

The Lord, the God of Jacob will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths.

*Micah 4:2*

# Tewin Cowper C of E Primary School



*"Small School Big Dreams"*

## Curriculum Statement

Version 3

**Reviewed by Headteacher: Summer 2024**

**Approved by Governors: Summer 2024**

**Next Review Date: Summer 2026**

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## 1. Intent

We are a 'small school with big dreams', each one of us on a journey together which is interwoven by our Christian Values and shaped by an exciting, innovative curriculum. We are focused on our vision and aims, which are inspired by the story of Jacob's dream in the bible (Genesis 28:10-22). In his dream, Jacob saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending. God told him in the dream that He would always be with him on his journey, if he trusted Him. God promises to be with us on our journeys just as He was with Jacob: 'The Lord, the God of Jacob, will reach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths'. Micah 4:2 We value each child as a unique individual, building on the experiences they bring to their journey, encourage mutual respect and harmony and promoting excellent learning behaviours and enquiring minds. We aim to connect children's lives with our Christian values through exploration, discussion, discovery and reflection, encouraging:

- Big dreams and ambitions
- Ability to be reflective.
- Respect for others and the world they live in
- Confident, independent learners
- Enquiring minds
- Awe and wonder
- Positive relationships and interpersonal skills
- A growth mindset: resilience in the face of setbacks
- Understanding of the creative process and how every day and exceptional creativity can shape the world

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## 2. Mission Statement

Tewin Cowper is a 'small school with big dreams'; we seek to realise those dreams through the provision of a rich, exciting curriculum that engages every aspect of a child's learning and development. As members of the Diocese of St Alban's family of church schools and a close bond with St Peter's Church in Tewin, we are proud of our rich heritage and committed to our Christian values which are woven through all we do, to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. With just under 180 children on roll from Reception to Year 6, our small size supports a nurturing environment where we know and care about each pupil. We value the encouragement and support of everyone in our learning community and know that our successes and achievements will be recognised and rewarded. We believe that learning should be fun, purposeful and challenging. Through our broad and stimulating curriculum we aim to equip all children with the knowledge and skills they need for lifelong learning. At Tewin Cowper, we teach each subject explicitly, our approach enables children to become experts in each subject and understand the content without ambiguity. Within these subjects we aim to develop our learners as investigators, innovators and deep thinkers. We aim to inspire creativity and allow children to see how skills and knowledge learned in one subject can be applied in another.

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## 3. Curriculum Principles

Our curriculum will give pupils opportunities to:

- Experience the challenge and enjoyment of learning.
- Develop a rich and deep subject knowledge.
- Develop new skills through a variety of interesting contexts.
- Develop and demonstrate their creativity.
- Understand the purpose and value of their learning and see its relevance to their past, present and future.
- Develop and enhance learning behaviours such as collaboration and resilience.
- Develop skills of mastery.

### Purpose

During their time at Tewin Cowper, our aim is for our children to develop into confident and creative individuals who learn with a growth mindset. Through a subject specific curricular approach, our children will be instilled with a rich and deep-subject knowledge that is built through enquiry and exploration within each taught subject, with skills and knowledge applied across the curriculum. With our curriculum, we aim to inspire a lifelong enjoyment of learning by teaching lessons that motivate deeper thinking, creativity and problem solving. Children will learn and develop skills that will support them as they progress through their time at Tewin Cowper and reach to achieve their 'big dreams'.

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

Our curriculum will give pupils opportunities to:

- Spiritual - Explore beliefs, experience and faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity and reflect on experiences.
- Moral - Recognise right and wrong and respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues and offer reasoned views.
- Social - Use a range of social skills to participate in the local community and beyond; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict.
- Cultural - Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.
- Democracy - Be part of a system where everyone plays an equal part.
- Rule of law - Learn that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable for their actions and behaviour.
- Individual liberty - Be free to express views or ideas.
- Tolerance and respect - To respect and tolerate the opinions or behaviour of others.

