



## Walton Primary Academy EYFS Curriculum Intent

***'To enable independent and resilient learners who gain the skills for lifelong learning.'***

We want children to feel confident in embracing the challenges and opportunities that life gives them, knowing that they are unique individuals who can achieve their best potential being supported in their learning by adults, rather than being dependent upon them. We embrace the Characteristics of Effective Learning at the heart of our EYFS provision. To become lifelong learners we believe that our children need to be independent and resilient to enable them to embrace challenge. We have a strong focus on developing social skills and language, to encourage them to work cooperatively together; taking turns, sharing fairly and solving problems.

We would like our children to be citizens of a multicultural world, to understand and embrace that everyone is an individual and to understand and value their own and others' beliefs. We strive to create awe and wonder and first hand experiences; we understand that children learn more when learning is put into a real life context. This also increases the range of language that children use and are exposed to. Our planning of topics and enhancements is carefully designed to meet the key skills that our children need to learn and the interests of our children, whilst ensuring that learning is brought to life using first hand experiences and by bringing in visitors. Our topics have planned hooks which are related to books and surprise scenarios. We understand that children have higher wellbeing and involvement levels when they are excited and have a purpose for learning. Adults model and teach the key vocabulary to ensure our children are exposed to a language rich environment. Formative and summative assessment and an in depth holistic knowledge of our children helps us to plan for future learning which builds on what they know and can do, in preparation for future learning.

Positive behaviour management strategies are adopted by all adults to ensure that children are nurtured and encouraged to demonstrate their best behaviour at all times. We view ourselves as partners in learning with the families of our children; valuing their knowledge of their child's home learning and the wealth of experiences that they have. We include families in our curriculum by planning opportunities for them to be included in curriculum events and themed days. Learning Book and ParentHub enable families to view what their child is learning at school and to contribute towards creating a holistic bank of assessment evidence by adding home learning.

Reading is at the heart of the school curriculum and in order to inspire a love of reading we use the following strategies:

- 📖 Phonics; systematic synthetic phonics is taught daily through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, including the teaching of high frequency words, with catch up groups taking place in addition to these lessons to help narrow the gap for lower attaining children, a focused phonics table is based in the continuous provision alongside phonics opportunities being fed into all areas and half termly phonics assessment allows thorough data analysis to take place
- 📖 Whole school Big Cat reading scheme; decodable books that match the phonics level of each child are read three times weekly during Reading Practice Sessions and are then taken home over the weekend
- 📖 Children will choose from a wide range of books for reading for pleasure during the week to be taken home and read with an adult
- 📖 Reading Practice Sessions take place three times weekly for each group of children
- 📖 Lower attaining children have access to 1:1 reading sessions
- 📖 Books feed into topics and continuous provision areas
- 📖 Whole class story at the end of every day based on the morning book vote
- 📖 Begin sending home reading books at end of nursery
- 📖 Helicopter stories to introduce drama and role-play into Literacy
- 📖 Drama; introducing the children to freeze frames to discuss the thoughts and feelings of the characters to help develop their comprehension skills
- 📖 Sequencing cards, small world characters and puppets are used to retell stories