



The Academy of Woodlands

The Woodlands Way

Here at The Academy of Woodlands, every individual is valued and challenged to succeed in all they do, whilst being encouraged to become life-long learners.

As a school we have devised the Woodlands Way as a set of expectations that are important to our staff, children and families.





Our Ethos

The Academy of Woodlands is an inclusive, caring community in which everyone is valued and encouraged to grow. Our learning community is built upon the shared belief that the development of each child must be at the heart of everything we do. As a school we are committed to providing a safe and happy environment in which everyone is encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and be inspired to 'be the best at what they do'.

Our school motto is 'Be the Best at What you Do'. Our values, curriculum and focus on character development act as the keys to unlock opportunities for every member of our community to achieve our motto. Families' contributions to their child's development are valued and we will strive to develop effective partnerships with our families.

Our Vision is a community where all children feel loved, respected, and encouraged to develop to their fullest potential.

Our Values

Flourishing as an individual (human flourishing) is a widely accepted life goal.

Our Values, which are aspirational attributes and attitudes, are the foundation for everything we do at The Academy of Woodlands. These can be nurtured to help people discover the very best of themselves, enabling them to be good citizens and prepare them for life beyond our school.

Resilience
Empathy
Self-awareness
Pride
Excellence
Communication
Togetherness

The Woodlands Way- Our Curriculum

At The Academy of Woodlands, our school's values of RESPECT, underpin our curriculum as we prioritise every child's development into well rounded citizens that will thrive as life-long learners in the ever-changing world around us. Our ambitious curriculum exposes our children to enriching experiences, immersing them in disciplinary and substantive knowledge; equipping them with personal characteristics required to succeed in life. Alongside this we aim to foster a sense of



community engagement by actively linking our curriculum to the local community, ensuring that learners develop a deep understanding of their own surroundings and their roles and responsibilities within this.

The key principles behind the design of our curriculum are for our children to:

- Be **RESILIENT**, confident, independent; displaying a thirst for learning.
- Be kind; showing **EMPATHY** and compassion whilst valuing diversity.
- Be **SELF-AWARE**; having aspirations for the future and knowing that these can be reached through hard work and determination.
- Take **PRIDE** in everything they do
- Strive for **EXCELLENCE**; For all children to be given the opportunities and support to achieve personal goals across the entire curriculum.
- Understand the importance of effective **COMMUNICATION**. Effectively communicating the gained knowledge in subject disciplines as well as the ability to effectively communicate with others.
- **TOGETHERNESS**- value their position within the wider community as well as showing respect, tolerance and acceptance of others.

Ultimately, we wish for all our children to ‘be the best at what we do’, making a positive contribution to the world they live in.

British Values at Woodlands

Democracy

- Helping children learn about important services and places in the community and teaching them to respect them (Links with values of **RESPECT**).
- Showing children how they can have a say in decisions through voting and democracy- via school parliament and other times in school where children will vote on different issues.
- Teaching children about what’s good and bad about democracy, and how it works in the UK.
- Encouraging children to take part in decisions at school and making sure their voices are heard.
- Organising “mock elections” so children can practice sharing and defending their opinions- School Parliament
- Helping children learn how to share their thoughts and feelings this links our **‘Communication’** value.
- Teaching children how public services work and how they make sure things are fair.
- Showing children how to peacefully stand up when something feels unfair and ensuring every child has a voice.
- Ensure children always have a voice in any decisions being made.

Rule of Law

- Making sure school rules and expectations are clear and fair for everyone- Woodlands Way
- Helping children understand the difference between right and wrong.



- Teaching children to respect the law and why it exists (Links with values of **RESPECT**).
- Helping children understand that living by the law helps protect everyone.
- Including visits from the police in lessons to learn about their role.
- Teaching children about civil and criminal laws, and how they are different from some religious laws.
- Using peaceful ways, like restorative justice, to solve problems and conflicts (Restorative approach taken by whole school and lunchtime Reflect and Reset).

Individual Liberty

- Helping children build their **self-awareness** (Links with values of **RESPECT**), self-esteem, and confidence.
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their actions and understand their rights ensuring every child is heard.
- Showing children how to express their opinions while making sure everyone is safe and encouraging them to think carefully about information.
- Challenging stereotypes and treating everyone equally, shown through anti-discrimination week.
- Creating a strong anti-bullying culture where everyone feels safe and respected (Cool to be Kind Week) and 'Together Woodlands Say Stop to Bullying'.

