



CATTON GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Striving for Excellence

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

At Catton Grove we have tried to develop a knowledge based curriculum that meets the personal and academic needs of our pupils.

We want them to become effective, enthusiastic, interested and engaged learners.

We follow the national curriculum but also focus on finding ways to develop the 'whole child'.

We began by analysing what personal characteristics we would wish to promote amongst our pupils during their journey through the school and went on to determine how these could be demonstrated.

These became our 'Catton Commandments' and 'Core Values', both of which can be seen on our website.

We have also taken the key aims and concepts the National Curriculum seeks to promote and develop and linked them to those characteristics associated with effective learners as researched by John Hattie and incorporated them into our teaching through the 'Visible Learning' project.

The attainment profile of the pupils at Catton Grove is lower than what would be expected nationally. Pupils enter between 12 and 18 months below where they should be.

Much of our time, therefore, is spent trying to find effective ways of closing that gap.

We talk a lot about the 'team around the child' recognising that, for some of our most vulnerable pupils, this may extend to 3 or 4 adults.

We know that, first and foremost, our pupils need access to highly skilled teachers and teaching assistants who understand their needs and are able to provide a curriculum and learning environment that effectively meets them.

Many of our pupils struggle to make links between subjects and to effectively apply their developing knowledge, understanding and skills. We, therefore, try and adopt a topic based approach, where appropriate, so that pupils see the relevance of what they are learning to other areas of the curriculum. We are creative in what we do in order to fully engage our pupils.

We do teach English and maths separately because these are where the gaps are most pronounced and we recognise that pupils need to acquire knowledge,

skills and understanding in them in order to secure good progress from and during any point of transition.

We constantly try to find ways to do things better than we did before using evidence to inform our decision-making.

We are currently in the second year of a 2 year project to develop 'Visible Learning' throughout the school; completed a 2 year project on 'Talk for Writing' in the summer of 2018 and have recently finished a SSIF project on 'Improving Girls Maths'.

We provide an extensive extra-curricular programme throughout the year including trips, visits and appropriate projects to try and create enrichment opportunities for our pupils many of whom do not enjoy the variety of experience that many of their peers would.

Many of these are linked to the Children's University in order to encourage parents to become more actively involved in broadening their children's experiences.

We also try to ensure that talent, where it is recognised, is nurtured and developed especially in the areas of sport and performing arts.

We know that our pupils respond well to what we provide for them. Conduct and behaviour are excellent and personal development and progress are good.

Pupils are proud of their school and we are proud of them.