



## ASH GROVE ACADEMY: CURRICULUM STATEMENT OF INTENT

At Ash Grove Academy, we have designed our curriculum in a way that we believe has our children's learning and development at its heart.

We recognise that a curriculum has to be broad, balanced and offer children opportunities to grow as individuals as well as learners. We also understand that children should be challenged in their schooling; that learning from misconceptions and mistakes is as valuable as celebrating successes.

As a result, we have devised a curriculum that aims to ensure our pupils enjoy learning and feel prepared for life after primary school - one that is empowering and positively encourages self-improvement, reflecting our school motto of 'Aspire'.

We deliver the curriculum through classroom-based learning and wider curriculum opportunities. We promote equal opportunities for all of our pupils throughout our practice in line with the Equality Act 2010.

### **Classroom-based learning:**

Our staff value the different ways in which children learn, adopting a mastery approach through small-step progression alongside opportunities to go deeper in their understanding of key concepts. Our curriculum is mapped out in discrete subject areas, with each unit of work linked directly to the 2014 National Curriculum programmes of study. Thought has been given to making each unit of work meaningful to our children and the context in which they live, providing them with opportunities to learn about the world around them at a local, national and global level. The units also ensure progression in skills and knowledge acquisition, building on previous learning term-by-term *within* each year group, but also *across* year groups and Key Stages. This carefully planned spiral approach is in place to support improved academic achievement for our children, allowing them to secure their knowledge of how their current lives and experiences fit into a broader understanding of the world in which they live. We believe this curricular approach supports our children to become independent and engaged life-long learners.

A full curricular overview for each subject and year group can be found on our website:

<https://www.ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+%26amp%3B+Assessment&pid=61>

### **Wider curricular opportunities:**

We provide an extensive range of wider curricular opportunities that enhance our children's learning experience. These opportunities include after-school clubs (including Forest School); inter-school sports competitions; class presentations, including KS2 formal debates; music, art and drama experiences; educational trips and visitors; residential for children from Year 1 - Year 6, including trips abroad; community engagement projects; and local, national and international fundraising events. These opportunities are designed to enhance pupils' learning experiences, form personal connections between pupils, their peers and their community, and teach skills essential for life after school.

### **How the curriculum benefits children's personal development**

Our curriculum has been designed to provide equal opportunities for all. A strong PSHE curriculum, in line with DfE statutory guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education, underpins the ethos behind our curriculum. We believe that this stance benefits our pupils in the following ways:

- Learning how to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Understanding that failure is part of the road to success
- Being rewarded for academic and personal successes
- Being supported with their next stages in education and feeling prepared for life after school
- Becoming responsible individuals who contribute to community living and the environment
- Achieving to the best of their ability
- Acquiring a wealth of knowledge and experience
- Becoming critical thinkers
- Finding a sense of belonging to the school and its community
- Learning how to cooperate with their peers and respect one another inside and outside the classroom.