

COVID - 19 Reconnection Curriculum Statement

COVID-19 has required us to reflect on our curriculum offer for our children. Within the Focus Trust, we encourage each academy to have a curriculum that is bespoke to them. However, there is an expectation that each curriculum design is underpinned by current research and ensures our children will be well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the next stage of their education. Each curriculum intent should promote the demonstration of compassion, integrity and a pursuit of excellence in order for our children to reach their potential. There should be an enquiry-based approach which takes children on a journey of memorable learning through rich and purposeful experiences, culminating in authentic outcomes which leave a legacy on the wider world. All curricula should foster an ambition for our children and staff to deepen their curiosity about, understanding of, and respect for, the world around them, whilst being supportive of their health and wellbeing, for many will have had, and continue to have, various experiences during the pandemic.

During a wider return to school, our curriculum will need to reconnect our children to school, adults and peers as they need to establish routines, rebuild their confidence, resilience and socialisation. Fluency in the basic skills of English, mathematics, and oracy, with reading at the heart to unlock the curriculum, will enable them access to the full curriculum and is therefore integral to each approach. The curriculum should be carefully designed through enquiry drivers, taking children from what they already know to newly acquired knowledge and skills. This should ensure coverage, progression and retention of transferrable knowledge and skills. It aims to provide accessible, engaging and aspirational environments where learners thrive and build the social and 'cultural capital' they need to make aspirational choices about their own future, overcoming any barriers. In order to achieve this their curriculum intent is underpinned by the following principles:

- Relevant and current
- Empowers children
- Promotes character and heart
- Impacts on long-term memory
- Provides wide-ranging opportunities

Our trust ambition is to ensure that our children thrive, achieve and succeed and that our academies are the best they can be, serving the community they are part of. As part of this, we celebrate the unique nature of each great academy at the heart of its' community. Our ethos and values of 'care, dare, fair, share' encourage a bespoke curriculum that meets the needs of each community. The implementation of these core elements and principles will provide all children with the support, knowledge and skills they are entitled to learn. We aim to make every lesson count.

We are highly ambitious for all our children, irrespective of their background or academic prowess. All staff know the key knowledge and skills that children should achieve at the end of each year and learning is carefully planned to meet these points. We ensure the intent of the curriculum considers the needs of our disadvantaged pupils with a 'pedagogy of power', not a 'pedagogy of poverty'. Our children with special educational needs and disabilities are also provided with a rich and relevant curriculum which, where possible, matches that of their peers. The curriculum is not narrowed as children get older. All children, throughout the school, receive a broad and balanced curriculum which is aimed at improving their knowledge and skills in a progressive manner.

With a wider return, we will ensure that all our children have the essential support, basic skills, knowledge and love of learning to reconnect with school and be ready to thrive in the next stage of their education.

