



# Curriculum Intent

## What is Abbotswood really like?



*"My recent visit confirmed that the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is, quite simply, as good as it gets! I hold the quality of what is going on in your classrooms as 'outstanding' and amongst the best I have experienced in 32 years of working in education in Hampshire."*  
**(School Improvement Manager, Hampshire County Council)**

*"The Headteacher has nurtured a team of dedicated, highly skilled teachers and leaders who share an ambitious vision for pupils at the school. An excellent culture of professional learning, grounded in improvements to teaching, has led to teachers transforming opportunities for pupils at the school."* **(Ofsted)**



### What is it like to be a child at Abbotswood? (House Captains)

"The range of topics is amazing. I love Hook Day. We then share our learning with others at the end of each topic."

"The number of opportunities at Abbotswood are great!"

"The teachers are so supportive. If you are finding things tricky, they will pick you up and guide you back on track."

"Abbotswood is a really helpful community and the school is a great place to be."

"We get to go on lots of school trips and residential...and you even learn when you are there!"

## What is special about our school?

At Abbotswood Junior School, we aim to give children a unique learning experience, which will prepare them for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In such a large school, we pride ourselves on our sense of teamwork with a shared vision for learning. So, what do we feel is unique about our school?



We have divided the curriculum into 3 areas:

### 1. Teaching Curriculum Intent

- We aim to offer a unique, quite different brand of teaching to most other schools. This is based on the belief that every child has different needs and must be challenged or supported at the earliest opportunity.
- Our individualised teaching style is unique to Abbotswood and we aim to develop independent and resilient children who have a love of learning.
- This unique style of teaching is based on 'Cutaway'\*, a consistent theme which runs throughout the school. Everyone involved with the school is fully committed to this principle.

*"Learning is carefully and precisely planned. Teachers respond quickly to pupils when they are working, making appropriate arrangements to accommodate pupils' different needs, and building pupils' confidence to find solutions independently."* **(Ofsted)**

*"Your teachers and teaching assistants are providing a degree of quality that is, truly, 'outstanding' at the current time. Amazing!"* **(School Improvement Manager, Hampshire County Council)**

*"High quality inclusive provision is consistently evident in all classes visited and, as a result, all pupils including vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils are supported well to make good progress."* **(LLP, Hampshire County Council)**

## 2. Subject Curriculum Intent

There is a restlessness to improve with a relentless focus on developing Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum that is led by the Headteacher.

*"An exciting curriculum uses first-hand experiences and high-quality texts to inspire learning."*  
**(Ofsted)**

- We believe that a strong grounding in Maths and English is vital for all children.
- Our integrated curriculum provides a context for rich, exciting and memorable learning experiences planned within half-termly topics. Topics are planned as learning journeys which motivate the children with an exciting 'hook' and finish with an 'outcome' to provide a real purpose and audience.
- Our Abbotswood values are promoted throughout the curriculum so that children can have a firm foundation for life-long learning and recognise that *'it really does matter'*.

## 3. Cultural Curriculum Intent

*"In the UK, talent is everywhere but opportunity isn't."*

- However, at Abbotswood we strongly believe that, given the right circumstances, every child can achieve extraordinary things.
- We also believe that the safety, positive mental health and well-being of our children is at the heart of all that we do.
- We seek to create a happy school that promotes positive relationships between everyone within it.

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\* Definitions:



'Cutaway' is a teaching tool that we use to ensure that learning is personalised to meet the needs of every individual child. This involves the child being 'cut away' to their tables when they have demonstrated that they understand their work to begin their independent learning. From here, children may be 'cut back' to work with either the teacher or LSA to either address the misconceptions or move the learning on to the next step.

'Assessment for Learning' (AfL) is a process of finding out where children are in their learning, where they need to go next and how best to get them there.

### **STARS – Our Abbotswood Values:**



**STICKABILITY** – Build resilience and show grit in every day experiences and situations.



**TEAMWORK** – Encourage children to support each other.



**ASPIRATION** – Challenge children to be the best they can be.



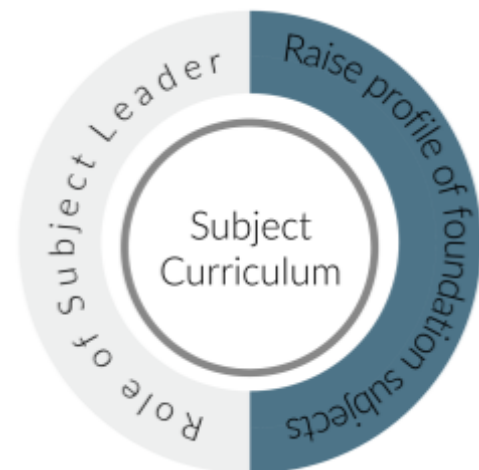
**RESPECT** – Develop children that value themselves and those around them.



**STRETCH** – Promote the belief that anything is achievable with hard work and effort.

### **So, where next?**

At Abbotswood Junior School, there is a recognition that we are all learners and that we are always learning. We realise that we are not perfect and there is always room for improvement. Therefore, as a staff team, we have identified the following areas, which we would like to develop further over the next year:



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