**CURRICULUM INTENT**

The Grove School is nestled within a local community of rich history, culture and creativity. The children come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. There is access to beautiful countryside and coastal areas but limited access to larger cities, diverse cultural experiences and people. Totnes prides itself on being inclusive and non-judgemental about lifestyle and parenting choices; the children of Totnes are naturally empathetic and welcoming to all. Children’s experiences and opportunities vary enormously from family to family.

As a result of this, we strive to ensure the children’s experiences and opportunities are levelled, that we enrich their minds with knowledge, understanding and experiences.

**“Knowledge is an unending adventure at the edge of uncertainty”**

**Jacob Bronowski**

At The Grove, we believe that knowledge is KEY; Knowledge Empowers You. Our curriculum is based on a Tree of Knowledge for Life. At our roots we ignite and inspire, giving children the nutrients for learning, giving children carefully chosen Powerful Knowledge which is deliberately crafted for resonance and cohesion throughout the school. It is structured where knowledge is built upon term by term, year by year. This knowledge is largely based on The National Curriculum, taught through discrete subjects. We developed our curriculum through active research, with a particular focus on Mary Myatt and Claire Sealey. Deep practice and mastery follow in our 4 stage sequence, followed by a showcase of children’s learning, with retrieval practice built in (inspired by Kate Jones). We aim to cover less but more depth so that we take our children to a place where they know more, understand more and can do more.

LEARNING SEQUENCE:

1. Ignite and inspire
2. Deep practice (powerful knowledge and comprehension)
3. Mastery (application and analysis and synthesis and evaluation)
4. Showcase (thinking)

Our curriculum helps children build, grow, understand, reflect and participate; it ensures that children are tolerant human beings who think globally, act locally with a sense of responsibility; it equips them with the knowledge to take them into an unknown future with confidence and imagination. Our curriculum is built around our children who attend our school now and is shaped by our local community and its diversity.

“Seeking knowledge is like opening doors. The doors are everywhere!” George St Pierre.

We believe that children need more support with opening doors – not just knowledge. For this reason, we have an ‘inside story.’

The ‘inside story’ of our curriculum Tree is underpinned by 3 ‘heartwoods’; Grove Mindset, Mental Health and Metacognition. Team Grove is the tool which facilitates these and children take pride in their Learning Journals which follow them throughout their school career and beyond.

At The Grove, we provide an exciting, creative and challenging subject-led curriculum which makes links where appropriate and useful. We provide our children with memorable experiences and build upon their interests and aspirations. This is achieved through our curriculum and is enhanced by our Grove 100. Children who attend The Grove are entitled to 100 experiences which we believe will help them to find their passions and grow into well rounded, confident, successful and empathetic and happy young people. Children ‘graduate’ from The Grove in Year 6 having taken part in these experiences which range from a muddy puddle walk to a full weeks residential.

Plato argued that in order for children to learn, they need to play with lovely things. Playing is not messing about – it is exploration, engagement and thought. At The Grove, play is a key part of our curriculum.

Knowledge is KEY; Knowledge Empowers You.

“Knowledge changes what we can think” and “who are we to limit what it might be possible for children to think about?” Aldous Huxley