



Hillside First School
Our School Improvement Priorities 2026–27
“Children at the heart of everything we do”

Our Priorities for 2026–27

At Hillside First School, we are always looking for ways to make our school even better.

As we begin a new school year, we have carefully considered what is working well and where we can continue to improve. We have looked at children’s learning and progress, listened to our pupils and staff, and worked with our Local School Committee and Trust.

Our aim remains simple:

To ensure every child feels happy, safe, valued and supported to achieve their very best.

What will we be focusing on this year?

 Excellent teaching and learning

We want every child to experience high-quality teaching and an ambitious curriculum.

This year, we will continue to focus on:

- developing confident readers, writers and mathematicians;
- helping children to remember and build on what they have learned;
- developing independence and positive learning habits;
- ensuring teaching meets the needs of all learners;
- providing engaging opportunities across the wider curriculum.

 Helping every child to achieve

Every child is different, and we want every child to make strong progress from their own starting point.

We will:

- carefully track children’s progress and identify where additional support may be needed;
- provide targeted support to help children overcome barriers to learning;
- continue to strengthen reading, writing and mathematics;
- celebrate children’s achievements and help them develop confidence in their abilities.

 Inclusion – supporting every child

At Hillside, every child matters.

We will continue to develop our inclusive practice so that children with different needs, abilities and starting points can access an ambitious and enjoyable curriculum.

We will:

- provide appropriate support for children with additional needs;
- adapt teaching to ensure children can participate and succeed;
- work closely with families and professionals where additional support is needed;
- make sure every child feels that they belong and are valued.

 Growing confident, responsible children

We want children to leave Hillside with more than just strong academic foundations.

We want them to be confident, curious, resilient and kind.

We will continue to develop:

- opportunities for children to take on leadership responsibilities;
- children's confidence and independence;

- wellbeing and emotional support;
- opportunities to learn about the wider world;
- enrichment experiences that broaden children's knowledge and experiences.

Attendance, behaviour and positive relationships

Children learn best when they attend school regularly, feel safe and secure, and have positive relationships with the adults and children around them.

We will continue to:

- promote excellent attendance and punctuality;
- recognise and celebrate positive behaviour;
- support children to develop Respect, Ambition and Perseverance;
- help children understand how their choices affect themselves and others;
- work positively with families where children experience barriers to attending or engaging with school.

Strong foundations in Early Years

Our youngest children deserve the very best start to their education.

In Reception, we will continue to strengthen:

- early reading and phonics;
- early writing and communication;
- early mathematical understanding;
- language development;
- independence and positive learning behaviours;
- transition into Year 1.

Keeping children safe

Safeguarding will always remain our highest priority.

We will continue to make sure:

- children feel safe, listened to and know who they can talk to;
- our safeguarding systems and procedures remain strong;
- children are taught how to recognise and respond to risks;
- staff are well trained and understand their responsibilities;
- we work closely with families and other professionals to keep children safe.

How will we know we are making a difference?

Throughout the year, we will regularly review our progress.

We will listen to children, families and staff, look carefully at children's learning and progress, and work with our Local School Committee and Trust.

Most importantly, we will keep asking:

"Is this making a positive difference for our children?"

Working together

We know that children achieve the most when school and home work together.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for the support you give our school and, most importantly, your children.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to working together to make 2026–27 another successful year for Hillside.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Graves and the Hillside Team

Respect • Ambition • Perseverance