



# Open Futures Ten years on



## What is Open Futures?



Open Futures has been part of our school learning and curriculum for the past ten years. It is used as a skills and enquiry based curriculum where learning focuses on encouraging children to 'learn through doing'. This is developed through four strands: grow it, cook it, film it and ask it. It has been developed to help children discover and develop practical skills, personal interests and values which will contribute to their education and help to enhance their adult lives. All four strands are planned through current topics being taught and their learning is linked to areas of the National Curriculum.



All children are involved in the four Open futures strands. In KS1 all children have a designated day each week where they take part in each strand on a rotational basis. In KS2 all the children have one afternoon a week designated to the Open futures strands on a rotational basis and a whole class cooks in groups during the day. They have a skills assessment sheet that they fill in at the beginning of a project to assess what they already can do and what they would like to work on during the project. At the end of the project they self-assess to see what they have learnt. Throughout Open Futures work children are consistently working together thus promoting team work, collaboration and social skills so vital for their Future lives and employability.



## Grow it!

On our school grounds we have a vegetable and fruit garden, designed and planted by the children. In KS1, children are responsible for planting, watering, weeding and feeding. They really enjoy the opportunity to work in the garden and are delighted to see the growth of a fruit or vegetable from seeds they have planted. Fruit and vegetables are used in taste testing and in our cooking lessons. Children learn about seasonal fruit and vegetables and crop rotation. The planning is linked to science objectives in the National Curriculum. Children in K.S.1 learn to name and identify a variety of common plants, about a plants structure, how plants grow and their needs, the different habitats plants grow in. In KS2, children plan and develop garden projects using skills they learnt in key stage one. They have developed a pond area and Science learning garden. The school plays a role in helping the children to recycle resources effectively using a water butt and compost bins. Through Grow It the children learn National Curriculum objectives through science topics such as plants, soils, life cycles and ecosystems. Parents and members of the local community come in and help with our gardening lessons.





## Cook it!

In our school, we have a designated room for cooking lessons to take place. The children use the produce from the garden to cook a variety of healthy recipes. When cooking we aim to introduce the children to new foods, new cooking skills and to get the children discussing the food. In

addition they are continually taste testing and discussing the produce we have grown. The children work in 'Working with others' groups, this allows the children to work with different children each time which enables them to learn from each other. In KS1 the children are placed in mixed aged groups allowing the older children to teach the younger children skills they have previously learnt. The children in Ash and Willow have class diaries in which they record their involvement in gardening and cooking. In line with the school's healthy approach to nutrition the Governors have a whole school food policy. The school also has a health and safety policy which is followed when we are cooking and using food. The planning is linked to the D.T cooking objectives and science health and nutrition objectives from the National Curriculum 2014. Parents currently come in to help during the cooking lessons. Each term the children in year three hold a 'Come dine with me' day. The children use seasonal produce from the garden to cook a lunch time meal for members of staff, governors or members of the local community linked to the school. The children also attend the meal which helps develop their social skills and meet people linked to our school. They cook a two-course meal which is usually linked to seasonal events. The children write invitations and menus which support their English writing objectives.



## Film it



In KS1 the children keep a class record by filming and taking photographs of the gardening and cooking. They also have a film project involving planning and filming a healthy sandwich recipe. In KS2 the children use the cameras and tablets to photograph and film a variety of projects linking to the learning they are doing. We support the children with editing and adding special effects. The children particularly enjoy the animation films that they plan and film. Filming develops children's ability to both research, edit and analyse their own work.

Films need to be concise and develops children's editing skills. Before filming they have to identify the focus of the film and its key features. This enhances their ability to research and present their findings. The children evaluate the films and skills they have



learnt. These skills cross over into other subjects such as English (Editing) and Science (Evaluation).



## Ask it!

### Philosophy for children (P4C)

We offer a forum for the children to think and ask questions linking to the topics they are learning about across the whole curriculum. This promotes listening and speaking skills and the ability to ask

open questions. This encourages the children to develop their reasoning skills and understand how this influences their judgements and actions. We have developed a progression of skills for each area of philosophy to enable the children to progress as they move through each year group. The children have designated philosophy lessons where they learn about different areas of the curriculum through philosophy. The skills children learn through philosophy are used through out all lessons of the curriculum.

The aims of philosophy for children are:

- To encourage children to take part in group discussions.
- To value other's opinions.
- To encourage children to think for themselves.
- To teach children to ask better questions.
- To offer a forum for thinking and questioning, which relies on open questions, and promotes development of speaking and listening.
- To encourage and develop reasonableness as a quality which influences children's judgements and actions.

Ask it is used to deliver the spoken language English curriculum objectives as well as used across the curriculum for teaching different topic areas. We believe that it also improves learning in other subjects such as RE where it raises the level and quality of discussion and debate.

