



Philosophy underpinning the curriculum at Essendine Primary School

At Essendine Primary School, we believe that there should be no ceiling to achievement. We believe in mastery for all across the curriculum so that pupils can be 'the best that they can be'. Mastery is an expectation that all children can achieve a high standard. The purpose of this is not to differentiate but to ensure that all children have grasped fundamental, necessary content. We support all pupils in achieving this through appropriate scaffolding and a flexible approach to teaching. Teacher questioning probes and deepens thinking about concepts taught.

Pupils are encouraged to develop a 'growth mind set'. A growing mind thrives on challenge, so is not limited in any way by what we perceive our ability to be. Fear of failure is the biggest barrier to achievement. Therefore, we inspire pupils to become risk takers through problem-solving, to question wherever possible and to challenge themselves wherever they can.

Alongside this, 'attitudes for learning' are embedded and used for setting targets to move pupils on and to become more reflective in their own learning. These are:

- Productivity – the amount of work produced in a lesson
- Risk taking – trying new ways of working/methodologies
- Presentation – how work is presented, reflecting pride
- Application – using skills learnt in the previous lesson
- Focus – level of concentration