



## **Evidence-Informed**

Our curriculum is evidence-informed to ensure that teaching methods and content are grounded in robust, research-backed practises. This approach aligns with the Education Endowment Foundation's emphasis on using proven strategies to improve student outcomes. Willingham's cognitive science research highlights the importance of memory and retrieval practice in learning, which helps students retain knowledge long-term. By embedding such evidence in our curriculum, we maximise the effectiveness of teaching and learning.

## **Inclusive**

An inclusive curriculum is fundamental: it ensures equitable access to learning for all students, regardless of background or ability. Research from the EEF shows that targeted support for disadvantaged groups, such as pupils with SEND or those eligible for Pupil Premium, can significantly narrow attainment gaps. Inclusivity fosters a sense of belonging and motivation, which are critical for engagement and achievement, aligning with the school's values of respect and responsibility.

## **Ambitious**

We set an ambitious curriculum to inspire all students to reach their full potential, reflecting high expectations as a catalyst for achievement. Mary Myatt and Doug Lemov emphasise that ambition in curriculum design challenges learners to think critically and develop resilience—key skills for lifelong success. Ambition also supports closing the attainment gap by raising standards for all, particularly disadvantaged students.

## **Rigorously Sequenced**

A rigorously sequenced curriculum is crucial as it structures learning in a coherent progression, enabling students to build on prior knowledge systematically. Mary Myatt's concept of "threads" or big ideas running through subjects ensures that learning is connected and cumulative. Cognitive science supports this sequencing as essential for deep understanding and memory retention, both critical for progress.

## **Rich in Experience**

We prioritise a curriculum rich in experience to engage students deeply and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These cognitive challenges help students build robust mental models and improve long-term retention (Ofsted, 2023). An experience-rich curriculum helps students to make abstract concepts concrete and relevant, which improves comprehension and motivation. This approach also prepares students for real-world challenges, fostering resilience and adaptability.

## **Contextualised**

Appropriately contextualising the curriculum makes learning meaningful by linking it to students' lives, local community, and the wider world. Research shows that when students see the relevance of their learning, engagement and retention improve. This principle also supports inclusivity by respecting diverse backgrounds and experiences, making education more accessible and motivating.

## **Knowledge & Vocabulary Rich**

A knowledge and vocabulary-rich curriculum equips students with the language and conceptual understanding necessary to access academic discourse and think critically. The EEF notes the importance of vocabulary knowledge in improving overall academic outcomes. We know that vocabulary acquisition is crucial for understanding new information and making connections across subjects (Willingham).