



Curriculum Rationale: Yetholm Primary School and ELC



What makes us unique? Our School in Our Village!

Yetholm Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), nestled in the foothills of the Cheviots overlooking the Bowmont River, is surrounded by the lovely Border countryside and situated in the historic, friendly village of Yetholm.

We are firm believers in **community** and staff and pupils are also fully engaged in learning opportunities available with our joint school, Morebattle Primary, cluster schools in the Kelso and Jedburgh area - known as the Cheviot Learning Community, and with colleagues all across the Scottish Borders Council. The school values its place at the heart of the community and supports, and is supported by, village projects- these drive many aspects of our curriculum. We see ourselves- staff, pupils, parent and community- as one big **family** and this is really important in our approach, underpins our values and affirms our approach with our multi-composite classes. We are committed to **supporting** local events, working in particular with the Shepherd's Show and Festival committees to ensure our young people are involved in learning about local **culture** and maintaining local **traditions**.

We are fortunate with our outdoor space which provides many and varied opportunities for **outdoor learning**. We have a large tarmac playground and a field which comprises of an outdoor staging/classroom area. In the village we have access to the local playing field for larger sporting events as well as a dedicated outdoor learning area comprising of a wooded area and a conservation area. We have our own school chickens, producing fresh eggs that the children can cook along with vegetables grown or foraged in our community.

As a staff team we acknowledge that we are **diverse** and varied in our backgrounds, experience and ideas. These differences are key as they lead to dialogue, debate and discussion that, ultimately, lead to **change** and **improvement**. Teachers, support staff, wider school team members and partner agencies all come together, a little like a jigsaw puzzle in which no two pieces are the same, but collectively we make a coherent and effective whole.

Vision

Our learners will be the best version of themselves in a safe and inclusive environment.

Values

- ❖ Be safe
- ❖ Be respectful
- ❖ Be nurturing
- ❖ Be ambitious

<u>Our Aims</u>	<u>How this informs Our Curriculum</u>
To be life-long learners who are ready for the world beyond the classroom.	- We are working towards progressive awards and achievements in our outdoor learning (Woodland Trust and John Muir). - Parents and the community support our skills development by sharing their skills too- gardening, baking, sports, arts to name a few. We have Work of Work themes and link our interdisciplinary learning to the world around us too. We are mindful of reflecting the jobs in our community whilst also helping to raise aspirations too. - Global Citizenship features in our whole school assembly programme and our 1+2 approach. We use Paddington Bear as a stimulus to explore these cultures together.
To provide support and encouragement for all learners to be successful.	- Our PEF initiatives and community links allow toast club to be provided throughout the week, as well as spare snacks so that no learner needs to be hungry. - Support staff work with Support for Learning to provide targeted interventions, in particular, our successful Fresh Start programme. - Staff work together to track learning (and share this with families) so that attainment is in the forefront of our planned approaches.
To value everyone and their individual talents.	- We celebrate wider achievements through assemblies, in class and on our shared wall display. - Successes in class are recognised in assemblies and through certificates, stickers, phone calls/notes home. Sometimes these are shared on our social media. - Electronic tools are used to allow pupils, staff and families to feed into Learning Journals which showcase individual work.
To be ready to learn- demonstrating responsibility and accountability.	- We teach our children across all areas of the curriculum and try to ensure the 4 capacities, 4 contexts and 7 design principles are considered. - ICT and digital skills are taught from Early to Second level. This includes staff training and development to ensure it supports and enhances learning, teaching and assessment where possible. - School and families work together to try and ensure barriers to learning are removed where possible, and support is offered where we cannot remove these. - Our pupil voice groups give older pupils real opportunities to exercise their talents, whether it be charity fundraising and responsibility across our school (Pupil Council), sustainable approaches and environmental impact (Eco-committee), organisation and administration of house points (senior pupils), or consideration of others and staying safe (JRSO).