



## Rise Park Academies

### Rise Park Infant School Curriculum Statement

#### Curriculum vision

Our vision and values permeate through the whole curriculum and can only be achieved through the children, staff, parents and governors demonstrating our core values of **“Respect, Belief, Excellence”**.

At Rise Park Infant School we:

- Value every member of our community
- Enhance and celebrate our similarities and differences
- Recognise our lifelong ability to learn and grow
- Rise to all inspiring opportunities

Our whole school vision is supported by our 8 Learning Powers that are reflected in all aspects of school life :



Respect



Passion



Inspiration



Achievement



Self-Belief



Resilience



Excellence



Knowledge

#### Curriculum Intent

At Rise Park Infant school, we aim to provide all of our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum that is also rich in knowledge and experience. We encourage our pupils to be brave and challenge themselves and our dedicated

staff have high expectations of pupil behaviour and attainment ensuring all pupils are given the opportunity to thrive. We recognise all children are unique and our pupils are taught through a variety of approaches in order for them to discover the learning style that works best for them. We strive to ensure high quality teaching is at the heart of our curriculum and we work closely with parents to ensure the very best outcomes for our pupils.

Our curriculum is designed in collaboration with our junior school to ensure progression and deeper learning throughout each stage of development. It incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum 2014 and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the children in our school. Subject leaders have identified the essential knowledge, skills and vocabulary that pupils should learn year on year. We follow a cross-curricular approach which is designed to provide depth, breadth and balance and to be meaningful to our pupils. Our half termly topics create an enriched environment, making links between subjects and aiding discovery.

Our wider curriculum aims to excite children's interest and encourage them to explore the world around them. We promote open discussion and questioning during lessons, to engage students in their own learning and facilitate independent enquiry.

Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their progress and take pride in their achievements. We want ensure our pupils experiences in school are engaging and memorable.

### **Curriculum Implementation**

At Rise Park we believe the ability to read is an essential skill for all children paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience and equipping them with confidence for the future. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and we know that one of the keys to addressing disadvantage and ensuring success is developing a wide vocabulary in our pupils. We promote adventurous vocabulary through the use of high-quality texts woven through our curriculum.

We want all of our children to be as enthusiastic about reading as we are and enjoying stories with our children is an essential part of our daily routine. We ensure the books we use represent diversity and that pupils can often relate to them and link them to their own experiences. We regularly review our reading books and update them with any new texts we feel would enrich our reading culture.

We use the Read Write Inc approach to teaching phonics to ensure a consistent and rigorous programme for teaching phonics and reading. Staff are well trained and intervention is swift to enable all children to progress. Regular assessment allows staff to identify children for further group support or one to one tutoring. The school currently subscribes to the Read Write Inc portal allowing staff to share videos with parents so they can support their child effectively from home. Parent workshops empower our parents and give them opportunities to see phonics in action. Handwriting is often linked to phonics work however common errors in formation may be practised in isolation. Once children are confidently using the correct formation we encourage them to join their writing.

We are proud of our creative approach to teaching English. Lessons are centred around high quality texts, images or films which engage the children and inspire them to write. Children explore these through drama and role play, collaborative discussion, games and story maps influenced by the 'Talk for Writing' approach. They learn to communicate for different audiences both orally and in writing and across a range of subjects and topics. Spelling, punctuation and grammar is often taught as part of the main lesson although some more challenging elements may be addressed independently.

The basic skills of mathematics are vital for the life opportunities of all children. Our aim is for all children to think mathematically, enabling them to reason, solve problems and assess risk in a range of contexts. Our Mathematics curriculum has been developed to ensure every child can experience a sense of achievement as they solve problems, discover different solutions and make links between different areas of Mathematics.

We follow PA (Primary Advantage) maths which provides pupils with a deep understanding of the subject through a concrete, pictorial and abstract approach. This is also supported by White Rose resources and ensures pupils fully understand what they are learning. Focus on mathematical thinking and language and resources to support problem-solving is central to our teaching. To be able to calculate with confidence and understand why it works are essential knowledge and skills in mathematics. We want to ensure pupils have a deeper understanding of what they are doing rather than just learning to repeat routines without grasping what is happening.

