

Cultural Capital Statement

Equipping every pupil with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

SCHOOL

Edgewood Academy

TYPE

Specialist SEND Provision (Primary)

LOCATION

Westmill Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3EL

HEADTEACHER

Kate Manning BA, NPQH, Apple Educator

01

What is Cultural Capital?

As part of making the judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider the extent to which schools are equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of 'knowledge and cultural capital' is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum:

'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'

02

Personal Development

At Edgewood Academy, personal development is central to our provision, recognising the unique barriers many of our pupils face due to their complex SEND and experiences of trauma. We prioritise rebuilding self-belief and fostering emotional resilience through a carefully planned programme of personal, social, and emotional learning. Our approach supports pupils to develop self-awareness, independence, and strategies for self-regulation, helping them understand both themselves and the world around them. We provide enriching opportunities such as outdoor learning, community engagement, and purposeful use of technology through a 1:1 iPad environment to broaden horizons and ignite curiosity. Our therapeutic and nurturing environment encourages pupils to take pride in their achievements and develop aspirations, equipping them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally both within school and beyond.

03

Social Development

Including political and current affairs awareness

Social development is a key focus at Edgewood Academy, aiming to support pupils who may have previously struggled with social interaction and confidence. We provide a structured, supportive environment where pupils learn to build positive relationships through small group work, explicit teaching of social skills, and carefully scaffolded social opportunities. Our staff model respectful communication and provide consistent guidance to help pupils practise collaboration, conflict resolution, and empathy. We connect our pupils to the wider community through meaningful enrichment activities and local partnerships, fostering a sense of belonging and social responsibility. Although our primary pupils' understanding of political and current affairs is age-appropriate and accessible, we introduce them gently to concepts of fairness, community, and diversity to build early awareness of the world around them, preparing them for greater societal engagement in the future.

04

Physical Development

Physical development is an integral part of supporting the wellbeing and engagement of our pupils at Edgewood Academy. Understanding the sensory and emotional needs of our students, we incorporate regular movement opportunities and sensory-based activities throughout the day to aid regulation and focus. Our curriculum includes adapted physical education, outdoor learning, and movement breaks designed to build physical strength, coordination, and fitness in ways accessible to all abilities. We also teach pupils the importance of healthy lifestyles, including nutrition and personal wellbeing, tailored to their individual needs. Through these experiences, pupils gain resilience, confidence, and a positive attitude towards physical activity, which supports their overall development and readiness to learn.

05

Spiritual Development

Edgewood Academy places great emphasis on spiritual development as part of nurturing thoughtful, reflective, and empathetic individuals. Our therapeutic approach encourages pupils to develop self-awareness and reflection, helping them understand their emotions, values, and beliefs in a safe environment. We provide opportunities for guided discussions and reflective activities that foster kindness, respect, and empathy. Pupils explore diverse perspectives and experiences, learning to appreciate human creativity and achievement while also developing an understanding of their place in the world. This spiritual growth supports pupils' wellbeing and personal identity, encouraging them to embrace their individuality and develop a grounded sense of self.

06

Moral Development

Moral development is actively promoted at Edgewood Academy through clear expectations, restorative practises, and a nurturing culture of respect and responsibility. Pupils learn to make positive choices by reflecting on their actions and understanding consequences within a safe and supportive environment. Our staff model ethical behaviour and guide pupils in developing fairness and integrity. We embed opportunities for pupils to discuss concepts of right and wrong, justice, and responsibility, helping them build a strong moral compass. This foundation supports pupils in becoming responsible citizens who understand the importance of contributing positively to their communities and society at large.

07

Cultural Development

Cultural development at Edgewood Academy is designed to expose pupils to a rich and diverse range of experiences that build appreciation for different cultures, traditions, and perspectives beyond their immediate environment. We integrate cultural learning into our curriculum and enrichment activities, celebrating diversity through community links, multicultural events, and curriculum content tailored to broaden pupils' worldviews. Our use of innovative technology, such as the 1:1 iPad programme, empowers pupils to explore and create, connecting them to wider cultural narratives and human achievements. By fostering empathy, respect, and social awareness, we aim to equip pupils with the cultural capital necessary to navigate and contribute positively to an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.