



South Hiendley Primary School

OPEN FUTURES POLICY

Subject Leader: Vicki Foster
Date: May 2018
Next Review: September 2019



Rationale

Open Future is about joined up thinking and working right across the curriculum. It is not an 'extra', but a whole school curriculum initiative. It is an alternative way of meeting the learning needs of our children and at the same time providing an opportunity to discover and develop social and practical skills, personal interests and values which will contribute to their education and enhance their adult lives.

Our Open Futures Curriculum consists of three strands:

- Grow it
- Cook it
- Ask it

It seeks to address current concerns about children's health and well being and about cultural education for children in a rapidly changing and diverse world. It gives children hands-on learning opportunities to awaken interests and stimulate curiosity about the world around them.

Open Futures links to many key issues in school:

- Healthy Schools
- Every child Matters
- Personalised learning
- Providing a broad and rich curriculum
- Developing and deepening the relationships between school, parents and the community
- Improving attendance
- Supporting the whole welfare of the child
- Achievement in PSHE, citizenship, emotional health and wellbeing, healthy eating, physical activity
- Opportunities for children to explore the natural world
- Developing the use of IT
- Development of life skills

Attitudes

Open Futures reinforces the school's vision to:

- **Broaden** children's interests and experience of the world around them through practical experiences
- **Explore** culture in its broadest sense
- **Develop** children's practical life skills, and through this, help to develop their self-esteem and their confidence
- **Develop** children's ability to care and show concern

- **Help** children to become informed pro-active citizens as they develop, contributing to the community and showing respect for themselves, others, other cultures and the environment
- **Develop** links with the community and with each other

Skills

Open Futures places emphasis on the acquisition of:

- Practical, creative, life enhancing, healthy skills useful to children immediately and later in their adult lives.
- Thinking, enquiry and communication skills which helps pupils to be more in charge of their own learning and aims to increase their interest, confidence and motivation

Teaching and learning aims

The Open Future curriculum aims to:

- raise attainment in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and IT by working in context on work appropriate to pupils of all abilities
- ensure children have appropriate skills, attitudes and confidence to become active independent learners
- involve and support parents in strategies to promote healthy eating
- increase motivation and thereby improve attendance and behaviour
- help children make a positive economic contribution to society
- provide a rich and broad curriculum which includes a wide range of practical activities in and out of school
- provide opportunities for children to explore the natural world
- revitalise teachers as creative learners themselves

As well as the overarching aims of the project, there are some teaching and learning aims specific to each strand:

Grow It is about helping children to plant, nurture and harvest vegetables and fruit thus developing their levels of appreciation and understanding of plants, produce and the seasons. The children use proper tools under the guidance of fully trained staff. As they are growing they are learning too. Maths: measuring out the beds before digging, Science: looking at the insects and invertebrates they dig up Health: planning what to grow in the garden, Global Citizenship: cooking recipes from different parts of the world, Geography: where do the ingredients come from? History: 'Dig for Victory', Literacy: expanding their vocabulary as they discuss what they are doing.

Cook It engages children with hands-on experience of preparing produce to eat and so providing a good culinary understanding of how the fruit and vegetables they grow in school relate to their own physical development and wellbeing. It increases pupils' knowledge of nutrition, healthy eating, food chain principles, food hygiene and safety. They are taught to use proper equipment and chef's techniques for slicing tomatoes, onions etc under the guidance of trained staff. Many children do not regularly share food with families and lack of awareness of a healthy diet has contributed to the crisis in children's health. The more children are given ownership of the food they eat and the opportunity to engage with the actual growing of fruit and vegetables, preparing and cooking their produce, the more adventurous they become with what they are prepared to actually taste and eat.

Ask It, also referred to as Philosophy for Children (P4C), focuses on thinking skills and communal dialogue ('philosophising'), and contributes towards Literacy, Citizenship, RE, PSHE, Science and the Humanities. It aims to build 'Communities of Enquiry' where children develop creative, critical, caring and collaborative thinking skills. P4C sessions provide opportunities to discuss issues that are meaningful, as the children practice skills of negotiation, seeing things from another perspective and making decisions together.

How Open Future is delivered through the school

At South Hiendley Primary School, Open Futures is taught regularly on a weekly basis by HLTAs and TA's during PPA time. Each of the strands is also available throughout the school, at the discretion of teachers.

Grow It has to be planned for in regular slots in order to maintain healthy plants and a well kept environment. It is timetabled for small groups one afternoon per week. The school garden, 'polytunnel' and wildlife area are also available at any time for whole class lessons.

Cook It has one regular afternoon session timetabled for Key Stages 1 and 2. Cooking activities are used to enhance the EYFS curriculum especially in Understanding of the World and Creative and Expressive Arts. Cook it resources are also available for either small group or whole class teaching. Small group sessions focus on the progressive acquisition of practical skills and techniques and the understanding of how to use potentially dangerous equipment. Where the emphasis is on acquiring these cooking skills, lessons are best undertaken in small groups. There is also a place for whole class teaching, linked to topic work, where all children are involved. At all times, safety and the level of children's involvement in their learning should be the key in deciding which approach to take.

Ask It (P4C) is linked to English, (Speaking and Listening) and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning), and is slotted into the timetable at appropriate times.

It is also taught by an HLTA to each class at least once a week. British Values also forms part of this session as the areas are closely intertwined. Follow up sessions from the weekly 'Picture News' assembly are also incorporated allowing the children to make and strengthen links.

Equal opportunities

Open Future is accessible to all pupils, regardless of gender, race or ability and can play a very effective role in breaking down stereotypes and exploring the traditions of different cultures. Open Futures lessons ensure we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to the different needs of the children. At South Hiendley Primary School, Open Futures has strong links with 'Outdoor Learning' and 'British Values.' Teachers should be aware of any physical disability that may affect a child's ability to access the lessons and make appropriate provision for that child.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Simple end of year feedback sheets give an indication of which aspects the children have particularly enjoyed and which aspects have impacted on life at home. This helps to give direction and focus to the next year's cycle of work. Monitoring and assessment in English, Maths and Science reflects the impact on standards in these subjects.

Review

Reviewed: September 2018
Review Date: September 2020