

Jesus said “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Matthew 13:31-32

Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School



Believe Grow Succeed

Curriculum Statement

Version 4

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1. Intent

Inspired by the parable of the Mustard Seed, we believe that even the smallest beginnings can grow into something strong and far-reaching. At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, we nurture every child so that their knowledge, confidence and character can grow and flourish.

Guided by our Christian vision of the Mustard Seed, we believe that every small step in learning has the potential to grow into something significant. Our curriculum nurtures curiosity, resilience and confidence, helping every child to grow academically, socially and spiritually. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils build secure knowledge and skills over time, enabling them to make meaningful connections in their learning.

We value each child as a unique individual and build upon the experiences they bring to their learning journey. Through exploration, discussion, discovery and reflection, we aim to connect children's learning with our Christian values and encourage pupils to develop:

- Curiosity and enquiring minds
- Confidence and independence
- Respect for others and the wider world
- Creativity and imagination
- Positive relationships and collaboration
- Resilience and a growth mindset
- Awe and wonder about the world

Through our carefully planned curriculum, we nurture the small seeds of potential within every child, enabling them to flourish and develop the knowledge and skills needed for the future.

2. Mission Statement

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, our mission is rooted in our Christian vision inspired by the parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32). Just as the smallest seed can grow into a strong and flourishing tree, we believe that when children are nurtured, supported and inspired, their potential can grow in remarkable ways.

As a small village school, we provide a warm and supportive environment where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. We recognise that each pupil brings unique experiences, talents and interests to our school community.

As members of the Diocese of St Albans family of church schools, and through our close partnership with St Peter's Church in Tewin, our Christian values underpin everything we do.

Through a rich and engaging curriculum, we aim to develop pupils who are:

- Curious and enquiring learners
- Confident and resilient individuals
- Creative and reflective thinkers
- Respectful members of their community

Learning at Tewin Cowper is designed to be purposeful, challenging and enjoyable, equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need for lifelong learning. We hold high expectations for every pupil and are committed to ensuring all children achieve their potential.

3. Curriculum Principles

- Our curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to:
- Experience the challenge and enjoyment of learning
- Develop rich and secure subject knowledge
- Develop new skills through a variety of engaging contexts
- Demonstrate creativity and imagination
- Understand the purpose and relevance of their learning
- Develop positive learning behaviours such as collaboration and resilience
- Develop mastery and confidence in key skills
- Build and retain knowledge over time through carefully sequenced learning

Purpose

During their time at Tewin Cowper, our aim is for children to grow into confident, reflective and creative individuals who approach learning with curiosity and determination. Through a subject-specific curriculum, pupils develop deep knowledge and understanding through enquiry, exploration and meaningful experiences. Small steps in learning are carefully sequenced so that knowledge grows progressively over time. Our aim is to inspire a lifelong love of learning and help every child flourish from the small seeds of potential planted during their time at Tewin Cowper.

4. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) & Fundamental British Values (FBV)

Our curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Pupils are encouraged to:

Spiritual

- Explore beliefs, experiences and values
- Reflect on their own learning and experiences
- Use imagination and creativity

Moral

- Understand the difference between right and wrong
- Respect the law and understand consequences
- Explore moral and ethical issues

Social

- Work collaboratively with others
- Participate in their community
- Develop respect for diverse viewpoints

Cultural

- Appreciate cultural influences and diversity
- Participate in cultural opportunities
- Understand the role of Britain's democratic systems

Fundamental British Values are embedded throughout the curriculum and include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Purpose

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, we are committed to promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development and teaching Fundamental British Values. These important aspects of learning are woven throughout our curriculum and embedded within the daily life, relationships and culture of our school community.

Through our curriculum and wider school experiences, pupils develop key personal qualities including teamwork, resilience, independence, empathy, tolerance and respect. These qualities help children to grow in confidence and character, reflecting our vision that the small seeds planted in school can grow into strong and flourishing individuals.

Our aim is for pupils to leave Tewin Cowper well prepared for life in modern Britain, with a clear understanding of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

We encourage pupils to treat others with kindness and respect, valuing people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds. Children are supported to reflect on their learning, develop positive relationships and contribute to a caring and inclusive school community.

Our village and church community play an important role in enriching pupils' understanding of belonging and service. Through experiences such as collective worship, church services, allotment visits, community events and shared celebrations, pupils develop a strong sense of connection with the world around them.