Respect and Tolerance

- Encouraging children to respect and appreciate people's differences through many different school lead initiatives- 'Cool to be Kind', 'Diversity Week', Trust DEI event and 'Cultural dress up days'
- Helping children understand and respect their own culture, as well as the cultures and ways of life of others.
- Challenging unfair or hurtful behavior towards others- Using a restorative approach (lunchtime Reflect & Reset).
- Organising visits to places of worship to learn about different beliefs.
- Building connections with people from different faiths and cultures communities (Links with the local community and trips out to visit local places or worship or cultural significance).
- Helping children start to think for themselves and form their own ideas.
- Talking about the differences between people, such as differences in religion, background, abilities, gender, sexuality, family situations (like children in care or young carers), and wealth. Also, talking about how government support helps with things like the pupil premium and other educational benefits.

Planning and Curriculum offer

At The Academy of Woodlands, we focus on understanding and nurturing our children's interests. This is always taken into consideration when staff are planning anything for the pupils.

All children experience a rich, evolving curriculum that supports new learning while reinforcing existing knowledge.



We strive to make learning engaging and build on the diverse experiences children bring to school, helping them develop lifelong skills through our character education programme -The Woodlands Way and through our school values of **R.E.S.P.E.C.T.**

Throughout the planning process staff implement the 'Woodlands Learning Cycle' of

- Link it
- Learn it
- Check it
- Show it
- Know it

This enables children to make solid connections with prior learning to ensure that the 'Sticky Knowledge' is deeply embedded so they can go on to become life-long learners. We do this by checking pupils' short-term memory (Check it) and ensuring, over time, this moves over to the long-term memory (Know it and Link it).



