



# **Crossflatts' Drama Curriculum**

## **Our Intent-The Why**

### **The Thrill...**

To engage our children in their learning and to develop a love of Drama within them, we choose cross-curricular opportunities that will be meaningful, exciting and linked to the theme for that half term. We ask the children which topics they are interested in and carefully choose an area which the children are hooked into. We understand that when children are interested and engaged, they are more likely to want to learn. Drama can link to characters, real life scenarios, debates and an understanding of life itself. Our whole school events, including World Book Day, Rose Day, class performances, Remembrance Day and Big Starts all give children the opportunity to be involved in drama. Within classrooms, our creative and exciting reading corners give the chance for children to take part in drama activities such as role play, small world, dressing up and story making.

### **The Will...**

Through drama, the understanding of a topic, character or scenario creates the desire and motivation to improve understanding and create a willingness to want to learn more. Drama can bring the outside world to the classroom; creating real life situations, questions and opinions. Drama creates a challenge to think outside the box, to problem solve and to consider contrasting opinions. We take pride in giving our children the chance to perform in front of an audience; giving them the will and the motivation through Nativities, KS1 performances, leavers' performances, class assemblies and singing performances. The more children are exposed to drama, the more they build confidence, self awareness and motivation to improve their stage presence. Showing professional performances also gives the children a goal; they could also be successful in the arts.

### **The Skill...**

Drama is a part of the English curriculum and is woven into the English learning journey in many cases as well as linking to the class topic. The class book plays a part in how drama is taught. Character work, story understanding and creativity come before we begin the writing journey. Children play, speak and interact with peers before they create any writing in order to generate ideas, plot and structure. We recognise that drama skills need to spiral across the curriculum, becoming more advanced and challenging as children move through school. Drama is closely linked to music and art in a cross-curricular way, often to create a performance to give the children a purpose and an audience for their work. Children design their own costumes, props, scenery and music through interaction and planning with each other.



### ...To be Brill

We understand that the Performing Arts industry is one of the most successful industries in the country. It does not only include the performers themselves, but stage managers, lighting and sound technicians, scenery, costume and props designers as well as the advertisement, business and financial aspects of theatre. As a school, we teach children how to put on a performance and include them in all of the above. Children take responsibility for their own learning and drama gives them the confidence, teamwork skills and motivation to do so. We give the opportunity to practise speaking skills in front of an audience. Children learn how to speak in a clear and confident manner, building self esteem and the essential skills that will help them to succeed in the future.



## How do we do it?

The National Curriculum for English includes Drama therefore reading, writing, speaking and listening are all closely linked within the learning journey.

The English journey begins with a launch pad where children predict, analyse and read the class text. This then moves onto studying the piece of text, the grammatical aspects and plot or structure. It also includes looking at other similar texts to gather ideas and differing thoughts and opinions. This is where we teach drama: children can play with a text, build characters, think of ideas and exciting vocabulary. Children can edit their ideas, perform and listen to other people's ideas and learn the skill of creating an original product. Children learn through play and interaction with others, therefore drama should always be a tool for writing and comprehension. This then leads onto the children producing a Showcase write.

It is not only through English that drama is taught. We often link drama to music, dance, art and DT under the umbrella of Performing Arts. We teach the children how each subject links well together to create a performance; music adds mood and tension, art and DT can be used to create costumes, scenery and props. Dance is drama through movement and can tell a story without using speech. Children create their own performances through the use of real life situations, current affairs, a class topic or a musical story.

## The National Curriculum (Drama)

At Crossflatts, we aim to give our children a strong foundation in the skills that are essential to drama:

### Our Aims:

- All pupils should be enabled to participate in and gain knowledge, skills and understanding associated with the artistic practice of drama.
- Pupils should be able to adopt, create and sustain a range of roles, responding appropriately to others in role.
- They should have opportunities to improvise, devise and script drama for one another and a range of audiences, as well as to rehearse, refine, share and respond thoughtfully to drama and theatre performances.
- Pupils should be taught to listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers.
- Pupils should speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English.
- Pupils should participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- Pupils will learn specific drama skills to improve acting and performance.
- We will provide acting opportunities that are meaningful, linked to the topic and that motivate children to want to write afterwards.