



## **Our Curriculum Vision Knowledge, Behaviours and Skills**

At Five Ways, we believe that every child brings a unique set of experiences and knowledge that enriches our school community. We are committed to nurturing and celebrating this cultural capital, recognising its vital role in our children's education and personal development.

'Cultural Capital' refers to the knowledge, skills, values, and experiences that children acquire from their families, communities, and the wider world. It includes everything from language and traditions to hobbies and interests.

Our Goals:

- To provide a rich and varied educational experience that values and builds on the cultural capital of every child.
- To prepare our children to be open-minded, respectful, and knowledgeable global citizens.
- To create a school environment where diversity is celebrated, and every child feels valued and included.

Our Approach:

- **Inclusive Curriculum:** We integrate diverse cultural perspectives into our curriculum, ensuring that all children see themselves reflected in their learning.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** We celebrate cultural events and traditions from around the world, fostering an environment of respect and appreciation.
- **Community Engagement:** We encourage children and visitors from the wider community, to share their cultural backgrounds and experiences, promoting mutual understanding and respect.
- **Enrichment Activities:** We offer a range of extracurricular activities that expose our children to different cultures, arts, and traditions

Our Commitment to Cultural Capital:

Through our Five Ways curriculum we aim to broaden our children's understanding of themselves and others, promote and enhance parental support, raise aspirations by aiming for excellence, and develop language and communication skills through high quality interactions with our children.

Supporting children to become better communicators is one of the most powerful things we do as primary educators. Oral language skills are fundamental to children's learning, thinking, and emotional wellbeing. Children who can communicate well can make friends, play, resolve conflicts and tell us how they are feeling.

At Five Ways, we prioritise the development of children's communication and language through socially-meaningful interactions. We know that children thrive on conversation and discussion with people they have a strong relationship with, focused on things they want to talk about. As such, we plan for effortless, high-quality interactions through use of the ShREC approach. This approach provides us with a simple and memorable set of specific, evidence-informed strategies which we embed into everyday practice. We use these strategies with every child, every day.

- Share attention – be at the child's level. Pay close attention to what they are focused on.
- Respond – follow the child's lead. Respond to their non-verbal and verbal communication, commenting on what they can see, hear or feel.
- Expand – repeat what the child says and build on it by adding more words to turn it into a sentence or to reshape it to make a better sentence.
- Conversation – have extended back and forth interactions. Give children time to listen, process and reply.

We want our learners to become confident individuals who have a clear understanding of our five core values: Challenge, Creativity, Respect, Positivity and Working Together. These values are linked closely to our Behaviour Policy and as such, allow the children to make connections between their personal conduct and their approach to learning. They are also linked carefully to each core and foundation subject and as such, help children to make connections with their learning as we know that children learn best, building on prior knowledge. Religious Education and PSHE are highly valued at Five Ways as we recognise the importance of developing the moral and social skills of our children with particular regard to their emotional health and wellbeing. In addition to this, through our 'All About Me' and Citizenship Curriculum, we adopt the 'myHappymind' program which was created for schools with a very simple mission: to give today's children the skills to thrive in tomorrow's world. 'myHappymind' gives children the preventative strategies, skills and tools they need to thrive in the modern world. It teaches children how the brain works and celebrates five character-strengths:

1. bravery and honesty,
2. love and kindness,
3. exploring and learning,
4. love of life and our world,
5. teamwork and friendship.

We want our children to be adequately prepared for life in their community in the future. We aim to develop a strong sense of morality and integrity in every child. We want them to make decisions for the right reasons and in the best interests of their

community. The impact will be that they are able to decide what is right and what is wrong and will be resilient to the influence of others.

Pupil voice is very important to us. To place high esteem on the valued roles of our School Council, we appoint children from our Year 6 cohort, to act as ambassadors for our school and to collect the voice of all children across our school. We also value the benefits of pupil mentorship, which involve our older children acting as reading mentors, class support mentors, and more recently, School Council representatives who are assigned to a year group to gather opinions and offer support to others through well-being discussions. During OPAL, our children get to learn and play together, across all ages from all key stages.

Our curriculum is rich with knowledge-based facts that are progressively taught. We place an emphasis on developing the attributes our pupils need for future learning, with a direct link to the learning behaviours exemplified by our core values and school motto, 'Aiming for Excellence'. The strengths of our curriculum are that we identify and promote progressive, subject specific vocabulary, with themes that equip our children to build links and enhance their learning across other subjects.

We offer a range of extracurricular activities that expose our children to different cultures, arts, and traditions. These include us celebrating as a school, several enrichment days including International Day, World Book Day and Young Enterprise. We also offer a range of after-school activities including choir, music, and peripatetic teaching, sports clubs, sewing club, theatre visits, visits to and from places of worship, and a range of school trips including opportunity for residential visits.

Where appropriate, our curriculum is delivered through the use of a quality text to ensure high expectations are in place for reading as well as providing knowledge and context to drive the objectives that need to be taught. It also promotes reading for pleasure and enjoyment. Each day, for 20 minutes, we 'Drop Everything and Read' which we affectionately refer to as our 'DEAR time.'

We understand that children learn best when they are able to revisit and retrieve key knowledge. Our understanding of pedagogy has informed our curriculum design, our sequence of learning, and range of strategies that we use, designed to optimise teaching and learning. We work hard to motivate, inspire and enthuse our learners and as such, we take time to realise the many interests, hobbies, and fascinations that our children have, so that we can use these interests to elicit enthusiasm and thirst for new knowledge and skills.

We recognise the importance of parents as our partners in education. We actively provide a range of workshops, curriculum events and celebrations alongside our homework offer. This supports English, maths and the wider curriculum. Through 'myHappymind' we value well-being and happiness. We invite parents into school half-termly, to celebrate the successes of children who have excelled in module themes, including: Meet Your Brain, Celebrate, Appreciate, Relate and Engage. We welcome visitors to our school, these include visitors from our local church community, wildlife trusts, people who help us including Fire and Rescue services. Each year group supports a chosen charity which include: The Katherine Allport Foundation, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Save The Children, World Wide Fund

for Nature, West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue, Cancer Research UK and The Royal British Legion.

At Five Ways, we are committed to helping all children achieve excellence through the way they conduct themselves and show that they are proud to be part of our Five Ways 'family'. Through our newly revised Behaviour Policy – which has a high emphasis on constructive relationships - we follow three straightforward behaviour rules that everyone can remember and follow. They are to:

1. Be kind and respectful
2. Be safe
3. Be ready

These rules apply during OPAL and throughout the school day. We positively reinforce these rules and ensure that all adults in school, regardless of their role, support this approach, praising and rewarding children when these rules are followed. Together, we can ensure that our children not only succeed academically but also grow into well-rounded individuals who appreciate the richness of the world around them.

*“One of the aims of Education is to open pupils’ horizons, allowing their daily lives to collide with other people’s and challenge their expectations, thoughts and opinions.”*  
– Isabelle Jones, Global School Alliance.