



Co-op Academy
Penny Oaks

Personal Development at Co-op Academy Penny Oaks



Our bespoke Personal Development curriculum

Introduction

Personal Development is embedded throughout all we do at Co-op Academy Penny Oaks. Through our bespoke curriculum our pupils are given a myriad of opportunities to develop their skills beyond the statutory curriculum aimed at building their character and personality. Our teachers skilfully exploit opportunities to develop our pupil's character throughout the whole curriculum.

We aim for our children to leave our school equipped with the capital culture needed to be successful.

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Our curriculum drivers

Aspirations

Experiences

**Healthy
Lifestyles**





Our curriculum drivers underpin everything that we do at Penny Oaks and are woven through our entire bespoke curriculum.

Aspirations ... We believe that it is our responsibility to raise the aspirations of our children so that they know that they can be anything they wish to be.

Experiences ... We provide a range of experiences that enhance our curriculum offer in order to ensure that all children receive a rich, engaging curriculum that goes beyond “the norm.”

Healthy Lifestyles ... At Co-op Academy Penny Oaks we work hard to promote Healthy Lifestyles focussing on physical and mental wellbeing.

Our School Values

			
Collaboration	Honesty	Respect	Resourcefulness
Forgiveness	Confidence	Generosity	Reflection
Self-control	Determination	Kindness	Resilience

The school values are at the heart of everything that we do at Penny Oaks. We have selected 12 values that we believe help to develop our pupils' character and learning behaviours, these are linked to the Co-op "Ways of Being" which serve as a reminder of the community to which we belong.

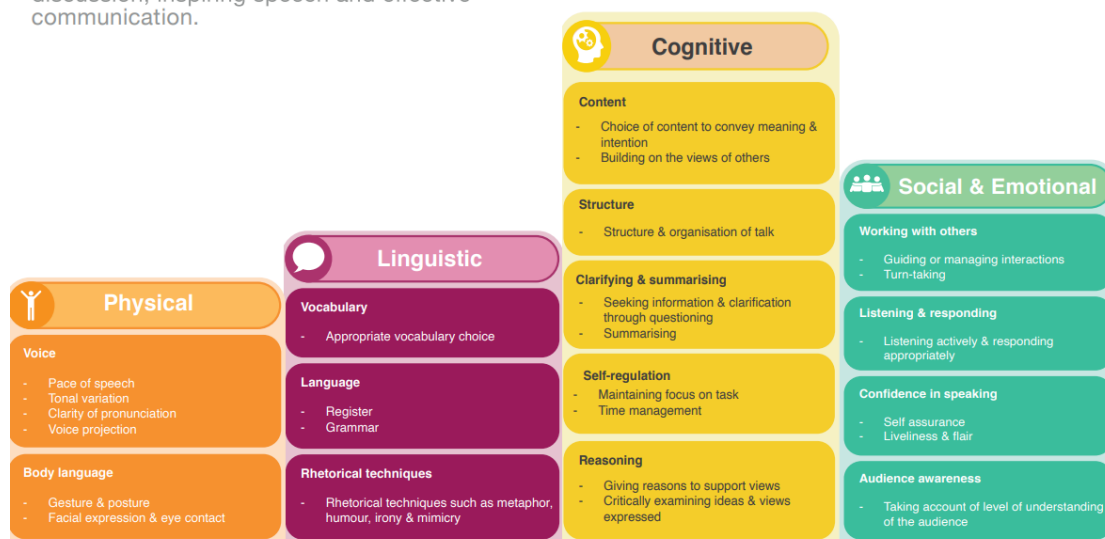
Our behaviour policy is largely led by the pupils and is centred around the school values. Pupils catch each other displaying the values and give recognition for this and a "Values Champion" is chosen by the pupils each week as an example of how to show the values in action. Values Champions proudly wear the golden lanyard in celebration of being selected by their peers.

Oracy

The Oracy Framework

Use the Oracy Framework to understand the physical, linguistic, cognitive, and social and emotional skills that enable successful discussion, inspiring speech and effective communication.

