



MERDON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Our School Improvement Plan

Growing Thoughtful Learners for Future Successes

Our vision

At Merdon, we want every child to grow as a person, as a learner and in their understanding of their role in the world. Our values — Aspirational, Connected and Thoughtful — guide the choices we make every day.

A message to our families

Schools are always developing. Our improvement plan sets out the next steps we are taking to make children's experience at Merdon even stronger. It builds on the many things our school already does well and focuses our time, training and resources on the areas that will make the greatest difference to children.

The full school improvement plan is a detailed working document for staff and governors. This family version explains the important parts: what we want children to experience, what we are developing and what success will look like.

Our three big questions

We have organised our improvement work around three simple questions. They reflect the way we approach teaching and learning at Merdon: asking thoughtful questions, finding evidence and making a difference.



1. Are our children happy and thoughtful learners?

We want children to feel happy, supported and included, while becoming increasingly confident and independent learners.



2. How successful are our children as learners?

We want every child to make strong progress, develop secure foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, and be supported to overcome barriers to learning.

3. How are we growing all children to achieve?

We want every child to be ambitious for themselves, to take responsibility, discover their strengths and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Priority 1: Happy, thoughtful learners

Our aim is for children to feel safe, supported and ready to learn — and to increasingly understand the strategies that help them when learning feels difficult.

- Develop inclusive and adaptive teaching so that learning is accessible to all children.
- Strengthen pastoral provision and improve the spaces and resources available for children who need additional support.
- Develop sensory and pastoral spaces, including indoor and outdoor areas.
- Help children become more independent by teaching them strategies they can use themselves.
- Develop our approach to project learning so that children can make meaningful links between subjects and learn in different ways.
- Work with families through workshops and shared information so that parents understand how we support learning and wellbeing.

Priority 2: Successful learners

We want children to make strong progress from their starting points. We will use assessment carefully so that teachers know what children understand, where the gaps are and what needs to happen next.

- Continue to strengthen pupil progress meetings and transition between year groups.
- Develop assessment for learning so children have regular opportunities to reflect, demonstrate their understanding and act on feedback.
- Make sure assessment information is used to adapt teaching and tasks.
- Strengthen individual education plans so they are practical working documents that help teachers support children with SEND.
- Continue to develop consistency in teaching and learning across the school.
- Support children who are working below age-related expectations with carefully identified small steps that help them catch up.
- Continue to strengthen reading fluency and foundational skills.



Priority 3: Growing all children to achieve

We want Merdon children to be ambitious, responsible and active members of our school community. Achievement means more than test results: it includes the confidence, skills, experiences and character children develop.

- Create a coherent outdoor curriculum that makes the most of our grounds and the opportunities they provide.
- Give children meaningful responsibilities and opportunities to contribute to school life.
- Develop children's understanding of good citizenship and recognise the ways they make a positive difference.
- Broaden participation in sport, arts, clubs, leadership and other enrichment opportunities.
- Continue to build a culture where barriers are addressed and every child is encouraged to succeed.
- Celebrate achievement in all its forms — academic, sporting, creative, personal and community-focused.

How we will know we are making a difference

We will not judge improvement by one number or one snapshot. Leaders, teachers and governors will use a mixture of information: children's work and progress, lesson visits, assessment information, attendance, participation in wider opportunities, pupil voice, parent feedback and staff development.

Our direction of travel

We are aiming for a school where children are happy to come to school, increasingly independent in their learning, ambitious about what they can achieve and able to contribute positively to the world around them.



Our Merdon values

ASPIRATIONAL We believe in what we can achieve and encourage others to do the same.

CONNECTED We build positive relationships and understand that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

THOUGHTFUL We think carefully, make considered choices and show care for people and the world around us.

Together, we are growing thoughtful learners for future successes.