

HARE STREET COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY



Hare Street Community Primary School & Nursery is a vibrant and harmonious learning community striving to achieve the very best for all of our children. 450 children attend the two form entry school which serves the Hare Street community area of Harlow in Essex.

Our shared goal is to achieve the very best for each one of our pupils, we believe that everyone within the school community has a part to play in this; teachers and school staff leading the learning, parents and carers supporting their children's learning at home and the children developing fantastic attitudes towards learning, wanting to succeed and having strong aspirations for their future. We work closely with Essex Learning Services who support the school in nurturing the skills and knowledge of teachers, guiding the development of the curriculum and helping the Governing body to gain a detailed understanding of the work that the school does.

In 2001 the old Hare Street Infants and Junior Schools amalgamated into a large, single primary and Hare Street began a period of sustained change and improvement in these key areas.

BEHAVIOUR: The Infant and Junior school were very distinct and separate schools with conflicting ethos and expectations. It has been a huge challenge to join them together and create something with its own unique identity. It is probably not an understatement to say that in the first few years as a Primary school behaviour was

extremely challenging. Initially the development of a policy that promoted clearly understood expectations, rewarded the positive whilst having sanctions for unacceptable behaviours was the key to change. Its success depended on all members of the community singing from the same sheet and senior staff proactively empowering teachers to manage learning. We also knew that behaviour and learning were inextricably linked and that developing learning habits so that children became interested and proactive was equally important. Positive behaviour is now endemic within the character of the school.

STANDARDS OF LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT: Initially Children in Key Stage Two were achieving very low standards of attainment and learning. However, slowly but surely we have built upon and disseminated existing good practice and improved. One of the huge factors underpinning the success of the school is the stability of the staff. They have worked collaboratively to develop their knowledge of teaching and learning and built their own model of what good and outstanding learning looks like in practice. Consistency has been a key factor in establishing high standards. There are now clear and understood procedures and expectations in the form of policies in the key areas of Learning, Behaviour, Planning and Assessment. The hard work and commitment that all staff have put into this has definitely paid off and we now have standards that are at least broadly in line with national expectations and at times exceed them.

CURRICULUM: We firmly believe that children learn best through first-hand experience or when they can relate their learning to real life situations. To this end staff work creatively in developing topics and projects which the children use as a vehicle to develop their skills and knowledge. We set clear success criteria and stages of progression that enable both teachers and children to assess progress that is being made.