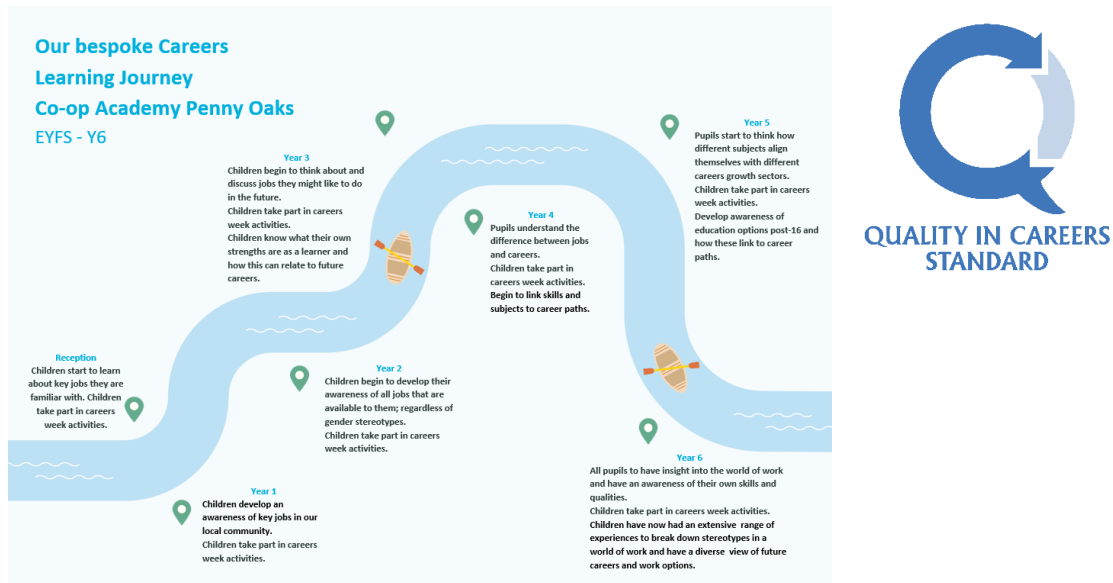
Oracy Cambridge



We describe ourselves as an “Oracy School” at Penny Oaks – that is how important oracy is to us and how embedded our practice of teaching and promoting oracy is. Our ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through speaking and listening shapes our future life chances and we believe that explicitly teaching our pupils the conventions of talk ensures that they have a voice that they feel empowered to use.

We have developed a bespoke oracy curriculum which sets out how we progressively teach oracy skills across the school from the early years to Year 6. Throughout the wider curriculum we have identified numerous opportunities for children to apply their oracy skills through presentation, drama, discussions and performance. We are passionate about giving our pupils the opportunity to perform to a wide audience and so we hire the Bradford Playhouse for three days at the end of each year for our end-of-year shows so that every child in school performs on a professional stage at least once a year.

Careers and Y6 workforce



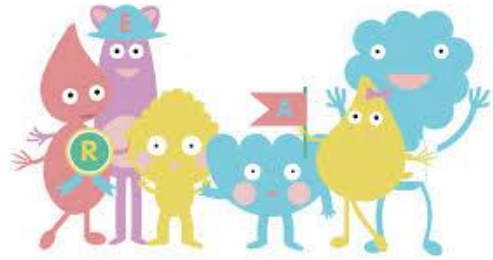
Our career-based curriculum is embedded throughout our curriculum from the Early Years to Year 6 and includes visits from people in various careers and our annual Careers Week.

We have embedded opportunities for visitors and visits linked to various career opportunities and which challenge gender stereotypes for example one of our regular visitors is a female engineer who inspires the children in her talk about working in a male-dominated arena. In July 2024 we were awarded the Quality in Careers standard in recognition of careers programme.

We have a very successful Year 6 workforce. The children have to apply for a role in school and if successful in their application go through to an interview. The children work hard in their roles through the week getting their time sheets signed at the end of every session they complete. Once the timesheet is signed they can collect the payment tokens at the end of the week. The children choose what to do with their tokens, they can spend them straight away to pay for a chosen item from the 'shop' or they can save them up to get something of greater value.

Our PSHE/RSE curriculum

**The STORY
PROJECT**



PSHE/RSE is taught through two amazing schemes of work – The Story Project and My Happy Mind.

