

The Four Cornerstones of Learning

These cornerstones form the essential foundation of outstanding teaching and learning and underpin this curriculum:

The 'Engage' Stage: learners engage in purposeful and contextualised learning experiences; in and outside the classroom, making use of partners, experts and the community to provide the stimulus to learn.

Children are supported in exploring, enquiring and investigating initial ideas and experiences around the theme. This is where we promote speaking and listening skills, questioning and developing relationships with the children.

During this stage children:

- Gain memorable first-hand experiences, such as going on a visit or inviting a special visitor into school
- Enjoy 'WOW' experiences
- Get an exciting introduction to a topic or theme
- Begin researching and setting enquiry questions
- Get lots of opportunities to make observations
- Develop spoken language skills
- Take part in sensory activities
- Have lots of fun to fully 'engage' with their new topic

The 'Develop' Stage: Learners develop their knowledge, understanding, key and subject skills required to progress their learning through quality differentiation and focused learning tasks and experiences. These are carefully chosen to cater for the abilities and needs of the children in our school to ensure the children gain the skills and knowledge necessary to make progress through the project.

During this stage children:

- Improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic
- Develop and practice their new skills
- Compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes and read their own questions and those set by others
- Follow new pathways of enquiry based on their interests



Innovate: Learners are given the opportunity to innovate by applying their knowledge, skills and understanding, through a challenging provocation, using their own and negotiated ideas.

A provocation is a challenge, a problem or scenario presented to the children to stimulate their creative thinking. It enables children to work in various ways using

and applying the skills, knowledge and understanding they have gained during the first two stages of learning.

This stage re-engages the children giving them purpose and negotiated ownership of their learning.

During this stage children:

- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in real-life contexts
- Solve real or imagined problems using everything they've learnt
- Get inspired by imaginative and creative opportunities
- Revisit anything not fully grasped at the 'Develop' stage

Express: Learners express and evaluate their knowledge, understanding and skills as outcomes of the learning in different memorable forms, including using a variety of media and technology. We are fortunate to have the expertise of 'Creative beat' working with us in school to support us in this area.

This is towards the end of the topic, where children complete the challenge of the provocation, complete and reflect on their work and perform and talk about their learning and achievement.

During this stage children:

- Become the performers, experts and informers
- Celebrate and share their achievements with parents, classmates and the community
- Evaluate finished products and processes
- Link what they have learnt to where they started