### Purpose

At Tewin Cowper, we are committed to teaching Fundamental British Values and these important aspects of learning are threaded throughout our curriculum and embedded in our school community and the activities and culture of the school. They are essential in developing appropriate learning behaviours which include teamwork, resilience, independence, empathy, tolerance and respect. Our purpose is for the children we teach to leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect. We encourage children to reflect on their learning and have good relationships with their peers and everyone involved in their school journey. Our village and church community are vitally important in our school. Through our collective worships, church services and allotment visits, as well as special events such as Christmas Art evenings and Maypole dancing on the village green and regular family reading sessions, we instil a community feel throughout the school.

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## 5. Wellbeing for All

Our curriculum will give pupils opportunities to:

- Develop self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.
- Learn how to respect themselves and others.
- Follow their own interests and be themselves.
- Reflect and think mindfully about their learning.
- Recognise that people are good at different things.
- Work in a range of groups and settings.
- Build respectful friendships.
- Learn in a supportive environment.
- Develop an understanding of feelings and emotions.

### Purpose

Through developing self-esteem and confidence, we encourage children to believe they can achieve, whatever their background, and understand that everyone has different strengths and interests. On their journey through Tewin Cowper, we want our children to have confidence in their own strengths and interests whilst understanding that everyone is unique. Through our teaching on growth mindset, our children allow themselves to make mistakes and see them as learning opportunities. We encourage children to reflect on their learning as we believe this allows children to learn from mistakes and become pragmatic learners and thinkers. Our aim is for our children to develop their own styles in presentation and have confidence in their own ability. They will inspire each other in their learning and celebrate each other's achievements whilst being proud of their own successes. Through working with different people in different settings, we aim to encourage collaboration and teamwork. This allows children to work in different dynamics and recognise different approaches to learning and tasks. Through working collaboratively, our aim is that our children respect each other, build each other up, support their friends and help each other throughout the school. The environment our children learn in is a supportive one where they feel they matter; they can make a difference and can make mistakes. This environment is built on mutual respect and is supported by our four learning expectations;

**Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Honest.**

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## 6. Inclusion

Our curriculum will be inclusive by:

- Ensuring that every pupil can access every subject.
- Making sure that all lessons are flexible.
- Teachers and support staff understanding adaptive teaching approaches in all subjects.
- Using assessment to ensure that adaptive teaching is pitched to the needs of all pupils from their starting point.
- Providing varied and appropriate support strategies and/ resources.

### Purpose

By developing an inclusive curriculum whereby ALL children can participate, enjoy and engage with every subject, we can ensure that ALL children can thrive and can meet their full potential. It is vital to know and understand each child's strengths and barriers to learning so that supports and challenges relevant to them can be put in place and adapted as appropriate. It is important that this is equitable rather than equal to that of their peers. Support and challenge will be child centred and carefully planned to maximise opportunity.

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## 7. Pupil Voice

Our curriculum will give pupils opportunities to:

- Make a positive contribution to the school and local community.
- Say what they like and dislike about their learning.
- Make choices about things that are important to them.
- Take part in democratic activities across the curriculum.
- Express their opinions on a range of different topics and issues.
- Take an active part in discussions

### Purpose

At Tewin Cowper, it is important that children help to take a lead in their education, engage with it through their own curiosities and take ownership as they embrace each new challenge and achievement. Our children take part in democratic activities across the curriculum and vote for representatives for School Council, Eco Council and House Captains. Our School and Eco Councils meet every week to create new ways of raising money, raising awareness of charitable causes and looking after our environment. Children take ownership in these councils; they make decisions

and lead assemblies. Through subject monitoring, pupils are given the chance to express their enjoyment and dislikes about their learning, from this, teachers and leaders adapt the curriculum to ensure children's engagement is at the forefront of our planning. Through our curriculum, children will be encouraged to debate and discuss important issues and express their own opinions as well as listening to opinions that may differ from theirs. From this, we aim to encourage children to develop their own critical thinking skills as they travel on their journey through our school.

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## 8. Pedagogy

Our curriculum will be taught in a way that:

- Enables and fosters children's natural curiosity.
- Promotes innovation and entrepreneurialism.
- Enables children to reflect on and evaluate their learning.
- Enables children to retain and retrieve learning.
- Values adaptive teaching and flexibility which enables

ALL pupils to reach their full potential.

