

Howes' Curriculum Vision Statements



Art

‘Art is the most intense mode of individualism the world has known.’

Oscar Wilde

Children at Howes Community Primary School have the opportunity to explore, appreciate and create all forms of art using their creative imaginations.

The children begin their artistic journey as they enter Early Years as they explore a variety of art and art materials individually, collaboratively and through adult guidance. This develops as they travel through school learning to appreciate different forms of art by local and historically significant artists. Children use a variety of media to develop their own artistic style through exploration in sketch books. They are able to use their artistic skills to create individual and collaborative pieces of art with a variety of media and on different scales. This can be appreciated by the wider Howes community. Being able to communicate artistically supports their knowledge as they develop their skills.

Children are able to confidently discuss and appreciate different styles of art and use media to develop and create pieces of work they can evaluate and share.

Computing

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.”

John Dewey philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer

At Howes, we aim to teach a progression of computing skills and knowledge year on year that will enable pupils to be creative, confident and independent learners, equipped with the skills they need to thrive in an ever developing and rapidly changing world.

The journey begins in Early Years, where through play and exploration, our pupils become confident and are keen to try new things and ‘have a go’. When they face challenges and encounter difficulties, we encourage them to be independent, resilient and to persevere. When working online, our children use technology safely and appropriately and our children are able to explain the rules and know right from wrong - both in the real and the on-line world. Children have many of their own ideas; they are creative in their exploration of materials, tools and techniques and they experiment in many ways, which includes the use of technology.

Throughout key stage 1 and 2, we provide a Computing curriculum which allows progression of knowledge and skills through **4 key areas** of learning: **Programming, Networks, Media/Digital Literacy** and **Online Safety**. These are the core foundations needed for pupils to be successful, however, knowledge and skills alone are not enough and for this core learning to be useful, so the children of Howes to see the purpose.

Therefore, Howes children build upon and embed prior learning through the opportunity to apply existing skills to other areas of the curriculum and in the form of ‘real world’ scenarios and opportunities which are relevant to our world today, where pupils make decisions about the best way to present their work or to solve a problem using technology and they verbalise and articulate the choices they make. Ultimately, the children of Howes will be online-safe, online-inspired and online-confident.

Design Technology

'Design is a funny word. Some people think design means how it looks, but of course, if you look deeper, it's really how it works.'

Steve Jobs

Children at Howes Community Primary School have the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity to explore, design, make and evaluate items that solve real and relevant problems.

The children begin their designing and engineering journey as they enter Early Years, they explore a variety of tools, construction materials and mechanisms through play and adult guidance to build and cook for real purposes. This develops as they travel through school exploring how things work and drawing and modelling their designs. Children confidently select appropriate tools and techniques to safely bring their plans to fruition reflecting on and developing their work as needed.

Children are independent, creative problem solvers who are able to use their skills to solve real life problems in tomorrow's rapidly changing world.

English Reading

At Howes Community Primary School, we aim to foster a love of language and reading and, therefore, attach great importance to enabling our children to become fluent readers, able to discuss a text with confidence and understanding.

- ▶ **Phonics;** Phonics and Early reading skills are taught through a highly structured programme of daily lessons across EYFS/KS1 (and beyond where needed) using a variety of fun activities and Phonics Shed resources as a tool for learning. This takes the form of whole class and mixed groups according to phonic stage and ability. Each session gives an opportunity for children to revisit their previous experience, be taught new skills, practice together and apply what they have learned.
- ▶ **Reading;** Guided Reading sessions in EYFS/KS1 focus on using and applying phonic decoding skills alongside the comprehension/ vocabulary of a text. Initially, comprehension tasks are completed orally, but this then translates into simple written recordings when appropriate. Children work in small groups reading books that they are able to easily decode and blend which focuses on decoding, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Texts selected for pupils are closely matched to their phonic stage and ability.
- ▶ In KS2, independent reading takes place daily and the use of Accelerated Reader comprehension quizzes encourages a competitive element to reading, fostering greater engagement, a love of books and reading for pleasure. Children are encouraged to talk about their favourite authors and recommend stories to others. Reading is embedded into the English Curriculum with engaging, relevant and exciting texts. Whole class reading skills sessions take place each week, where pupils are taught to apply specific skills to a given text to demonstrate their understanding and comprehension.

Pupils across the school enjoy timetabled story sessions, giving them the opportunity to hear the written word being read aloud, staff act as 'role models', using and applying character voices, expression, different sentence structures and punctuation, enabling pupils' access to a wide range of authors and text types/ vocabulary they may not be able to read/ comprehend independently. They also have a timetabled library session each week which allows them greater access to an extensive range of stimulating books they can explore for their pleasure.

Children become lovers of reading after experiencing all that Howes offer which enables them to access not only a good book, but the rest of the curriculum and become life-long achievers.

English Writing

At Howes Primary School, we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion (speaking & Listening). We aim to teach pupils a broad range of vocabulary across all subject areas by providing opportunities to talk and incorporating a key focus for spoken language skills across the curriculum. We recognise the importance of promoting a culture where children have opportunities to speak with increasing coherence, accuracy and expression whilst applying age/ stage appropriate and progressive vocabulary in a range of contexts and for a range of purposes. Promoting oracy within the classroom strengthens pedagogy, and deepens learning and critically underpins vocabulary, grammar awareness and sentence structures which directly translates to writing.