The Story Project is taught from the Early Years to Year 6 and using quality texts to teach all aspects of PSHE and RSE as well as well-being and social and emotional skills. The story Project is evidence-based and firmly rooted in research in the fields of literacy and wellbeing and helps children talk about and reflect on topics that can often be difficult to understand.

Backed by the NHS, My Happy Mind is a programme for teachers, parents and children help to prepare today's children for tomorrow's world by building resilient, balanced and happy minds at home, nursery and school. We teach the MY Happy Mind programme from the Early Years up to Year 6.

Our RE curriculum



RE lessons provide opportunities to celebrate differences and respect ourselves, others and the world in which we live. At Penny Oaks we aim to give children the knowledge, critical thinking skills, open minded and respectful attitude with which to investigate the world of religion and beliefs, and make their own decisions about what this means to them, whilst empathising with what it means to those who hold those beliefs. We also aim to enable children to grow spiritually by developing their awareness and skills of reflection, their experience of awe and wonder and their appreciation of stillness and silence.

At Penny Oaks, we follow the Discovery RE® approach to Religious Education. This is an enquiry-based learning approach from the Early Years to Year 6. Through Discovery RE and during their time at Primary School, children investigate 59 enquiry modules covering Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. These enquiry-based learning sessions support the teacher to deliver engaging and challenging RE lessons.

Heritage



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

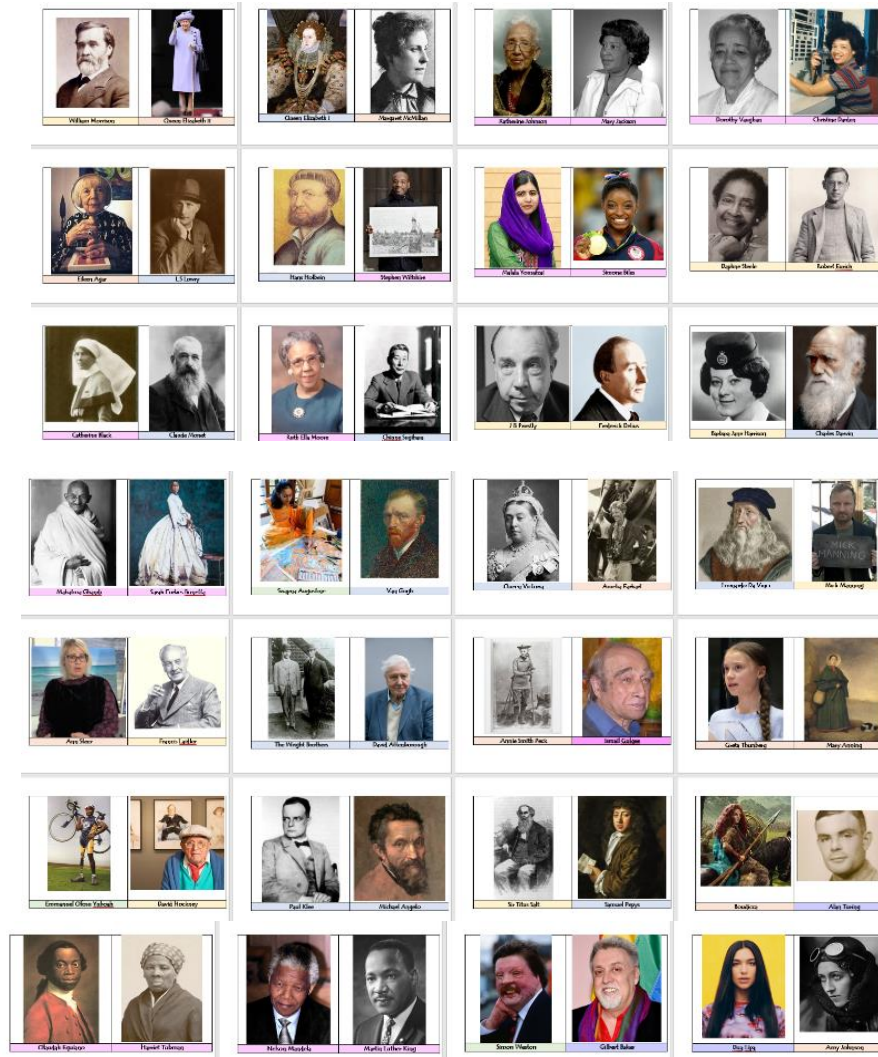
At Penny Oaks we have a golden thread of “Heritage” running through our bespoke curriculum. We aim to teach children about the heritage and history of Bradford so that they can be proud of where they live.

