

Academy Curriculum Rationale & Approach



Our academy logo represents the journey that our children take through our curriculum provision. Building on the roots of the knowledge and skills needed to develop **well-educated, confident, creative and passionate individuals** who are responsible **global citizens**; the children have access to a wide range of learning opportunities throughout their time here at Heathfield Academy.

The structured trunk of our curriculum, is comprised of rigorous curriculum progression from the Early Years Foundation Stage, through successive key stages. The leaves and foliage, which adorn our curriculum, include retrieval and rehearsal of key knowledge; rich language development to address the vocabulary deficit faced by many of our children and considered creative enrichment opportunities at every juncture of our children's development.

Curriculum Progression and Coverage

The academy's focus on curriculum development is carefully designed to ensure comprehensive coverage and progression. When planning the curriculum at Heathfield Academy, we take into account the passions and interests of the children and community we serve, to ensure the curriculum reflects our children and gives them the broadest window to see the world through. Each curriculum area is carefully mapped out to ensure progression from the Early Years Foundation Stage all the way through to Year 6. Each year builds upon the prior year to support the development of children's long-term memory schema and ensure that unnecessary repetition is avoided.

Retrieval and rehearsal

Retrieval practice is embedded within the beginning of lessons for each curriculum area to support the development of the long term memory and to consolidate prior learning. This rehearsal, in turn, develops our children's fluency within each curriculum area and increases their pace of understanding. As part of this chronological progression of knowledge, key questions and milestones are shared from each year group, to populate 'retrieval quadrants'. These comprise of carefully selected and structured elements from prior learning, designed to consolidate existing knowledge.

Language Development

There is a high focus on developing children's vocabulary, speaking and language, as this supports all children but particularly the large percentage of EAL children we serve within our community. Within each lesson, star words are highlighted to ensure key and ambitious vocabulary is pre-taught to the children. Furthermore, to support the development of language understanding within the Academy, we focus on teaching word classes and sentence structure of new vocabulary. The teaching of this vocabulary is supported further with accompanying visual representations of each word.

Enrichment

We know that powerful, positive experiences enhance the retention of knowledge and love of learning new things. Our commitment to providing our children with rich, stimulating and immersive experiences as part of their learning provision, catalyses these desirable outcomes. The children's interests are frequently used as a starting point for engaging interest, providing pupils with a range of memorable experiences, knowledge and vocabulary that they might not otherwise experience. A primary focus of our curriculum is to develop successful learners with transferrable knowledge and skills and provide a purpose, context and relevance for learning.