

# 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

**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