



# The Denton Dozen

“If you can see it, you can be it.”

**What's The Aim?** By the time children leave Denton, we will have provided them with twelve specific opportunities and experiences that will provide them with a wider understanding of the world.

**What's The Vision?** Children will leave Denton with a greater understanding of how not just their own community but also the wider world works, what part they could play in it. They will have a belief that they can be successful, and that they can have a positive impact on society. The benefit of such knowledge and experience is known as 'cultural capital'.

### **What are the Key Principles?**

There are just three guiding principles. They are the **A-B-C of the Denton Dozen**.

**Aspiration:** *"If you can see it you can be it."* Conversely, if you *can't* see it, you may not even know that you could be it! Simply because it might never occur to you. The idea of role models is nothing new, of course. Who wasn't inspired by astronaut Tim Peake, for example? But we should be careful of seeing aspiration as *'you can be whatever you want to be if you just work hard enough'*, which is untrue and dangerous, as it can set up children for disappointment. Just because I want to be an astronaut doesn't mean I will be. Instead, we should think of aspiration as being determined to be the very best we can be in whatever circumstances we find ourselves - *'I want to be the best baggage handler in the whole of Gatwick Airport'* IS EVERY BIT as aspirational as *'I want to be a professional footballer'*.

**Belief:** Giving children chances to see, do and try new things in a safe environment helps them believe that they could do more than they dared to dream. The example set by the Paralympics, the England women's football and cricket teams, or closer to home the Lewes women's football team, can help children understand that gender, race or disability should not be seen as barriers to success.

**Cultural Capital:** This idea is at the very heart of the Denton Dozen. Knowing how different people speak, dress, interact socially and professionally and so on, offers us a huge advantage. Not just so that we can fit in by merely copying everyone else at the expense of our own identity, but so that we understand the societal norms in any given

situation, and can exist and interact comfortably in a range of circumstances and with a range of people.

## **The Denton Dozen**

- 1. The Beach:** Despite living so close to the beach, many children have not experienced the fun and wonder that this setting can provide. It is also about how to be safe in this environment. Children will have 'a day at the beach', to explore the coastline, and help them understand the unique nature of our section of this 'sceptred isle.'
- 2. The Arts:** Many children have never been to a theatre or Art Gallery for many reasons. Going to the theatre or Art Gallery is a wonderful experience, and all our children should have the chance to watch plays, musicals, pantomimes, films and to view and appreciate a range of art to widen their understanding of society. A theatre visit and Art Gallery visit is part of the Denton Dozen.
- 3. The Capital:** London, and specifically the palace of Westminster, is at the heart of much of our nation's activity and decision-making, yet many people have never been there. A day in London to see some of the famous sights is something every Denton child will experience.
- 4. The Great Outdoors:** We live in a beautiful part of England. The South Downs National Park is literally on our doorstep, yet how many of our children have spent any time exploring and learning about the landscape and the wildlife? This Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be explored and appreciated.
- 5. The Arena:** Sport brings benefits in terms of physical and mental health as well as learning about teamwork, so of course all our children should play sport, but to encourage them to continue the habit into adult life, they should also get the chance to watch adult sportsmen and women perform. We have the Eastbourne tennis championships, Lewes FC, Newhaven town FC, The Amex Stadium and The County Ground all nearby, and we should ensure that our children have the opportunity to watch a match in at least one of these venues.

6. **The Retailer:** everyone goes to shops, but most of us have no idea what happens behind the scenes. A visit to a large retail store, including a 'back-stage' tour will strengthen understanding of the 'Farm to Fork process', as well as show the sort of jobs that people who work there do.

7. **The Farm:** Food just comes from Sainsbury's, right? Visiting a working farm is important in order to help children understand the enormously important work that farmers do, and the fascinating journey from field to fridge.

8. **The Professionals:** There are so many jobs out there that might excite children, but which they have never heard about. They are unclear of how their interests and hobbies can translate into the 'real world'. We will endeavour to invite a range of adults working across professional, voluntary and emergency service fields to come to Denton and talk about their jobs. Children will also be exposed to a range of jobs through trips and workshops.

9. **The Production:** Anyone who has ever been in a production at school, or with a choir, a band, or even an am-dram theatre company will know of the excitement and sense of shared achievement that comes with being on stage. It's an extraordinarily powerful way of overcoming our fear and building confidence. And even children who are not performers can find great satisfaction in organising lighting, sound, props, stage-management and so on, all of which could become careers. For this reason we should ensure that every child takes part in a production. Denton's Got Talent also provides opportunities for children to create a unique performance and showcase their passions. Further opportunities for performance on a bigger stage will also be

10. **The Library:** *"A childhood without books – that would be no childhood. That would be like being shut out from the enchanted place where you can go and find the rarest kind of joy."* Astrid Lindgren. Every child should visit and join Newhaven Library. Books open up the world for us in a way that nothing else can.

11. **The University:** We are fortunate to have two excellent universities on our doorstep. A train-ride from Newhaven to Falmer takes less than 20 minutes, and such a trip might inspire children to think

about academic careers, or indeed how they might become scientists, teachers, artists and more.

**12. The Third Sector:** There are many charity and community organisations in our local area, such as the RNLI in the harbour, or the local foodbank. We should give our children the chance to meet and visit such groups, and help them understand how and why people volunteer for such organisations.

In addition, children will have many other experiences through linked Curriculum trips as well embracing opportunities as they arise and are offered to the school.