

Curriculum

Teaching & Learning Policy



Love, Learn and Shine Together with Jesus

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Statement of Intent

At St. Matthew's Catholic Primary school, we strive to develop the whole person. We believe that each person is a unique individual with a God given dignity. All of our children are entitled to be given opportunities to reach their full potential and equip them for the next stage of their educational journey and beyond. Therefore, we must provide for them an education which will enable them to be personally fulfilled and to become socially, morally, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually and culturally integrated members of society.

At St. Matthew's we have Jesus as our role model and all that we do centres around our mission statement to,

'Love, learn and shine together with Jesus'.

The St. Matthew's community endeavours to work together to develop: every individual, all relationships, our curriculum, and the environment in which we live and learn

At St. Matthew's the Gospel Values are at the heart of our rich, broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. We aim to provide:

- A curriculum which is challenging, exciting, dynamic, fun and relevant to our children and the community we serve.
- An inclusive curriculum which encourages, curiosity and analytical thinking and develops creativity, independence and resilience.
- A curriculum which builds on the interests, strengths, talents and experiences of our pupils.
- A curriculum that motivates and inspires all learners to 'know more'
- A curriculum which celebrates cultural diversity and through which our pupils recognise their role as global citizens of the world.
- A curriculum which develops confidence in working both independently and collaboratively as part of a team
- A curriculum that is adaptive, meeting the needs of all of our learners enabling them to reach their full potential and push their limitations
- A curriculum that is coherently planned, progressive and builds on prior learning whilst also providing pupils with sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning
- A curriculum that promotes achievement, confidence, good behaviour and leads to children feeling safe to try new things and opportunities to share their achievements in assemblies and other whole school events
- Curriculum leaders and teachers who will evaluate their practice in order to make their subjects and learning experiences the best that they can be.
- A curriculum that provides opportunities for parental involvement and support in working together to provide the best outcomes for our children.

- A curriculum that provides opportunities for meaningful enrichment experiences across the curriculum to strengthen and deepen learning.

Curriculum Provision at St. Matthews

The aim of the National Curriculum in England is to

“provide pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said; and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.....

.....The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils’ knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.”

Reading is at the heart of our school and central to the children’s learning. We believe that a curriculum that is literacy and language rich is essential to open doors for our children’s futures. We promote a love for reading from the youngest to the oldest of our children.

At St. Matthew’s a full range of national curriculum subjects are delivered in order to offer all of our children a broad and balanced curriculum. These include: English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Physical Education, Music, Spanish (KS 2) and Computing. Philosophy for Learning, British Values, Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship and Safer Messages are woven within our whole school curriculum.

Through the curriculum that we provide at St. Matthew’s we intend for our learners to be: skilled readers, confident writers, mathematicians, scientists, historians, geographers, musicians, artists, linguists, theologians, athletes, designers and technologists, computational thinkers and programmers.

To find out more about these subjects visit the curriculum pages on our school website

All foundation subjects are taught discreetly in half termly blocks and where sensible the subjects are linked to deepen learning and make the curriculum unique to our children. Foundation subjects are taught throughout the whole of the year with history/ geography and art/DT taught over alternate half terms per term, building on what has been previously taught as well as making links with learning in other subjects. Children will know what they are being taught, where this fits in to what has previously been taught and where this learning will take them next.

The staff at St. Matthew's endeavour to ensure that all children are motivated, inspired and want to learn. The learning experiences that they provide are enriched through visits, visitors and extra-curricular activities. Years 2, 4 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in a residential visit to further broaden their experiences. All pupils are invited to attend at least one of our after-school activities. All staff lead clubs that our pupils have requested. We feel it is important to listen to our pupil's and provide exciting clubs that they want to attend.

St. Matthew's staff set high expectations for all children and plan to ensure that there are no barriers to every child achieving. Assessment opportunities are carefully planned into the curriculum by our curriculum leaders. End of year milestones are clearly planned and progress is measured against these.

During Pupil Progress Meetings (twice a year) the progress and attainment of every child is discussed. Through these discussions additional support/challenge is evaluated and planned for where necessary ensuring any gaps are addressed.

Special Educational Needs

At St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on ensuring a very inclusive education for all children and will endeavour to support every child regardless of their level of need. All pupils are supported to achieve the highest levels of success within the National Curriculum and all staff have high expectations of all children. We offer a variety of support depending on the individual needs of each child and this applies across all curriculum subjects. We strive for Quality First Teaching throughout the curriculum and this is monitored and reviewed regularly. Teachers utilise various support and targeted, proven interventions for those children with SEND including adaptive teaching methods, visual support and pre-teaching vocabulary and information as well as active learning and using ICT as a means of recording learning where writing isn't essential. Where a child is identified as having special needs a programme of support is agreed between the Inclusion Manager and class teacher. Where necessary, support may be sought from outside agencies following consultation with parent(s)/carer(s).

Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Curriculum planning focuses on the Early Learning Goals and on developing children's skills and experiences, building on their pre-school experiences and preparing them to successfully access the Key Stage 1 curriculum.

The seven areas of learning and development are:

PRIME AREAS

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

SPECIFIC AREAS

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We fully support the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well planned structured activities. Our curriculum is based around carefully planned topics that are implemented in a variety of ways through whole group, small group and individual situations.

The aims of our EYFS is:

- to provide a structured, secure, caring and very well resourced learning environment; both inside and out, which meets the individual developmental needs of all children.
- to enable all children to become confident, motivated and happy learners, developing the skills and attitudes necessary for their own future learning.

The Role of the Subject Leader

The staff at St. Matthew's are responsible for the leadership of one or more of the curriculum subjects. Each subject leader plans the learning sequence for each year group from EYFS to Year 6, reviews the curriculum plans for their subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the national curriculum programmes of study and that there is progression of skills, knowledge and understanding building on what has previously been taught as well as making links with learning in other subjects. Skills learned during English and Mathematics lessons are applied throughout other curriculum areas.

Additional responsibilities include:

- Providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject
- Supporting and offering advice to colleagues on issues related to the subject
- Monitoring pupil progress in the subject area
- Providing efficient resource management for the subject

Subject leaders are instrumental in monitoring the impact of our curriculum by conducting learning walks, book looks and pupil voice. Their annual action plans reflect

the development points and actions to move our curriculum forward and meet the needs of our learners.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body's standards committee and School Improvement Partner are responsible for monitoring the way in which the school curriculum is implemented.

The Curriculum Leader is responsible for the monitoring and reviewing of all curriculum planning and ensuring all subject leaders and teachers receive relevant, high quality CPD opportunities

Addendum

In the event of home learning we will always cover the objectives that would be covered if in school. Planned activities will be adjusted in order that they are accessible for home learning. Daily videos will be posted by staff for every lesson together with a daily welcome and an opportunity for teachers to talk through the timetable for the day and reinforce expectations for home learning. It is recommended that daily activities should cover 3 to 4 hours per day depending on the age of the child.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

- *For Early Years we will post simple and accessible home activities that parents/carers can do offline as well as phonics teaching and other content online.*
- *We recognise that SEND children may find accessing core curriculum activities without teacher support and scaffolding difficult and will ensure a personalised approach for identified children which may involve wider learning sites or different approaches to reach the same objective*
- *We recognise some neurodiverse children may be avoidant of remote learning. Parents/Carers will be offered support at home from OSSME foundation and signposted to the ASD training team as needed by the Inclusion Manager.*

We will endeavour to work in partnership with our families to ensure that our curriculum offer continues to be relevant, broad, balanced challenging and above all else stimulating whilst children are away from school.

Signed _____ September 2023