Special events including Christmas art evenings, Maypole dancing on the village green and family reading sessions help strengthen the partnership between school, families and the local community. These experiences encourage pupils to recognise their role within a wider community and understand how their actions can positively influence others.

Through these opportunities, we nurture pupils to grow as thoughtful, respectful and responsible members of society, ready to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world.

5. Wellbeing for All

Our curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop self-esteem and confidence in their abilities
- Learn how to respect themselves and others
- Explore their interests and develop their own identity
- Reflect thoughtfully and think mindfully about their learning
- Recognise and celebrate that people have different strengths and talents
- Work collaboratively in a range of groups and settings
- Build positive and respectful friendships
- Learn in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment
- Develop an understanding of feelings, emotions and mental wellbeing

Purpose

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, the wellbeing of every child is central to our ethos. We aim to create a nurturing environment where pupils feel valued, safe and supported, enabling them to grow in confidence and develop a strong sense of self.

Through developing self-esteem and confidence, we encourage children to believe in their ability to succeed, regardless of their starting point or background. We help pupils to recognise their individual strengths and interests while understanding and appreciating the uniqueness of others.

We promote a growth mindset, supporting children to view challenges and mistakes as valuable learning opportunities. Through reflection and thoughtful discussion, pupils develop resilience and learn how to approach their learning with confidence and determination.

Our curriculum encourages collaboration and teamwork. By working with different peers in a variety of settings, pupils learn to appreciate different perspectives, support one another and celebrate both individual and shared achievements.

The environment at Tewin Cowper is one where children feel they belong and can make a positive difference. Pupils are encouraged to take pride in their efforts, develop independence and support each other in their learning journey.

This positive and supportive culture is underpinned by our shared learning expectations:

Be Ready
Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Honest

Together, these expectations help create a school community built on mutual respect, responsibility and care for one another, enabling every child to flourish.

6. Inclusion

Our curriculum is inclusive by:

- Ensuring that every pupil can access all areas of the curriculum
- Providing lessons that are adaptable and responsive to pupils' needs
- Supporting teachers and support staff to use effective adaptive teaching strategies across all subjects
- Using assessment to inform teaching, ensuring learning builds from pupils' starting points
- Providing appropriate support, challenge and resources so that all learners can succeed

Purpose

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, we are committed to developing an inclusive curriculum in which all pupils can participate, engage and succeed.

We recognise that every child is unique and brings different strengths, experiences and potential to their learning. By understanding each pupil's individual needs and any barriers to learning, we are able to provide carefully planned support and challenge that enables every child to make progress.

Our approach focuses on adaptive teaching, where learning is carefully adjusted to ensure pupils can access the curriculum while still being appropriately challenged. This may include scaffolding, targeted support, varied resources and opportunities for deeper learning.

We believe that inclusion is about providing equity rather than equality. This means ensuring that pupils receive the support and opportunities they need to achieve their potential, rather than simply providing the same provision for all.

Through this approach, we aim to create a learning environment where every child feels valued, supported and able to flourish, enabling all pupils to reach their full potential. Leaders monitor the impact of inclusive practice to ensure that all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, make strong progress.

7. Pupil Voice

Our curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to:

- Make a positive contribution to the school and local community
- Share what they enjoy about their learning and suggest improvements
- Make choices about aspects of their learning and school life
- Take part in democratic processes across the curriculum
- Express their views on a range of topics and issues
- Participate actively in discussion, debate and collaborative learning

Purpose

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, we believe that pupils should play an active role in shaping their learning and contributing to the life of the school. Encouraging pupil voice helps children to develop confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning.

Pupils participate in democratic activities across the school, including voting for representatives for the School Council, Eco Council and House Captains. Through these roles, children have opportunities to share ideas, make decisions and take leadership within the school community.

The School Council and Eco Council meet regularly to plan initiatives such as raising money for charities, promoting environmental responsibility and supporting improvements within the school. Pupils involved in these groups often lead assemblies and help communicate ideas to the wider school community.

Through subject monitoring and pupil discussions, children are also encouraged to share their views about their learning. This feedback helps teachers and school leaders to reflect on and develop the curriculum so that pupil engagement remains at the heart of our planning.

Throughout the curriculum, pupils are encouraged to discuss important issues, listen respectfully to different viewpoints and express their own opinions thoughtfully. These experiences help children to develop critical thinking skills and confidence as they grow and progress through their journey at Tewin Cowper.

