



### **Methlick School- The Rationale for our Curriculum**

**Our vision:** To provide and sustain an education of the highest quality which develops every child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential within a safe, happy and healthy learners.

To achieve this vision, it is essential that we develop a structured curriculum which ensures that all children are provided with what they need to maximise their potential and meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our school values and aims underpin our rationale for the curriculum and help us to create a positive, nurturing ethos in which we can all learn together.

**Our school values** are: GREAT = **G**row, **R**espect, **E**xperience, **A**chieve, **T**ogether

Through the delivery of our curriculum, we aim to:

- To achieve the best for each child through partnership between learners, staff, parents and the wider community
- To promote equality, diversity and inclusion for all
- To manage and deliver programmes and activities to meet the needs of all learners
- To promote positive liaison between all stakeholders and the community where the views of everyone are valued
- To recognise and celebrate attainment and achievement in school and the wider community
- To continually monitor, track and evaluate the quality of our service.

Children at Methlick School follow a curriculum that embraces the guidance contained in 'A Curriculum for Excellence' (CfE). The curriculum is the totality of experiences which are planned for the children around the Ethos and Life of the School as a Community, the 8 Curricular Areas, Interdisciplinary Learning and Opportunities for Personal Achievement. It also provides learners with the six Aberdeenshire Entitlements and is built on the 7 Principles of Curriculum Design- Breadth, Depth, Challenge and Enjoyment, Personalisation and Choice, Coherence, Progression and Relevance.

Our Curriculum and learning environment are child centred and designed to be accessible to all. We aim to provide effective learning and teaching which is responsive to the pupils' needs and interests and in which they are actively involved. We continuously strive to provide stimulating, relevant experiences which motivate and engage our learners and improve attainment and wider achievement for all. Self-evaluation and reflection are encouraged at all levels within our school community so that we can identify what has the greatest impact on pupil learning and outcomes in our constant drive for improvement.

We want our curriculum in Methlick to focus on:

- instilling strong values and creating a positive, inclusive ethos in all that we do
- the culture, history and heritage of our local community and celebrate diversity and equality
- the language and rich environmental resources surrounding the school whilst promoting outdoor learning, the work of Eco Schools and the importance of sustainability

- creative and enterprising opportunities and an understanding of the ‘world of work’ and collaboration with outside partnerships
- the many benefits of collaboration and co-operative working and the skills involved in this

Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the school community at every stage. They have a range of opportunities to lead their own learning and can be instrumental in bringing about change/improvement in our school. Pupil groups include Pupil Council, House Captains, Rota Kids, Eco Group, JRSO, Rights Respecting Group and Modern Languages Group. These groups deliver a range of exciting initiatives and events which help us to provide a rich and varied curriculum.

Our curriculum has a balance of discrete subject learning and contextualised learning across curricular areas. Skills are developed through the delivery of experiences and outcomes and these are progressive, beginning at Early Level for pupils in P1 and moving through First and Second Level (or for some, Third Level) by P7. The skills which our pupils develop will provide them with a sound basis for their development as lifelong learners, enabling them to maximise their potential. Our curriculum aims to foster key skills in communication, problem solving, critical thinking, inquiry, analysis, investigation and social/ personal awareness and interaction. We also hope to develop resilience and increasing independence as children move through the stages in our school. In particular we have a strong focus on promoting Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing in our drive to raise attainment for all.

The 8 curricular areas are:

Languages

Mathematics

Health and Wellbeing

Social Subjects

Sciences

Technologies

Expressive Arts

Religious Education

Consideration is given to the way we plan, with regular opportunities for children to contribute to the process. Learning experiences are made relevant through real life contexts whenever possible. Interdisciplinary Learning allows children to make meaningful connections between different areas of learning. A wide range of teaching strategies and resources are implemented by all staff and approaches to learning and assessment are varied and pupil-centred and student led. Pupils are encouraged to see challenge, mistakes and feedback as integral to the learning process and to embrace these as we work to make learning visible.

Our commitment to joint planning of curricular areas ensures that there are opportunities for collaboration between classes at the same stages, across CfE levels and with classes at different levels pairing up. This provides opportunities for children to share their learning with each other, work with different staff and pupils from other classes, collaborate on ideas and see depth and progression in practice, as well as ensuring that moderation is built into the everyday activities of both pupils and staff. We feel this approach delivers many positive outcomes for our school community, such as supporting smooth internal transitions; it has really opened up the learning in our school, creating a shared understanding of the way our curriculum is planned for, implemented and reviewed. We regularly seek opportunities to share pupil achievement and learning within the school, with parents, families and with the wider community. We encourage everyone to set high, but attainable goals, believe in themselves and then persevere, putting effort into working towards these.

Our curriculum is designed to support the development of the whole child as our young people grow into confident individuals, responsible citizens, successful learners and effective contributors.

