

Curriculum intent

At Clover Leys Spencer Academy, we are proud to offer an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum that places **reading** at its heart, stimulates curiosity, and equips children with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. Rooted in our core values of **Resilience, Empathy, Ambition, Community, and Health (REACH)**, our curriculum encourages pupils to ask thoughtful questions, think critically, and make meaningful connections across subjects. Through this, we empower our children to become independent, resilient, and reflective learners who show empathy, take pride in their community, and aspire to lead healthy, fulfilling lives — physically, emotionally, and socially. We recognise that good health underpins all learning and success; therefore, we actively promote wellbeing, positive relationships, and active lifestyles throughout our curriculum.

Our curriculum has been carefully designed to reflect both our **local and global context**. Rooted in the growing community of **Boulton Moor, Derby**, it celebrates the area's emerging identity while drawing inspiration from the region's rich heritage — from the **engineering excellence of Rolls-Royce** and the **innovative legacy of Sir Richard Arkwright**, to the **natural beauty of the Derbyshire Dales** and the **River Derwent**. Local landmarks such as the **church, care home, small businesses**, and **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** provide authentic opportunities for pupils to connect their learning to the real world, strengthening their sense of belonging and responsibility.

At Clover Leys, our curriculum is driven by our **four drivers: Knowledge, Skills, Reading, and Community**. Knowledge is carefully sequenced to build deep understanding and develop schema that allow pupils to think, reason, and create. Skills are taught and applied deliberately, enabling pupils to communicate, collaborate, and problem-solve effectively. Reading lies at the core of our provision — unlocking imagination, broadening horizons, and enriching vocabulary. Our focus on community fosters pride, empathy, and engagement, encouraging pupils to understand their role within both the local area and the wider world. Each year, pupils study six **global themes — Community, Curiosity and Wonder, Sustainability, Peace and Conflict, Global Awareness, and Identity**. These themes are revisited and explored progressively as children move through school, ensuring that their understanding deepens and connections are strengthened over time. The global themes provide meaningful contexts that encourage pupils to explore their place in the world, understand others, and consider how they can make a positive difference. By engaging with these themes each year, our children learn to balance curiosity with compassion, and knowledge with moral purpose.

Our approach is influenced by research and cognitive science, recognising that true learning happens when new knowledge connects to prior understanding. We know that pupils learn best when they can recall, retrieve, and apply what they know in new contexts. Therefore, our curriculum ensures clear progression, revisiting key concepts and embedding knowledge securely into long-term memory. This enables pupils to make connections across time, place, and subject — creating a rich web of understanding that underpins both academic and personal growth.

We recognise that some of our children have limited exposure to different cultures, beliefs, and experiences. Therefore, our curriculum intentionally broadens horizons, promotes diversity, and builds cultural capital. Through rich experiences, carefully chosen literature, and thoughtful teaching, we nurture empathy, understanding, and respect for others.

By the time they leave Clover Leys Spencer Academy, our pupils are knowledgeable, skilled, and compassionate individuals — confident readers, curious learners, and active citizens who embody our **REACH values**. They are resilient and empathetic, ambitious and community-minded, and understand the importance of caring for their own health and wellbeing, as well as that of others. They are proud of who they are, rooted in their community, and equipped with the curiosity, confidence, and moral purpose to shape a better, fairer, and more sustainable world.