

Icknield Walk First School: Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision: To inspire a **lifelong love of learning** in every child, nurturing **curious, confident and compassionate** individuals who thrive **academically, emotionally and socially**.

Our mission: To place **children at the heart** of everything we do.
To create a **safe, inclusive, creative and stimulating learning environment** that **empowers** every child to achieve their **full potential**.
To ensure through strong leadership, dedicated staff, active family partnerships and a supportive community, that we **strive for excellence in education and personal growth**.

Our values:

We are ambitious

We always try our best and believe in ourselves. Everyone is encouraged to take responsibility and to keep improving to the best of their own ability

We celebrate achievement

We celebrate everyone's efforts and progress, big and small. Every person in our school is valued and has something to offer.

We are curious

We use our imagination, ask questions and try new things. Learning is an adventure, and curiosity helps us discover more every day.

We are kind and respectful

We are kind, caring and include everyone. We listen, understand and treat others the way we'd like to be treated.

We support each other

We work together and help each other. By sharing ideas and supporting our friends, we all grow and succeed.

Delivered through 5 key strategic pillars:

1. Children & their learning

An active, varied and creative curriculum and learning approach, supporting children as individuals

2. Staff & Leadership

Our team are our most valuable resource

3. Effective Governance

A governing board committed to the school's success, acting as a critical friend

4. Community engagement

Effective and supportive relationships with parents/carers and wider community

5. Continual review of development opportunities

Ensuring we review our capabilities and continually strive for improvement

Icknield Walk First School: Our 5 strategic pillars

1.Children & their learning - Achieving our vision and mission through an active, varied and creative curriculum and learning approach:

- creating an environment where all children feel valued, happy and safe
- being ambitious for their learning and celebrate success
- the use of our exciting, experiential and well-balanced curriculum
- enriching the curriculum through making the best use of all the facilities available both inside school, in the school grounds and through the use of trips and visitors; to bring learning to life.
- by providing challenge and support to ensure children achieve well, learn more and remember more each year.
- nurturing and developing in our children the four Learning Powers, of Perseverance, Ambition, Concentration and Cooperation
- getting feedback from our pupils on their learning experience
- encouraging team work and an ability to be empathetic and to care for each other - do we need this as its covered through values?

2. Staff & Leadership - Our team are our most valuable resource:

- having strong and effective leadership
- ensuring the quality and number of adults in the classroom is never compromised
- expecting the highest standards of professionalism from every member of staff, whilst monitoring and supporting their well-being.
- investing in the professional development of our staff, enabling them to deliver an engaging curriculum and to support and challenge every child.
- taking the time to understand the needs of every child, providing support and or support signposting to children and families when needed.
- celebrating everyone's achievements and valuing everyone's contributions as part of a team.

3. Effective Governance - A governing board committed to the school's success. Key responsibilities:

- establishing a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school
- holding the Headteacher and school leadership team to account for the educational performance of the school and the performance management of staff
- overseeing the financial performance and value for money of the school
- supporting and challenging the school staff to ensure that high standards are maintained.
- seeking out and responding to the views of the children, parents, staff and the community.
- working as a team with the school staff and supporting their well-being.
- investing in buildings and facilities and optimising their use

4. Community engagement - Effective and supportive relationships with parents/carers and wider community

- sharing information with parents/carers about their child(ren) and the school, and we will listen to their views. Good communication between the school and parents is vital.
- giving parents opportunities to learn about how the school works, and explain any changes.
- valuing parents/carers and members of the Royston community in various roles in school such as Governors and classroom helpers.
- valuing our PTA for their contributions to the life of their school and for the money they raise
- playing an active role in the Royston Schools Partnership
- finding ways to build strong links with the local community

5. Continual review of development opportunities - Ensuring we review our capabilities and continually strive for improvement

- stakeholder surveys
- writing, monitoring and updating the school Self Evaluation form
- feedback from external visits such as Herts School Effectiveness Team and Advisory Teachers
- staff training
- peer support and monitoring
- Ofsted
- DfE directives
- response to local factors ie number of children, needs of children and needs of families
- School Development plans
- Termly reviews from Herts learning partnership
- subject leader training and development and curriculum reviews
- link governor input and support
- lesson self-observation