

Cultural Capital of St.Peter's Primary School



St.Peter's is a rural Church of England school situated in the village of Gringley-on- the-Hill. The school is very proud of its Christian ethos which encompasses our BE (Beyond Expectation) attitudes of kindness, positivity, respect, forgiveness, courage and trustworthiness. The school serves the local village and some of the surrounding villages. It has mixed age classes with a pan of 12 children per year group. The school serves a diverse community with some very affluent families where children experience holidays abroad and visit theatres while other families struggle financially but want their children to have different opportunities to their own childhood. They generally have high aspirations for their children. As parents want the best for their children, they will often do everything for them, resulting in the children lacking independent skills and an understanding of financial acumen. The school is predominately White British. A number of children have a high opinion of themselves and display disproportionate levels of high confidence, which leads to poor listening skills. Most children are generally well behaved. They lead active lives and generally enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The majority of the children enter school with good language and an understanding of books. This is further enhanced by following the Read Write Inc. phonics programme.

Ensuring all children have high expectations.

St. Peter's is a "Take Care school" which means we go beyond expectation – giving all children the aspirations that they can achieve their dreams, and creating a culture that every child can have a fulfilling personal and professional life irrespective of their starting point.

We aim to start the children off in the way they should go using God's opportunities. The school encourages children to take care of themselves, take care of each other, take care of the world and take care with their work. Improve children's ability to talk to an audience through plays, church services, debates/competitions/ sports leaders- reporting back in Collective Worship alongside the development of the art of conversation. Children are given many opportunities to present their ideas within the classroom. These skills will help in later life and help children to succeed in their life. They also help children to develop their independent skills. Residential visits are also helping to develop children's independent skills and we encourage child-led learning approaches that supports this and helps to develop collaboration. Children have "talk partners" which are rotated on a weekly basis, which means that children do not develop a dependency on one person.

Not all children demonstrate social etiquette, the customary code of polite behaviour, and so we have introduced the Integrity Award to encourage children to do the right thing without being asked. For example, opening doors for adults; saying please and thank you; using good table manners; picking things up from the floor.

Developing an understanding of our locality

Most of the children are 1st generation Gringley-on-the-Hill residents (their parents have moved into the village). Therefore, they have a limited knowledge of the rural economy. The school aims to develop a sound social, economic, historical and geographical understanding of the locality. This is achieved through visits to local farms and links with local farmers. The village has a thriving History Club who the school will make links with,

and use their expertise to enhance the children's knowledge and understanding of Gringley-on-the-Hill and the surrounding area. The local area is of particular significance to the Pilgrims and the Mayflower. We feel that it is important for our pupils to have an understanding of this period. This will be achieved through participating in the 400th anniversary celebrations in 2020, of the Mayflower setting sail for America. The children have already taken part in a lantern festival and have been visited by a descendant of William Brewster from Massachusetts.

Our goal is to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of places and cultures, which contrast with our rural location and largely working-middle class culture. Children will compare their experience with a city school. St. Peter's is currently developing links with a Nottingham City school, which will help expose our children to more diverse multi-cultural and social experiences. We aim to create opportunities for children to visit places of worship of different religions e.g. the mosque in Sheffield; the Sikh Gurdwara in Nottingham. The children also participate in inter school experiences e.g. Bassetlaw sports meetings; Imagination Gaming; debating competitions; at which they meet many children with different life experiences.

The children are encouraged, through the R.E curriculum and our 'Take Care' approach, to plan and organise a charitable event each year, along with the on-going support of a school in Zambia. This is something the children will choose which allows them to develop a better understanding of the world they live in. Children will make connections with the local community through visiting the "Soup and Pud" group and inviting residents to school events.

The school will help to develop the children's understanding of financial acumen by involvement with the raising funds for the building project, class charity projects as part of the R.E. curriculum and the ongoing project supporting a school in Zambia.

Anxiety

Some of our children have high levels of anxiety; an issue which seems to be becoming more prevalent. The school is looking to provide children with opportunities to reduce this, by implementing several programmes which include Thrive and Each Amazing Breath - Take Five, for which, all staff will receive training.

By encouraging the children to develop a growth mind-set (Shirley Clarke) and employing a formative assessment approach alongside a summative, our intention is to develop pupil confidence and resilience.

Improve children's general knowledge

Some of our pupils have an extensive general knowledge whilst others' have limited knowledge. In order to address this issue, we intend to increase children's exposure to current affairs through media such as Newsround and issues surrounding local and national government.

We intend to develop the children's metacognition skills through improving staff knowledge and developing a culture of research, which then filters into teaching and learning. In addition, children will be exposed to at least 25 pieces of classical music and 25 great poems during their primary school education and have a developing understanding of these throughout their time at St. Peter's.

Wrap around care

Many of our parents work and need child care at both ends of the day – school provides a well-resourced breakfast club where children are educated on breakfast manners and have a good start to the day. School to look into providing an after school club allowing wrap around care.