>>> Link it



>>> Learn it



>>> Check it



>>> Show it



>>> Know it



>>> Link it



>>> Learn it



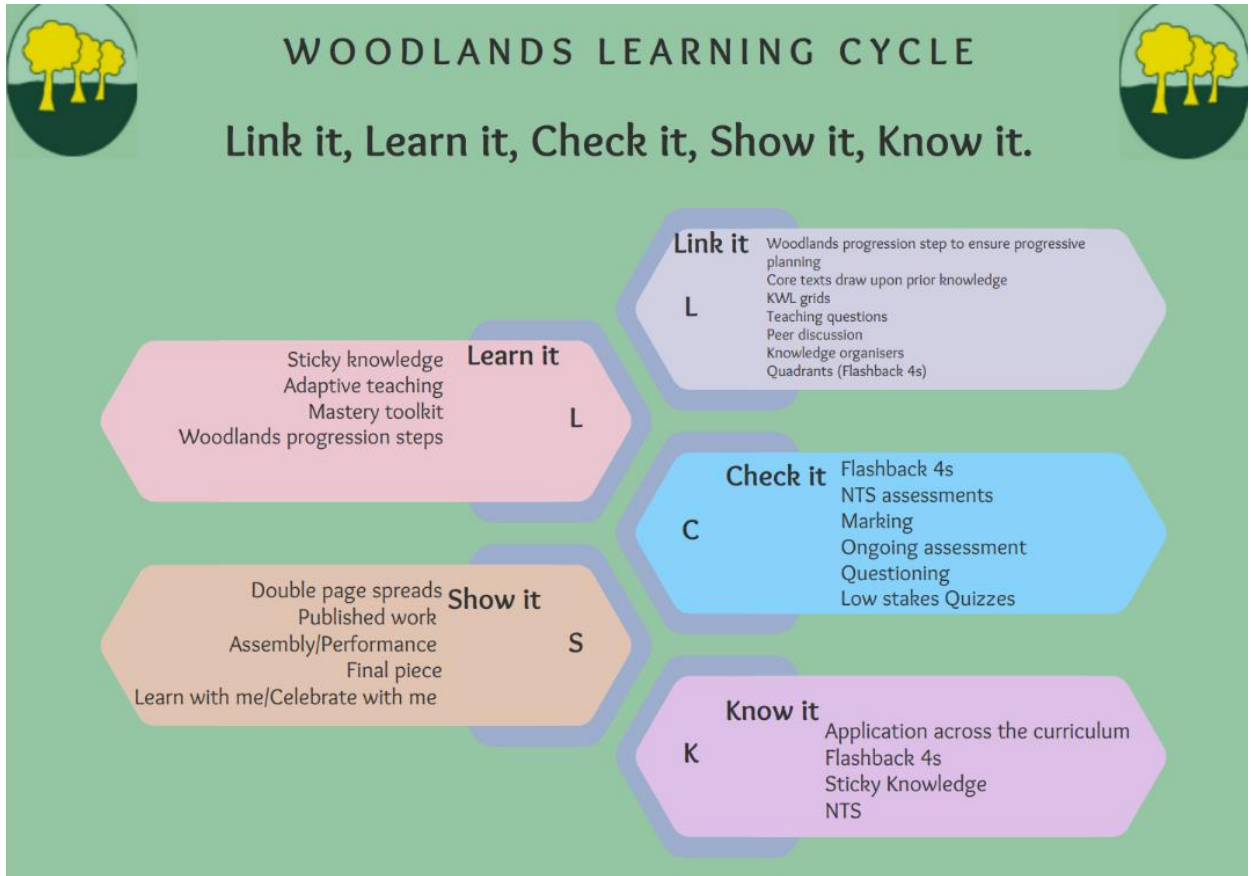
>>> Check it



>>> Show it



>>> Know it



At The Academy of Woodlands, from Years 1 to 6, children embark on a 'Woodlands Learning Journey' tailored to their interests and prior knowledge. Our staff plan all curriculum areas to ensure high-quality and engaging teaching. While our curriculum aligns with the National Curriculum, we use our own 'Woodlands Progression Steps' to customise learning to our students and community. These steps build on prior knowledge and incorporate relevant, local content. The Woodlands Progression steps are split into disciplinary knowledge (learning methods and skills and how to use them) and substantive knowledge (the facts and information the pupils need within their learning). Both of these types of knowledge are crucial for a well-rounded education as they ensure that pupils not only acquire essential facts but also understand the processes and methods of different subjects. All the elements for our curriculum can be seen here within the 'Woodlands Layers of Learning'.



"Read Write Inc" (RWI) is a structured phonics program in primary schools that helps children learn to read and write confidently. It teaches reading by linking sounds (phonemes) with letters (graphemes) and breaks down the process into manageable steps, making literacy easier to grasp.

How Does It Work at The Academy of Woodlands?

1. Learning Sounds and Letters: Children learn phonemes and their corresponding graphemes.
2. Blending: They blend these sounds to read words (e.g., "c-a-t" becomes "cat").
3. Reading Books: Children read books that match their current learning level to build fluency.
4. Writing: They practise writing letters, words, and sentences to reinforce their reading skills.

Implementation at Woodlands

- Regular Assessment: Progress is regularly assessed, with additional support offered when needed.
- Daily Lessons: Children have daily phonics lessons in small groups, focusing on sounds, blending, reading, and writing.
- Tailored Learning: Lessons are adjusted to each child's reading level, providing the right level of challenge.
- Parental Involvement: Parents are encouraged to support reading practice at home with guidance from schools.

The Ethos of "Read Write Inc" at The Academy of Woodlands

RWI is based on the belief that every child can become a proficient reader and writer. It sets high expectations, builds confidence through achievable steps, and provides a supportive environment where children can take risks, make mistakes, and learn. Overall, RWI aims to equip every child with the skills to become confident, capable readers and writers.

For more information please visit [Read Write Inc. Phonics - Ruth Miskin Literacy](#)

PiXL

PiXL is a program designed to raise educational standards and build character in children from Year 3 to Year 6.

It offers a variety of resources to boost confidence in:

- Maths
- Reading
- Writing
- GPaS (Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling)
- Character and well-being

How Do We Use PiXL at The Academy of Woodlands



We use PiXL resources to enhance whole-class learning and deliver targeted, skill-based interventions. These daily interventions are tailored to meet the individual needs of students, providing support and challenge for children of all abilities. Recognising the positive impact this has on academic development, we have PiXL-trained teachers across the school.

For more information, please visit [The PiXL Club - PiXL Primary](#)

Learning Beyond the Classroom

At The Academy of Woodlands, we believe that learning goes way beyond the classroom and we commit to this belief in many different ways.

PE

Our PE curriculum is designed to ensure that every student, regardless of their ability or background, has access to a wide range of physical activities. We aim to create an inclusive and supportive

learning environment where students feel encouraged and empowered to participate and succeed.

Through our curriculum, we strive to develop fundamental movement skills, such as running, jumping, throwing, and catching, which form the building blocks for future physical activities and sports. We emphasize the development of coordination, balance, agility, and spatial awareness, providing a strong foundation for students' physical literacy.

In addition to the acquisition of motor skills, our curriculum focuses on promoting teamwork, communication, leadership, and resilience through a range of different sports. We integrate cooperative games and group challenges to encourage collaboration and foster positive social interactions among students. We also emphasize the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, and respect for self and others. Our PE lessons incorporate a variety of activities, including traditional sports, dance, gymnastics, and outdoor adventure pursuits, to cater to different interests and learning styles.

