



Elston Hall Learning Trust
'Partnership, Achievement, Commitment'

Curriculum Intent and Rationale

Introduction

Elston Hall Learning Trust is made up of five schools, all in close proximity to each other, located in Wolverhampton and Walsall. We excel in working collaboratively to maximise opportunities for both pupils and teachers to build a cohesive and dynamic learning community.

Intent

We aim to offer an outward-facing curriculum that is progressive, engaging, and relevant, empowering our pupils to become well-rounded, thoughtful individuals. With this in mind, we have implemented a curriculum model that, through its carefully crafted sequential nature, enables pupils' learning to connect and build, year on year. We are committed to maximising the potential for our children in supporting and meeting their personal needs. It is our aim to encourage our children to be the best they can be and, through learning, see that they can achieve great things. We aim to offer high-quality teaching and learning for all our pupils, that highlights the importance of human creativity and achievement and leads to the development of educated citizens within our own community and on a wider national and global scale. Raising aspirations and developing pupils' independence is at the heart of this.

Rationale for Implementation

We use Dimensions 'Learning Means the World' Curriculum as the main vehicle for achieving our outlined intent.

This curriculum is underpinned by four highly relevant world issues, known as the four Cs:-

Culture

Communication

Conflict

Conservation

Communication

We believe that communication skills provide a firm foundation for children. Unfortunately, since covid, our younger children have had limited experiences of socialising and, therefore, there is a noticeable difference in their social and emotional skills. They are more reserved, engage less in conversation and lack confidence. We have seen a huge increase in referrals for speech and language support, and this is now a priority for us to ensure that our children are provided with a wide range of opportunities.

We aim to provide many opportunities to broaden the children's vocabulary and this curriculum will undoubtedly do this. Some of our children speak several languages so need the

English language to be modelled to them. We aim to prevent this from becoming a barrier to their learning.

Throughout school, we ensure that our children have a voice and have the opportunity to speak in many different situations such as assembly, classroom, school council etc.

We have good communication links with schools in other countries and this allows the children to form cross-cultural friendships and find new ways to communicate over the internet.

Culture

Over recent years, we have seen a change in demographic and our schools have become more diverse. It is so important to us that our children develop an appreciation and understanding of other cultures.

As teachers, we have the privilege of teaching and developing adults of the future and we want to ensure they have solid foundations, a good understanding of, and respect for, one another. We aim to teach them to embrace difference and not fear it.

Unfortunately, we have seen that social media and television can have a big influence on culture and sometimes present incorrect information. We believe it is part of our role to rectify this and ensure that our children have a deeper understanding of the world they live in by challenging misconceptions and build social cohesion.

Conflict

We live in times of incredible conflict, from small scale disagreements to full-blown wars. All pupils will, undoubtedly, encounter conflict as part of everyday life. Learning to get along with others, respecting their opinions and resolving conflict is so important in terms of wellbeing. Being able to deal positively with confrontation on a personal level will stand pupils in good stead for adult life. Effective communication is vital to working positively through conflict, as is recognising the link between cause and effect, and we want to teach our pupils how to deal with conflict in a positive way. Our PSHE programme helps to promote this and provides a range of skills for our children to be able to deal with situations successfully. We provide opportunities for pupils play active roles in determining the school ethos around behaviour by taking on roles such as lunchtime buddies, play leaders, behaviour ambassadors to model good behaviour and expectations. Our schools also take part in the LA anti-bullying charter programme which supports strategies in school to promotes this, and all children agree to abide by it.

We believe it is important to educate our children and teach them that, as they grow into adults, they need to respect different opinions in a spirit of acceptance and tolerance.

Conservation

In an ever-changing world, we feel that it essential for our pupils to learn how to look after the planet for the future. By putting sustainability at the heart of our curriculum, we believe we can help them become socially conscious citizens who question, challenge and problem-solve, as necessary, whilst learning how they can make practical contributions, both individually and collectively, to a better world.

Our curriculum narrative begins with **Communication**, as this underpins and links to the other three focus areas. We have followed this with **Conflict** which has a focus on the past, specifically learning from mistakes. Next, **Conservation** which looks to the future and a better, sustainable world and finally, **Culture**, because we believe that understanding identity is very important.

Alongside the units incorporated in the 4 C's, we also encourage our pupils to have high aspirations by teaching them about human creativity and achievement through additional Competency Units about famous figures.

