

BEAUFONT FIRST SCHOOL, NURSERY AND BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Ambitious - Enthusiastic - Inspiring - Outstanding - Unique

Skills Builder Policy

Version History

Version	Date	Author / Contributor	Date Approved	Approved By	Next Review
1.0	07.10.25	GB/ AP	March 2024	FGB	October 2026

Intention

The Skills Builder Framework is designed to ensure that essential skills can be taught, learnt, and measured through a Universal Framework identifying eight essential skills. This framework underpins the ethos at Beaufront First School - ambitious, enthusiastic, inspired, outstanding, and unique - supporting pupils to be the best that they can be, by promoting essential skills for life.

The main aims of Skills Builder at Beaufront First School are:

- **Universal Skills Development:** To ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to develop a common set of essential skills.
- **Preparation for the Future:** To equip pupils with skills that are not easily outdated by technological advancements and are applicable throughout their education and later, across various careers and industries.
- **Improved Outcomes:** To enhance academic performance and improve overall well-being for individuals who build these essential skills.
- **A Common Language:** Clear and agreed language that all teachers, children, and their families can use to teach/ learn, measure, and discuss essential skills effectively.
- **Integration Across Education and Work:** To embed skills development into the curriculum, linking to future education and/ or careers and work, giving meaning to the essential skills now and for the future.
- **Application of Technical Skills:** To improve the effective use of technical skills by combining them with essential skills like creativity, problem-solving, and staying positive.

Implementation

At Beaufront First School, we have carefully integrated the essential skills from the Skills Builder Universal Framework with the core and wider curriculum. Specific Skills Builder sessions are timetabled each week, and Challenge Days and Weeks are set for each half term with a focus on one or more essential skills. Skills are embedded across subjects with thoughtfully designed activities focusing on specific skills, so that a spiral curriculum approach is in action throughout the school. This approach ensures that children are explicitly taught about the essential skills, how to acquire, develop, and demonstrate these skills, and have opportunities to practice these skills in different contexts across the curriculum. The Framework is then used for Assessment, with a range of tools to measure and track individual progress in essential skills, including weekly certificates from formative assessments/ observations, and summative assessments 3 times per year.

At Beaufront First School, all adults aim to be good role models for the essential skills, making overt how skills can be used in everyday life. We also select role models from the wider community, and in the public eye, to draw attention to how essential skills can be used effectively and why they are important. Assemblies are led by the Skills Builder leaders, Mrs Paxton and Mrs Boucetla, to focus on Communication (Listening and Speaking), Creative Problem-Solving (Problem Solving and Creativity), Self-Management (Adapting and Planning), and Collaboration (Leadership and Teamwork).

Impact

- **Structured Learning:** The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a clear, step-by-step approach to teaching and learning essential skills.
- **CPD and Resources:** All staff at Beaufront are involved in Skills Builder CPD opportunities to support the common language and modelling of essential skills. Teaching staff gain access to practical resources, lesson plans, and assessment tools, making it easier to integrate essential skills into the curriculum and to further improve teaching and learning.
- **Learner Engagement:** The focus on real-world skills and a structured framework makes learning more relevant and engaging for pupils. The curriculum is enriched and enhanced by the inclusion of essential skills, experienced in different meaningful contexts.
- **Improved Outcomes:** Research shows that essential skills can boost academic outcomes, perseverance, and self-belief. Pupils at Beaufront First School are given opportunities to develop essential skills from the Early Years to Year 4, and this supports the overall ethos of enabling children to be ambitious, enthusiastic, inspired, outstanding, and unique.