

Durham Lane Primary School's Intent Statement

At Durham Lane Primary School, we highly value academic success and the acquisition of skills and knowledge; this is reflected in our vibrant and wide-ranging curriculum. However, we also believe that our school community offers our pupils much more than this; we educate our children so that they are prepared for life.

We are proud to state that our school community is one of our greatest strengths. Many of our parents say that our school has a close-knit, family feel about it. We know our families and they are very supportive of the school and what we are trying to achieve for their children. We have good and honest relationships with parents.

Having consulted with staff, pupils, parents and governors, we have produced our detailed Curriculum Intent Statement which should be read in conjunction with the contents of our curriculum file (Teaching and Learning file).

After looking at our school's local context and focusing on the things we feel are most pertinent for our pupils, we have drawn up the following statements which illustrate how we attempt to meet those needs in our school and what makes Durham Lane Primary School unique:

- *Our pupils mainly live in Yarm and Eaglescliffe which are very close to the historically rich town of Stockton On Tees. However, many of our pupils know little about our locality's rich past or indeed the geographical importance of where we live. We endeavour to teach our children about this as well as educating them about famous people who have lived and worked in our area;*
- *We also feel that, although many of our children are taken on holiday, many of them are unaware of the different cultures in the wider world. We want our pupils to appreciate and be curious about different cultures and places around the UK and the wider world;*
- *We believe our pupils should be aware of issues which occur in their own locality (such as deprivation) and wish to develop empathy within our children which is why we encourage fund raising and charity work and try to make links within our local community;*
- *We are proud of the work we do, both in our curriculum and through our Eco Team, about environmental issues. We believe our children should develop a good understanding of environmental issues which may affect them in the future and how they can help to reduce waste and help be part of the solution to this ever-growing problem;*
- *We celebrate diversity within our school and local communities and aim to foster a sense of tolerance and respect within our pupils. We also celebrate the different cultures we have in school and plan activities within the curriculum to reflect this. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and celebrate the diverse successes of all children in our school;*
- *We want our children to leave Durham Lane with the confidence to be able to speak out clearly and in a range of situations as well as listening to others and respecting*

their opinions; this is a life skill we believe will be invaluable to them. This is why they take part in school assemblies, perform to different audiences and are given pupil voice in our School Council and Eco Teams;

- We believe our pupils should be taught about the importance of responsibility. We give children responsibilities to help them communicate, show respect and listen to others e.g. playground leaders, School Council, Eco Team, Y6 jobs;
- We want to equip our pupils with thinking skills so that they are able to apply these in different situations throughout their lives which we believe develops their learning and allows them to consider wider possibilities. This is why our school took part in the Thinkwell thinking skills programme and use the activities that we were shown in our classrooms;
- We are fully aware of the impact technology has on our children. Our children have grown up in a technological world and have become over reliant on getting information immediately and don't think about where it comes from. Therefore, we believe it is important to educate them about a range of sources and how each source's validity can be measured. We also try to encourage our pupils to enjoy activities other than gaming and we help them to explore other choices;
- In addition, we believe that we need to focus on embedding e-safety due to issues that have arisen with Instagram/tiktok and other games which children play outside of school;
- Healthy living is an issue for quite a lot of our pupils. We recognise that many of our pupils are living more sedentary lives and we aim to encourage healthy habits including food, exercise and mental health;
- We strive to offer our pupils opportunities which they may never have considered for themselves e.g. sports, playing musical instruments, taking part in shows. Our teachers have a wide range of skills and enjoy working with children in extra-curricular clubs to help share their passions and expertise. Our pupils are encouraged to develop a 'have a go' attitude towards new experiences. Because of this, our children often excel in sporting and musical events which develops their confidence. Indeed, our school one of the best performing schools in Stockton in football, cricket and tag rugby in recent years and has also won KS2 Choir of the Year;
- As we are committed to a cross-curricular approach to learning in our school, our pupils are immersed in every topic they study. Our staff works hard to find different and enriching ways to teach objectives. We offer our pupils whole school projects where they collaborate with other year groups on a shared theme. We also value visitors and trips which give context to their learning experiences. In addition, we deliver a broad range of assemblies and encourage visitors such as Dogs Trust, representatives from the council, representatives from different places of worship in our locality etc. to come into school so that children are exposed to things which will be relevant throughout their lives, no matter what path they choose in the future;
- Because the majority of our children come from families where both parents are working, it's important that we teach them to be independent learners, taking responsibility for their own learning. Also, it is essential that they develop strong personal organisational skills, remembering belongings and equipment.