By instilling a passion for physical activity from an early age, we aim to equip our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to lead healthy, active lifestyles throughout their lives. We envision our PE curriculum as a tool for promoting physical and mental well-being, developing confidence, and nurturing a lifelong commitment to personal health and fitness. Through ongoing assessment and evaluation, we continuously strive to enhance our PE curriculum, ensuring it remains relevant and aligned with the needs and interests of our students. We are dedicated to educating a positive and inclusive PE learning environment that supports the growth and development of each student, empowering them to thrive physically, mentally, and socially.

Forest School

We are extremely lucky at The Academy of Woodlands to have a large forest school and a fully trained forest school teacher. All children from Year 1 – 6 experience 2 terms (in different seasons) of forest school with our forest school teacher. EYFS also access the forest school weekly to enhance their learning opportunities.

Key Aims of Our Forest School



- Provide children with regular, safe opportunities to explore the natural environment throughout all seasons.
- Foster a sense of appreciation, respect, and care for the natural world.
- Allow children to learn and investigate at their own pace.
- Promote physical and mental well-being through consistent outdoor interaction.
- Offer real-life opportunities for developing and practising 'The Woodlands Way' and our school values of R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
- Enhance thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and oracy skills.
- Teach children to identify risks and manage their own safety.
- Support all areas of the school curriculum (Woodlands Progression Steps) and EYFS framework.
- Ensure learning is enjoyable and fun.

Commando Joe

At The Academy of Woodlands as part of our Character development for all pupils, we have introduced - from January 2024 – Commando Joe to our school.

At Commando Joes, their goal is to be the leading experts in fostering character, confidence, and self-worth in primary school children. They aim to build a generation of resilient young people equipped with essential life skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

They help children recognise their unique talents and guide them to become the best version of themselves. Through an engaging and holistic approach, including the RESPECT framework, they work with schools to deliver a curriculum that blends classroom learning with outdoor activities. This approach supports the development of resilience, confidence, and character, complementing traditional academic subjects.

At The Academy of Woodlands we have a dedicated member of staff (Commando Josh on Mondays and Tuesdays) to ensure that the pupils here are not only gaining knowledge but also grow into capable, confident individuals ready to face life's challenges. Each class will have a at least one session with Commando Josh each term and we tailored intervention will be provided to further develop character for identified children.

For more information please visit- [Commando Joe's - Commando Joe's \(commandojoes.co.uk\)](https://commandojoes.co.uk)

Trips and Enrichment

Developing a strong sense of identity is a key element of our curriculum. We achieve this through activities such as exploring local amenities, participating in or leading community projects, inviting guest speakers, sharing school news, and maintaining an open-door policy for families. This happens throughout the year for all of our pupils' from EYFS to Year 6.

In Year 6 we also offer an overnight residential visit (4 nights 5 days) which supports team building and independence alongside our school values of R.E.S.P.E.C.T.



Music and Drama

At The Academy of Woodlands, we foster a love and understanding of music through listening, performing and composing. Music promotes appreciation of the richness and diversity of genres and cultures. Music celebrates our differences and connects us with our world, each other and ourselves.

It triggers the release of feel-good chemicals into our brains, helps with concentration and affects how we feel. Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It allows opportunity for personal expression and plays an important part in the personal development of an individual. At The Academy of Woodlands, our music curriculum aims to promote the enthusiasm for, and the enjoyment of, music in all its forms. We want them to develop a curiosity of different musical styles and value music from other periods of time, culture and countries.

By engaging children in musical experiences, we offer our children opportunities to develop skills, attitudes and attributes that can develop life skills such as listening, the ability to concentrate, creativity, self-confidence and sensitivity towards others and the environment. To ensure our pupils have the best opportunity to acquire and nurture their musical talents, we use 'Charanga', a program that teaches the children to listen and respond to a variety of musical genres, through the medium of singing, playing instruments, exploring form and composing their own musical creations. They will develop an understanding of the historical and cultural content of the music they listen to and learn how music can be written down. These lessons are linked to the topic where possible.

Clubs

At the Academy of Woodlands, we value the importance of cultural capital and understand how offering a wide range of opportunities can spark interest, talents and opportunities which help our children in many ways. We offer an extensive range of after-school clubs that help to capture our children's interests or introduce them to something new. Our children get the chance to attend these clubs if they wish and clubs change every two terms.

If you would like more information on our clubs (and how to book via our online forms) please visit

[The Academy of Woodlands - Clubs](#)