Research shows that having pride in where one lives increases one’s sense of self-worth and confidence. We want our pupils to appreciate the beautiful city of Bradford and all of the opportunities that it offers young people and to be proud to live in Bradford.

We have worked with English Heritage to identify areas of our curriculum where Bradford heritage can be intertwined, for example in Year 2 the curriculum during Autumn term focuses on Francis Laidler – the man responsible for bringing pantomime to Bradford. We also use local artists as our focus in the art curriculum, for example Robert Eurich, who was a war artist born in Bradford.

We have a set of diverse figures who we study in our lessons and assemblies and many of these are local heroes including Barbara Jane Harrison, Daphne Steele and William Morrison.

Protected Characteristics



Intertwined throughout our bespoke curriculum are a number of significant figures who represent the protected characteristics. The figures chosen also contain local heroes and significant historical figures.

The significant figures are either studied in the curriculum or they are taught through assemblies. We aim to use these to teach about the protected characteristics and build tolerance and understanding for people who are different to ourselves.

School Council



We have a school council to ensure that our pupils have a voice and are able to contribute to the school in a way that is impactful and rewarding. Having a School Council is rewarding for the pupils and it helps to develop strong communication links between the adults and the children in school.

The School Council is a body of pupils set up to represent all pupils on issues that affect them, anything from what they eat at lunchtime to changes in the school building. Each year, we hold a democratic election with a secret ballot to ensure all children have an opportunity to become a School Councillor.

An effective School Council represents the views of all the pupils. Our School Councillors ask for the views of their peers and bring those ideas to each meeting for further discussion. The Council will work hard all year delivering their impact plan: attending meetings, discussing ideas, listening to others, producing posters, assisting charity events, collecting donations. They will also represent Co-op Academy Penny Oaks throughout the year, attending special events and celebrations.

Well-being champions



Our Well-being Champions are a group of Year 5 and 6 children who have been especially selected by our learning mentor (Mrs Shah) to provide well-being support to the rest of the children in school.

Our well-being champions have been especially trained to help Mrs Shah lead circle time sessions in each class with a focus on mental health and well-being.

As part of their role our Well-being Champions also lead assemblies and activities for important weeks of the year such as Children's Mental Health week and Anti-bullying week.

As with our School Council members, our Well-being Champions ask for the views of their peers and bring those ideas to each meeting for further discussion. They work hard all year delivering their impact plan: attending meetings, discussing ideas, listening to others, delivering circle time sessions, leading whole-school events, and much more. They will also represent Co-op Academy Penny Oaks throughout the year, attending special events and celebrations alongside their School Council colleagues.

50 things to do before you leave Penny Oaks



20 things to get done in Key Stage 1



20 things to do in Key Stage 2



10 things to accomplish whenever you wish



As a school staff, in consultation with our pupils, we have devised a bespoke set of 50 activities that we aim for our children to complete before they leave our school. The aim of the activities is to provide our pupils with lifetime memories and skills.

The activities have been especially chosen to enhance our curriculum and provide a rich set of experiences that our children might otherwise not have the opportunity to complete.

We have carefully woven “20 Things to do in KS2” and “20 Things to get done in KS1” into our curriculum ensuring that every child completes each activity. The remaining “10 things to accomplish whenever you wish” are left for children to complete at home with their families.

Singing curriculum



As a school, we truly believe in the benefits music and singing have on a pupil's attainment and their mental health and well-being. We are very fortunate to be able to access the Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme which provides us with singing lessons with a choral director for every child in KS1 and KS2.

The Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme is recognised as the UK's leading Catholic singing provision, reaching over 6,500 children across the Diocese every week. Music, and singing in particular, enhances learning; improving mental and physical well-being, building cohesion and, as shown by recent academic studies, contributing to learning development in areas across the curriculum. Our sessions follow a rich and broad curriculum, offering the best in sacred and secular songs, all of which are carefully chosen to develop the children's vocal and musical development and feed into school's collective worship and performances.

