



Hillside First School

Hillside: A Sky Full of Stars

Our School Improvement Priorities 2026–27

“Where children are at the heart of everything we do.”



At Hillside First School, we are always looking for ways to make our school even better. Our aim remains simple: To ensure every child feels **happy, safe, valued and supported** to achieve their very best.



Excellent teaching and learning

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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.

“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