We take pride in providing a highly inclusive environment, where learners demonstrate high levels of enjoyment in their education and make good progress in a variety of subjects and areas of learning. Children at all levels are

helped to achieve their potential. Those who are most able are challenged and supported through being offered tasks which provide opportunities for greater depth and those who struggle are encouraged and given targeted support to embed skills, to develop at their own pace or simply to learn in a style that best suits their individual needs. Our inclusion managers work closely with pupils, parents and staff to ensure training needs are met.

At Rise Park we celebrate diversity and support our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, ensuring that children are well prepared for life in the wider world. We believe that the mental health and well-being are key elements that support the development of the whole child and these are central to the warm and welcoming environment we create.

The outdoor environment and the local community are considered an opportunity for active learning for all our children. The school grounds enrich different curriculum areas and all pupils have access to outdoor learning. We have our own 'wild wood' and pond area in addition to outside classroom spaces for Nursery, reception and Year 1. We strive to ensure all of our pupils have access to good quality educational resources beyond the classroom walls.

Subject leaders play an important part in the success of the curriculum by leading a regular programme of monitoring, evaluation and review and the celebration of good practice contributes to the ongoing commitment to evolve and improve further. Themed weeks such as Book Week, Arts Week and Science week add to the enrichment of our curriculum alongside opportunities to participate in a range of clubs such as Lego club, Disney club, film club, football and art club. Each half term starts with a 'learning powers day' which is linked to one of our 8 learning powers and supported by our curriculum leads.

Pupils may take on a range of responsibilities during their time in school such as school council, eco warriors, digital leaders and reading champions, this gives them a sense of responsibility and pride in our school in addition to facilitating pupil voice and ensuring this is helping to shape our curriculum. We have a peripatetic music teacher who works with a number of key stage one children teaching instruments such as the violin and piano and we encourage and support interests outside of school.

### **Early Years**

The EYFS encompasses both Sunbeams Nursery and the Reception classes in the Early Years Centre at Rise Park.

We have high aspirations for our pupils and challenge them to achieve their best. We want our pupils to be motivated, enthusiastic, curious, respectful, and resilient. We work to provide a warm and welcoming environment where all children feel safe and become part of our school community.

Four guiding principles shape our practice. These are:

- Every child is a **unique** child
- They will learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, with teaching and support from adults, a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers
- The importance of **learning development** , children learn and develop in different ways

The children will learn new skills and knowledge across the 7 areas of learning: **Prime Areas** – Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language. **Specific Areas** – Literacy, Mathematical Development, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design. We value the characteristics of effective learning – playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking creatively. To support learning and progression we follow the Statutory Early Years Curriculum and guidance from the Development Matters Document.

At Rise Park we seek to provide a **firm foundation for learning**. We aim to empower our pupils as **independent learners**. To support this through:

- a broad, rich and varied curriculum
- organising our learning environment to support independent access to a wide range of resources, covering all areas of learning
- Having the role of the adult to support, extend and challenge
- Providing Continuous Provision both indoors and outdoors
- Delivering a practical and play based curriculum with whole class teaching (teacher initiated), small group sessions and child-initiated learning
- Using our Learning Powers to guide development
- Sharing our love of reading with our pupils
- Encouraging communication skills
- Following a series of themes throughout the year

We use classrooms and the outdoor environment to support the 7 areas of learning. Children are encouraged to access all areas, pursuing their interests.

Parental engagement is a high priority – a partnership between home and school. We use learning and communication platforms (e.g. Dojo), we host practical sessions for parents to work/play alongside their child, we host information meetings, we encourage parents to share news from home (book activity and WOW letters) and encourage parents to help develop reading and other skills at home. We share their child’s learning journey with them.

### **Impact**

The effective practice across the school provides a strong foundation and opportunities for children to collaborate and develop social skills both indoors and out. This curriculum design ensures that the needs of individual and small groups of children can be met within the environment of high quality first wave teaching, supported by targeted, proven interventions where appropriate. In this way it can be seen to impact in a very positive way on children’s outcomes.

Enjoyment of the curriculum promotes achievement, confidence and good behaviour. Children feel safe to try new things. High quality visits and visitors to the school enhance the curriculum and provide opportunities for writing for a purpose.

Children have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based and external exhibitions, performances, competitions and events involving other schools. Developing our pupils independence, motivation as learners and sense of responsibility as future citizens is at the heart of all our teaching and learning.