Children have many opportunities throughout the year to perform and sing together including the Bradford School's Prom and our own end-of-year performances at the Bradford Playhouse.

Music tuition



All children in Key Stage 2 at Co-op Academy Penny Oaks receive musical tuition of ukulele and guitar. Lessons are led by Henry Parker a professional singer, songwriter and musician from West Yorkshire.

We recognise research that shows how music and playing musical instruments can have a positive effect on mental health and well-being and help improve performance in all areas of the curriculum.

Children have many opportunities throughout the year to perform and play instruments together including the Bradford School's Prom and our own end-of-year performances at the Bradford Playhouse.

Outdoor learning and forest schools



At Penny Oaks we understand the importance of taking learning beyond the classroom. We recognise research that shows children learn better and retain more of what is being taught when they do so in an active, creative environment. With this in mind coupled with our commitment to be more active in lessons we aim to utilise our outside space as much as possible for lessons.

Our nursery children take part in a morning of Forest Schools every week, these sessions are led by our nursery teacher Mrs Redman who is a trained forest schools leader.

As a school we have invested a great amount into ensuring our children have a great outside space in which to learn and that our teachers are well trained in how to utilise the outside space to enhance their lessons.

The sustainable development goals



We have divided the Sustainable development goals up across our curriculum to ensure that every year group has a half term to focus on their SDG and linked environmental issues.

We work in partnership with Rethink Food who deliver a weekly supply of surplus food. Children work to create their own social enterprise through which food will eventually be distributed. They are guided by experts to create their own business name, logo, and slogan before applying for different job roles within the organisation. The social enterprise then becomes the centre point for educational, social, and environmental outcomes at our school.

Each week school receives a delivery of food. The food is nutritionally balanced in line with the Eatwell Guide and evaluated by our expert nutritionist. A lot of this food has been rescued from waste, having been deemed surplus to requirement for a number of different reasons.

Nutrition lessons



Every child at Penny Oaks receives at least one nutrition and cooking lesson each half term. Our Nutrition Lead, Mrs Garner, follows the Look and Cook primary Programme to ensure that every child leaves Penny Oaks with basic cooking skills including basic knife skills and experience of following basic recipes.

As part of our Healthy Lifestyles curriculum driver, Mrs Garner teaches the children basic nutrition skills such as recognising food groups and using the “Eatwell Plate” to make healthy food choices. She also links her sessions with our gardening activities using what has been grown by the pupils in her cooking sessions in order to teach children about where food comes from and how to prepare and cook fresh vegetables.

We recognise that it isn’t always the children in a household that are making food choices so Mrs Garner also works with parents to enhance their knowledge of nutrition and making healthy choices – more about this later on!

Gardening



Inspired by our collaboration with the Tower of London for the Superbloom project for Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee, we have developed a love of gardening at Penny Oaks.

Linking to our Healthy Lifestyles curriculum driver all children get various opportunities to garden throughout the school year. We recognise the benefits of gardening on mental health and wellbeing and have invested in opportunities for the pupils to garden throughout the curriculum. Our recently refurbished outside classroom offers pupils a tranquil place to learn and potter in the greenhouse. Children can often be found watering the hanging baskets, planting bulbs or harvesting fresh vegetables from our raised beds. You may even find children relaxing in our well-being garden or collecting left-over food from the kitchen to feed to the worms in our wormery – the pupils and staff at Penny Oaks really do love to get soil under their fingernails!

Cultural champions



ROYAL BALLET & OPERA

At Penny Oaks we are passionate about creating an engaging environment for learning where children can thrive. We recognise that children learn on a deeper level when they learn through physical and creative activities. Driven by this commitment, we have invested in training for all teaching staff with Royal Ballet and Opera to ensure experiences such as opera and ballet are part of our curriculum.

We have a member of staff who has been trained by Royal Ballet and Opera as a “Cultural Champion.” The role of the Cultural Champion is to promote the arts throughout the curriculum including dance, music and create and make.

