.

Curiosity

Through our ambitious Perryfields curriculum and outstanding teaching, we inspire a love of learning in all our pupils. Our curriculum is connected, coherent and cumulative, ensuring all pupils **learn more, know more and remember more**. We want to see 'Lightbulb' moments happen daily at Perryfields.

