

Our Curriculum Intent Statement

The aim of the federation is to provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident, successful learners with high aspirations who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and wider society. Across both schools, there is a high focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding. At Newington this includes opportunities to explore and reflect on the world within the context of Christian teachings. This open approach aims to ensure that children are well prepared for life in modern Britain. We use our values as a vehicle for this and to frame all our learning.

The federation provides highly inclusive environments where virtually all learners enjoy their education and most make very good progress. Pupils at all levels are helped to achieve their potential. This is reflected at Lower Halstow in our core value of '**perseverance**' and at Newington in our Christian value '**flourishing**'. Those who are most able are challenged and supported through appropriate extension activities. Those who struggle are encouraged and given targeted support to embed skills, to develop at their own pace or learn in a way that best suits their needs.

The federation's current focus on curriculum development is carefully designed to ensure coverage and progression but also to engage pupils in learning that stretches beyond the school gates. It provides pupils with **memorable experiences**, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. We go beyond the national curriculum to include elements of life relevant to our pupils. The children's own community, its heritage and traditions are frequently used as a starting point for engaging interest. A primary focus of our curriculum is to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in achievement, and provide a purpose and relevance for learning.

Subject leaders play an important part in the success of the curriculum by leading a regular programme of monitoring, evaluation and review. The new subject leadership team has been tasked with developing innovative practice across the federation and engaging all staff in curriculum development. Teams are working together to develop cross curricular themes and topics that help content make sense to our pupils and provide a relevant context for learning. This curriculum design ensures that the needs of individual and small groups of children can be met within the environment of high quality first teaching, supported by targeted interventions where appropriate.

Above all, we believe that enjoyment of the curriculum in an environment where children feel safe to try new things promotes achievement, confidence and positive behaviour and helps form good habits for success later in life.