Our Cultural Champion has trained our teaching staff to thread the arts throughout the curriculum to ensure that dance, music and creative activities are embedded.

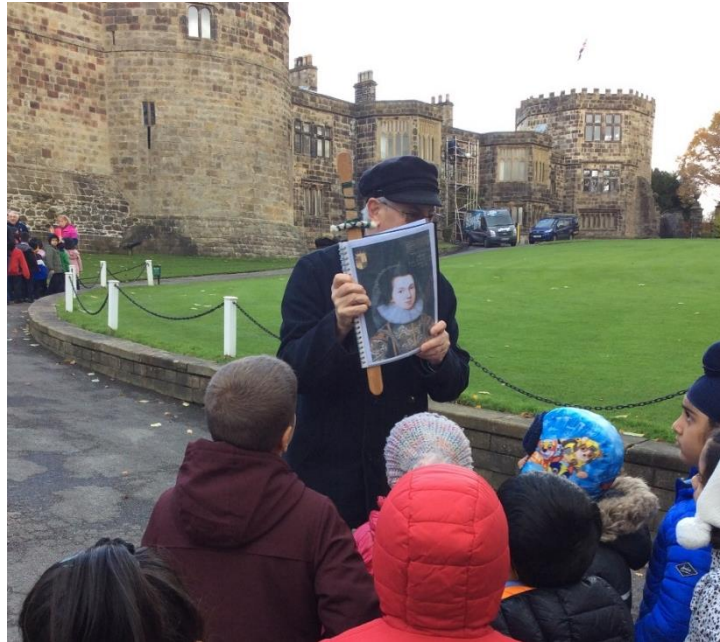
The Brilliant Club



Working with The Brilliant Club we select a group of Year 5 and 6 children to complete The Scholars Programme. PhD tutors share their subject knowledge and passion for learning helping our pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university. The pupils work under the instruction of the tutor work towards completing a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades.

The programme is structured around seven tutorials, and pupils also attend a Graduation Event at a partner university to speak with current undergraduates and learn about university life.

Trips and visitors



One of our curriculum drivers is “Experiences” as such we aim to provide wide and varied experiences as part of our bespoke curriculum offer.

All classes have at least three visits out of school a year including trips to Skipton Castle, The Alhambra Theatre, Leeds Urban Farm and Ilkley. As well as these visits there are a multitude of visits and visitors arranged throughout the year for all year groups these include visits to support PSHE curriculum, our careers programme and links with other Co-op sites.

100 books to read before you leave Penny Oaks

100 books to read before
you leave Co-op Academy
Penny Oaks



Co-op Academy
Penny Oaks

100

At Co-op Academy Penny Oaks we want to encourage our pupils to read and to love books; we hope that by introducing them to a wide range of amazing books we will instil a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

The amazing adults at our school have all been asked to nominate their favourite books and we have compiled a list of *“100 Books to read before you leave Co-op Academy Penny Oaks.”*

You will find these books displayed in our special cabinet for our pupils to borrow and enjoy but they can, of course, read these books any time and any place – just as long as it’s before they leave our school!

Intergenerational Linking



Here at Penny Oaks we love to provide rich experiences for our children as we want to develop not only their academic ability but their character as well.

We have linked with Dove Court – a local residential care home – to share events with the residents there and our pupils.

Recent activities have included a gardening session where residents and pupils planted seeds and bulbs for the Dove Court garden, a Christmas carol concert and an Easter card making session.

The children and residents gain so much from these events. The care home manager recently commented that she had never seen the residents so happy and engaged in an activity.

Parent Events



We are passionate about involving the whole school community in our events and understand the importance of engaging parents and carers with the school.

Over recent years we have developed a wealth of regular opportunities for parents to engage with school including our very popular Dance “N” Dine events. Held after school we provide an hour of activity followed by a healthy evening meal, this event is open to all families including siblings of our pupils.

Other events include our Mother’s Day afternoon tea, our parent and child cook-off sessions and our bingo afternoons.

We also hold regular showcases of our bespoke curriculum which give parents the opportunity to come into school and take part in or observe live lessons. These sessions give parents the opportunity to better understand our curriculum and to see it in action with their children.



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