- ▶ **Oracy** - At Howes, we believe the ability to communicate with others, voice our own opinions confidently and speak eloquently in a range of contexts are essential to success in school and life. With our ever-changing society, it is more important now than ever to be a confident speaker and at our school, we provide children with the opportunities to develop these skills throughout the curriculum and have a high-quality education in learning to talk and learning through talk.
- ▶ **Writing** - At Howes, we believe that writing within primary school is a vital part of the curriculum as pupils use writing in almost all subjects. Writing gives children, a voice to share their ideas with the world and our children are encouraged to use their knowledge of a text to write for a variety of purposes and wherever possible to publish them for a selected audience.
- ▶ From their study of writing, children will acquire a life-long knowledge and understanding (deep learning). Over time, children will learn greater depth (mastery) skills to make them proficient writers, these include;
 - Reading with a writer's eye, noticing the effects a writer creates.
 - Mastering handwriting and spelling.
 - Internalising the different stages of the writing process (planning, drafting and editing and proof reading their work).
 - Writing with a reader's eye, constantly re-reading work to check that it makes sense and that the message is effectively conveyed
 - Knowing how different sorts of texts are structured, so that, over time, they can create their own structures appropriate to audience and purpose.
 - Having a feeling for grammar, varying and controlling sentence structure with ease, in order to create different language effects.
 - Being capable of writing at length while maintaining a sense of audience, purpose and organisation.

Geography

'Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future.'

Michael Palin

Children at Howes Community Primary School have the opportunity to explore and understand the world in which they live by being curious and investigative explorers.

The children begin their inquisitive journey as they enter Early Years as they explore and compare the natural world around them using observations of people and places to identify differences. This develops as they travel through school. They begin their geographical understanding by exploring where they live and the surrounding area. This radiates across Europe and the wider world as they explore using mapping skills and digital analysis. The children have opportunities to visit places and undergo field trips to support their learning. They are able to consolidate their geographical understanding through cross-curricular work so that they are able to make important links between time, places, people and objects. Being able to communicate geographically supports their knowledge as they develop their skills.

Children are curious members of their local and global community. They are aware of geographical and environmental world issues which, because of their questioning minds, will develop theirs and others' opinions to improve life on Earth.

History

‘The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.’

Theodore Roosevelt

Children at Howes Community Primary School have the opportunity to explore and understand the past which leads them to their future.

Children will begin their journey in Early Years as they explore and compare people around them and identify differences between the past and present. This develops as they move through the school. Using a range of primary and secondary sources, they will develop their historical understanding by investigating significant periods of time, events and people from the past learning how they shaped the world today. They are able to consolidate their historical understanding through cross-curricular work so that they are able to make important links between time, places, people and objects. Being able to communicate historically supports their knowledge as they develop their skills.

Children have the knowledge of historical events that have had an impact on their lives and in turn are able to use this knowledge to develop and create history themselves.

Maths

‘Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.’

Albert Einstein

Children at Howes Community Primary School have the opportunity to explore and develop their understanding of mathematical concepts. They develop their fluency of number facts and reasoning skills so they leave us confidently able to use mathematics in their everyday lives.

Children will begin their journey in Early Years as they explore mathematical concepts through explorative play, both independently and via adult guidance. This develops as they move through the school. Children start exploring maths through the use of visuals and manipulatives and progress onto abstract ideas. They are able to consolidate their mathematical understanding by becoming fluent at recalling number facts and applying this knowledge to solve mathematical problems in a variety of contexts. Being able to communicate mathematically supports their knowledge as they develop their skills.

Children have the knowledge of mathematical concepts and skills that have had an impact on their lives and in turn are able to use this knowledge to use maths as needed in their daily lives.

MFL

At Howes Primary School, we have chosen French and BSL for our Modern Foreign Languages and we use the scheme Language Angels to teach it.

We want all our children to realise their place in the wider world and learning a language is a fantastic way to open the world to our pupils. French is spoken in five different continents and is a great language for opening the door to other languages (particularly Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian). It also supports children to unlock their own language - both vocabulary, spellings and oracy - as a lot of French words have been amalgamated into the English language.

We also heavily utilise the expertise and knowledge of our Hearing Impairment Unit where we fully immerse our children in British Sign Language allowing our children to communicate with friends and family building their confidence, knowledge and oracy skills.

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon. (The National Curriculum)

Children at Howes are given the opportunity to experience the joy of music. Not only listening to it, but composing, performing and reviewing it. Children will experience live performances as a performer and as an audience. Music is embedded within school life through assemblies, performances and music appreciation which exposes children to a wide range of musical genres.

Throughout the school, we use Charanga as a scheme of work which not only develops skills and knowledge but allows children to be explorative with their learning. The interrelated dimensions of music weave through the units to encourage the development of musical skills as the learning progresses through listening and appraising, differing musical activities (including creating and exploring) and performing. This enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills. Children at Howes learn to play musical instruments as they journey through the school.

