

Sheepscombe Primary School: Strategic priorities 2021 to 2025

In the summer of 2021, the school is thriving and leadership is strong and dynamic. The children enjoy a rich curriculum where everyone achieves their best and resources are used creatively to support the children's learning. We hope that everyone will continue to enjoy and strengthen these achievements over the next few years.

In 2021, the governors discussed new strategic priorities for the direction of the school between 2021 and 2025. The priorities set out here respond to consultation with all governors and representatives of staff and parents.

Vision

Our vision is for a school where children actively engage with local and global communities and develop the confidence and skills they need to have an impact on the world around them in years to come.

The decades ahead promise to be challenging (eg climate change, speed of change, the continuing digital revolution). Our role as a school is to set children on a path where they can understand, question, manage and influence what happens in the future. We want our children to work for the benefit of society, to have a voice and to know how to be heard.

Ethos

Every activity involving the whole school community is strengthened by being caring and thoughtful.

- We care for each other, for ourselves and for local and global communities.
- We are mindful, thoughtful and reflective in everything we do.

Strategic priorities

To achieve our vision of encouraging children to engage actively in local and global communities now and in the future, our priorities are to:

- develop skills that empower our children and support participation, creativity, innovation and problem-solving
- nurture positive relationships supported by effective communication and collaboration and reaching out to others
- foster sensitivity that values and protects the local and global environment for future generations

The paragraphs below explain these three priorities further while recognising that they overlap with each other and with our vision of actively engaging in local and global communities.

Skills: We prepare our children for participating actively in society, helping them to develop the skills, confidence and understanding they need to influence the world around them. We encourage creativity (arts, crafts, music, drama), innovation (design, science, technology) and problem-solving. The aim is to develop skills that are both traditional and modern, equipping our children for living and working in a variety of ways in the 21st century world. This includes learning how to use information and digital technology with care and

discretion and as a tool facilitating rather than dominating creativity, collaboration and imaginative thinking.

Positive relationships: We believe that our children need a caring relationship with themselves, understanding what it takes to maintain sound physical and mental health. They also need to be self-aware, confident and sensitive to the needs of others. Relationships are built on self-expression, good communication skills and learning how to collaborate with others. Learning and teaching is also about the strength of diversity and of inclusive relationships in society, in the classroom and in the playground. Play is as important as lessons for developing positive relationships.

There are real benefits in reaching out to others. Sheepscombe school has plenty to give; our small rural school is a leader in its field and we can continue to blaze a trail. We wish to reach out into the village and across the Stroud valleys to strengthen relationships locally. There is also a need to discover more about the wider world. We can broaden our children's perspective on our complex society by establishing and maintaining connections, for example, with a city school, a secondary school and a school elsewhere in the world.

The environment: It cannot be denied that the natural environment experienced by previous generations is now under an urgent threat from climate change and the apparently endless use of natural resources. So first we want our children to value their environment – not just the wonderful local environment, but the natural world elsewhere in other parts of the globe. They need to understand how the natural world works, how to convert to a world without fossil fuels and make a difference. For example, we encourage the school to demonstrate this understanding by actively working to become a carbon neutral school.

Our children will need resilience and the agility to handle change. As citizens with social responsibility and resourcefulness, our children can work for a more positive future.