### Purpose

Through planning and teaching topics that engage children's attention, we aim to further develop their interests and deeper thinking. We want children to be critical thinkers and feel inspired by the world around them. We believe that when children are excited by the topics we teach, they are more engaged learners and therefore adopt a lifelong love of learning. Through our cross-curricular approach, children will be given problems to solve, they will have opportunities to develop independence, resourcefulness and good communication skills. We believe these are all important skills for children to learn in primary school. By teaching foundation subjects such as History and Art discretely, children are encouraged to be creative and become explorers as they become experts in these subjects. The progressive curriculum builds upon the children's prior learning of knowledge and skills. Children will become subject experts who can evaluate and reflect on their learning and make adaptations where necessary.

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## 9. Enrichment

We will enrich our curriculum by:

- Providing on and off-site subject or topic related activities
- Offering opportunities for children to learn outdoors.
- Holding specialist curriculum days or weeks
- Welcoming parents and carers to take part in children's learning and experiences.
- Using quality resources in and out of the classroom

### Purpose

At Tewin Cowper we believe that activities, visits and visitors enrich our curriculum and offer new and exciting opportunities to the children we teach. To enhance our curriculum, offer, we visit interesting places that teach us more about the history, geography or background of our subjects. For example, this could be a visit to Celtic Harmony Camp to enhance the learning experience Year 3 receive as part of their history unit on Stone Age Britain. Alternatively, we invite visitors into our school for special curriculum days where children can delve deeper into their subjects without ever leaving the school grounds.

Example: Year 1 and 4 have enjoyed being immersed in Victorian History in their whole day workshop and Reception had a creepy crawly time with Ranger Stu who brought in a wide range of animals to support their learning with first hand experiences.

By having these experiences, children can find themselves immersed in the culture, history and learning involved in their lessons. Beyond this, special curriculum days are held to dedicate learning to one area or subject. This may be in the form of a music day or science day. Over the past year, our enrichment has provided children with experiences

such as: allotment visits, Church services lead by each class, school trips, in school visitors, Writing and Reading events, sporting events with our local school partnership group, a whole school trip to Kew Gardens, residential trip, Life Bus/tent Visits linked to our PSHE, scooter and bike training, growth mindset visit from Sports players, World Book Day, a daily run 'quiet club' at lunchtime available to all, a school newspaper that is designed and written by the children, a wide range of lunchtime clubs, Regular reading workshops with family members, a visit from a local author, a visit from a local illustrator A pantomime and full production of The Railway Children performed by a travelling theatre company and Choir events.

Our school sits in the beautiful countryside of Hertfordshire which means we are able to use outdoor learning to further enrich our curriculum, this may look like a morning of exploration of our local area in a field study or a trip to the allotment to harvest the vegetables that have been grown by Year 4.

Through our curriculum approach, the children are encouraged to be innovators and create something using the skills they have developed.

Example: Year 2 designed a new chair for baby bear in Design and Technology.

We value the importance of children knowing and understanding why they are learning these new skills and always having a core purpose at the end of any learning sequence. We welcome parents to be involved in their child's learning experiences and to see what learning looks like for their child. This may be in the form of an invitation to a fundraising event planned by the children or coming in to hear a class song that has been developed by the children

<b>Pupil Group</b>	<b>Educational visits (off-site)</b>	<b>Educational visitors (on-site)</b>	<b>Residential visits</b>	<b>Outdoor learning (e.g. Forest Schools)</b>	<b>Arts and culture</b>	<b>Specialist curriculum days</b>
<b>Reception</b>	2 days	1 days		3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Year 1</b>	2 days	1 days		3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Year 2</b>	2 days	1 days		3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Year 3</b>	2 days	1 days		3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Year 4</b>	2 days	1 days		3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Year 5</b>	2 days	1 days		3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Year 6</b>	2 days	1 days	3 days	3 days	1 days	5 days
<b>Totals</b>	14 days	7 days	3 days	21 days	7 days	32 days