Children at Howes use music to express their feelings and can use music to support their emotional well-being. They can appreciate music of different genres identifying musical features of it. Children at Howes enjoy music.

PE

“Intelligence and skills can only function at the peak of their capacity when the body is healthy and strong.”

— **John F. Kennedy**

Children at Howes experience excellent physical education, school sport and physical activity which enables them to be mentally and physically prepared and leads to life-long enjoyment and participation.

Children begin their physical education in EYFS, with a focus on the fundamental movement skills they need to excel. Gross and fine motor skills are developed through play based learning as well as discrete PE lessons. As children progress through school they continue to experience a rich, broad and balanced curriculum which is supported by the PE Hub scheme. Children participate in indoor and outdoor learning, experiencing a wide range of sports which build and develop skills and knowledge. Opportunity for competitive sport is available to all children through the schools participation in the School Games and SEND Active Games programs and these elements are woven through the curriculum. Additionally, all children participate in inter and intra school sports festivals and competitions and have access to a wealth of extra curricular opportunities. Physical activity is an integral part of every day at Howes and children enjoy active learning across all areas of the curriculum. Sport and physical activity is used to promote core values including: teamwork, resilience, perseverance and integrity.

Children at Howes use PE to grow and develop as individuals and successful learners for life. They can use PE to support their emotional and physical well-being. They appreciate and experience a wide genre of sports and through watching, participating coaching and evaluating performance they have understanding of a range of skills and game play. Children at Howes enjoy all aspects of PE and sport.

PSHE

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman, activist for civil rights and children's rights.
(A quote endorsed as central to the development of the Jigsaw program.)

Children at Howes become healthy, independent and responsible members of society, who understand how they are developing personally and socially and are well prepared for life's opportunities.

Throughout school, we use Jigsaw as a scheme of work to develop skills and knowledge and allow children to be explorative. The scheme provides opportunity for meditation and reflection using ‘Calm Time’ and brings the children together through fun ‘Connect Me’ games. Learning through discussion and debate, every opportunity to develop oracy is capitalised on with additional ‘Time to Talk’ sessions timetabled for all classes. At Howes we providing learning opportunities across and beyond the curriculum, ensuring children contribute fully to the life of the school and community. Children are offered a plethora of opportunities to develop personally and socially and school leadership roles such as school councillors, Eco Councillors, Sports leaders and teaching/reading ambassadors are an integral part of this. Through the curriculum and assemblies we tackle many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up and teach children how to keep themselves safe. Through a robust RSE program children have knowledge and understanding of the physical and emotional changes that will occur as they grow.

Children at Howes use PSHE to grow and develop as individuals and successful learners for life. They use PSHE to support their emotional and physical well-being. Children know their rights and responsibilities and appreciate what it means to be a member of a diverse society.

RE

Our vision is to create a broad and balanced RE curriculum that:

- Promotes every classroom as a 'safe space' where every child feels represented, validated and respected enough -to embrace and share their authentic views.
- Determines a child's 'pre- understanding' and what factors may influence this.
- Encourages children to recognise and learn about the main religions in the world, appreciate different perspectives and emphasise with others.
- Allows children to focus upon one question and in a sequence of follow up lessons to further deepen understanding in a broader sense.
- Enables children to be theologians, philosophers and human social scientists.
- Enables children to read, and analyse religious scripture to interpret perspectives through the 'lens' of a particular religious group and promote theological understanding. To become proficient in handling these religious texts and hearing this as themselves but also through the writer and audience it is originally designed for.
- Encourage children not to stereotype but appreciate the breadth and diversity within a particular religion.
- Encourages children to gain knowledge and embark on research through various sources and from personal experience, visitation of religious places and experiences with religious people from various walks of life.
- Encourages children to enquire, question, discuss, and debate key issues and ideas upon ethical issues.
- Encourages children to recognise that the world is made up of many diverse religious and non- religious views and that these views are influenced by many things including beliefs, values, experiences, identities and commitments and to fully respect this.
- Enables children to harbour a world view approach to religions- to understand their view of the world while appreciating the views of others. To reflect upon the impact of others view points and how they may shape the way they think.
- Encourages children to engage in learning through various ways, enriching experiences through a range of fun, interactive and engaging lessons.
- Encourage children to embrace and experience religious festivals through fun and memorable practical activities, while recognising the significance of these.

Science

We recognise the importance of science in every aspect of daily life. As one of the core subjects, we give the teaching of science the prominence it requires. We aim to equip pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding and to encourage children to be inquisitive throughout their time at Howes Primary and science lessons are based around a knowledge-rich curriculum.

We provide our Scientists with inspiring resources, a plethora of beautiful images, film clips and songs to support various learning needs. Lessons are sequenced in a way that help children make progress and they contain a balance of the different 'Working Scientifically Skills' and 'Scientific Enquiry' types, so that children practice a broad range of skills throughout the curriculum.

We encourage our children to continue asking questions and to be curious about the world around them embedding key oracy skills and harnessing the power of talk to stimulate and extend their thinking.