8. Pedagogy

Our curriculum is taught in a way that:

- Encourages and nurtures children's natural curiosity and love of learning
- Promotes creativity, innovation and independent thinking

- Supports pupils to reflect on and evaluate their learning
- Helps pupils retain and retrieve knowledge over time
- Uses adaptive teaching approaches to ensure all pupils can access learning and achieve their potential

Purpose

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, teaching is designed to engage pupils' curiosity and inspire them to think deeply about the world around them. Through carefully planned lessons and meaningful learning experiences, we aim to capture pupils' interests and encourage them to become active and motivated learners.

Our curriculum is progressively sequenced, enabling pupils to build upon prior knowledge and develop increasingly secure understanding over time. Teachers support pupils to retain knowledge through regular opportunities to recall, revisit and apply what they have learned, helping learning to become embedded in long-term memory. Teachers regularly check pupils' understanding and adapt teaching to address misconceptions and deepen learning.

We encourage pupils to become critical thinkers and problem solvers, giving them opportunities to explore ideas, ask questions and apply their knowledge across different contexts. Through cross-curricular links and real-life learning opportunities, pupils develop independence, creativity and strong communication skills.

Foundation subjects such as History, Geography and Art are taught discretely so that pupils can develop strong subject knowledge and understand the distinctive skills and concepts within each discipline. This enables children to become confident learners who understand how knowledge is developed within different subjects.

Teachers use adaptive teaching strategies to ensure that learning is accessible and appropriately challenging for all pupils. Through thoughtful questioning, scaffolding and targeted support, every child is supported to make progress from their starting point.

Through this approach, pupils develop the confidence and skills to reflect on their learning, adapt their thinking and deepen their understanding, enabling them to grow as knowledgeable and capable learners.

9. Enrichment

We enrich our curriculum by:

- Providing on-site and off-site visits linked to curriculum learning
- Offering opportunities for outdoor learning and exploration
- Organising specialist curriculum days and themed learning weeks
- Welcoming parents, carers and members of the community to share learning experiences
- Using high-quality resources and real-life experiences to deepen understanding

Purpose

At Tewin Cowper CofE Primary School, we believe that enrichment experiences play an important role in bringing learning to life and helping children to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. Through a range of visits, visitors and hands-on experiences, pupils are given opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Educational visits allow children to experience their learning first-hand and develop a deeper connection with the subjects they study. For example, a visit to Celtic Harmony Camp enriches Year 3's learning about Stone Age Britain, helping pupils to experience aspects of history through practical activities and immersive experiences.

Visitors and specialist workshops also provide valuable opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of different topics. For example, Year 1 and Year 4 have taken part in immersive Victorian workshops, while Reception pupils enjoyed learning about animals through a visit from Ranger Stu, who introduced them to a range of creatures and habitats.

Throughout the year, pupils benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities including:

- Allotment visits and outdoor learning
- Church services led by each class
- School trips and visiting speakers
- Writing and reading events
- Sporting events with our local school partnership group
- A whole school visit to Kew Gardens
- Residential trips
- PSHE visits such as the Life Bus
- Scooter and bike training
- World Book Day celebrations
- Lunchtime clubs and sporting opportunities
- Music tuition through Rocksteady Music School, where pupils have the opportunity to learn instruments, perform in bands and develop confidence through live performances
- Family reading workshops
- Visits from authors and illustrators
- Theatre performances and choir events

These experiences help to broaden pupils' cultural capital and deepen their understanding of the world beyond their immediate environment. Our school is fortunate to be located in the beautiful countryside of Hertfordshire, which provides many opportunities for outdoor learning. Pupils may explore the local environment through field studies or visit the school allotment, where they can harvest vegetables grown by Year 4 and develop an understanding of sustainability and the natural world.

Through these experiences, pupils are encouraged to be creative, curious and innovative, applying the knowledge and skills they have developed in meaningful ways. For example, Year 2 pupils designed and created a new chair for Baby Bear as part of their Design and Technology learning.

We believe it is important for children to understand why they are learning new knowledge and skills and to see how their learning connects to real-life experiences. Each sequence of learning has a clear purpose and provides opportunities for pupils to create, perform or present their work.

Parents and carers are welcomed as partners in learning and are regularly invited to share in pupils' achievements and experiences. This may include attending performances, participating in workshops or supporting events organised by the children.

Through these enriching opportunities, the small seeds of curiosity and learning planted in the classroom are nurtured and given the opportunity to grow into confidence, creativity and a lifelong love of learning.