



**Abbey Hey Primary Academy**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

## Curriculum Statement

### Mission Statement

#### 'The Best in Everyone'

At Abbey Hey, we are committed to bringing out the Best in Everyone. We will do this with a creative and relevant curriculum which will inspire and motivate pupils to become the best that they can be.

We will nurture and support our children and equip them with the skills they need to become confident, determined and respectful young adults who have exciting and ambitious aspirations for their futures.

Abbey Hey pupils will achieve academic excellence through a curriculum which teaches them essential skills for life such as cooperation, teamwork, resilience and respect both for others, their environment and themselves.

We understand and value the importance of the local community and recognise the positive impact it has on school life. Working together in partnership, ultimately leads to, 'The Best in Everyone'.

### Our Curriculum Approach:

**Powerful Knowledge:** Our Curriculum ensures that every child has access to the best that has been said and thought and done through human history in every subject area.

**Education with Character:** Children are exposed to challenges which they will only succeed in through persistence and determination; they are encouraged to develop new talents and qualities unique to them and to express themselves clearly and articulately. They are exposed to situations where their thinking and opinions are challenged.

At the Abbey Hey Primary Academy, the curriculum is specifically tailored to meet the needs of all our children. We aim to offer our children the best educational experience possible in order to prepare them fully for the lives they are going to lead. All young people are individuals and our curriculum recognises that; we want our curriculum to be exciting, interesting, innovative and engaging so that children are curious, inspired and enjoy learning. We believe that the curriculum we offer should fire children's imaginations and be challenging yet enable all children to feel success, no matter what their ability or interests. It should promote in children a self-belief and confidence which will enable them to reach their full potential.

Our curriculum extends beyond the formal requirements of the National Curriculum as we recognise that this is only part of what children require. Of paramount importance within our curriculum are the values, skills and abilities we feel our children will require to take their place in the world; these will enable our children to be compassionate and driven leaders of our future.

Our curriculum is designed to provide a rich and varied programme of activities and learning experiences to meet the needs, interests and aspirations of all learners, within and beyond the school day. It is underpinned by a clear whole school vision within our mission statement and set of



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curriculum drivers. These characteristics define our curriculum and support the work we do. Our drivers are areas that we value as a school; they give focus to learning opportunities and are embedded throughout teaching and learning and developing the child as a whole.

Abbey Hey Academy's curriculum drivers are based on our school's six core values of:

- Creativity
- Enthusiasm
- Ambition
- Confidence
- Respect
- Determination

The core values are at the heart of all we do and are interwoven into all learning opportunities along with a strong emphasis on team work and cooperation.

We believe first in identifying the children's needs; this is done by careful and thorough gap analysis at the end of each half term using children's books and assessments. The gaps identified then feed directly into all future planned learning and become a tool that is used to measure progress and performance from. Once the children's needs have been established, teachers then create imaginative and engaging learning opportunities to accomplish this.

Active learning is encouraged through exploration, enquiry, investigation and structured play using first hand experiences wherever possible. We provide children with a range of opportunities to develop, use and refine key knowledge, understanding and skills and to practice and apply them regularly in different contexts.

We believe that it is important that children have a strong awareness of their local community and locality and of whom they are and where they fit in the world. We believe that successful learning depends on a positive partnership between home school and the wider community and we regularly raise money for local and national charities throughout the school year which gives children a sense of responsibility and moral purpose.

Each week, children learn about the achievements and life stories of inspirational people from Britain and the wider world. This gives them the opportunity to see what is possible and learn that with hard work and determination, their dreams can be realised. Our list of celebrities is carefully chosen to represent a variety of roles in life and deliberately includes people from the local area as well.

## Our Approach

### Cooperative Learning:

Children across school work collaboratively in groups of four. These groups are mixed ability, mixed gender and mixed ethnicities. Children work as a cooperative team to develop positive interdependence with one another in order to achieve common goals. They are given the opportunity to support, coach and discuss learning before being asked to complete a task independently. This provides children with a safe environment to make mistakes and encourage risk taking. During cooperative learning, the structures ensure that children are accountable as children have to publically perform their learning; this way, no one can hide and avoid learning.

Cooperative learning is built on the foundations that we should build connections with each other, as we learn best when we are safe, therefore cooperative learning involves team building



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and class building activities where children learn about their own similarities and differences in a fun, non-threatening way. These teams change on a six weekly basis allowing children to mix with other children that they might not have previously built a connection with, thus developing and encouraging social skills.

Working in this way allows learning to be active but it also ensures that children develop an awareness of the needs of others, leading to the development of tolerance and social justice.

## Extra-Curricular Activities:

Abbey Hey has a wide variety of extra-curricular activities involving children from across school. School makes a conscious effort to monitor attendance in these activities in order to ensure that children develop drive and persistence.

## Community:

Our aim at Abbey Hey is to promote a healthy lifestyle not only for our pupils but for the whole community. As a school we have supported several parents/carers to access sports training programs. These individuals will use this training to work with children within the community to improve sporting opportunities outside of the school day. This in turn will create leaders and positive role models within our community helping to unite local residents of all ages.

## Examples of some of the clubs on offer are:

Girls & Boys football	Netball	Athletics	Cross Country	Cheerleading
Dance	Basketball	Dodgeball	Film Club	Music: Ukulele, Recorder & Guitar
Drama	Art Club	Choir	Tag Rugby	Journalism / School Newspaper

## Learner Challenge:

Following on from our approach of learning through Cooperative Learning, we ensure that all our children are active participants in their learning. Children are taught that they will face barriers and challenges, however, it is how they respond to these challenges that will build their character further and help them achieve their goals. Resilience is a large part of our everyday learning; we expect children to make mistakes and encourage them to use these as the next step of their journey. This is further emphasised by termly learner conversations. These are dedicated 1-1 sessions where learning and targets are set between the child and their teacher with a clear focus on children's skills and what they need to do to improve to be even better.



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## Home Learning:

Abbey Hey Primary Academy is committed to setting regular home learning appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. Home learning is important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect.

The aims of Home Learning are to: To support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, to provide opportunities for parents, pupils and teachers to work in partnership; to share with parents the expectations school has regarding their child; to provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning and to encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.

## What do Parents think?

Twice a year, Abbey Hey invites parents and carers to judge different aspects of school life in the bi-annual parents survey. 99% of parents believe that their child is taught well at Abbey Hey and believe they are making good progress.

*'An amazing school, fantastic staff; absolutely love the environment!'*

*'I am happy with my child's progress. All I have to say is keep up the good work!'*

*'She adores her teachers!'*

*'I have been pleased with the progress my child has been making and strongly agree with the consistent approach to homework the school have.'*