



## St Columba's RC Primary School

### Our Curriculum Statement

We are a Catholic school and so we work hard to live as Jesus taught us. The school's direction stems from the Mission Statement "We are companions on a journey living, loving, laughing and learning in the footsteps of Our Lord".

At St Columba's our aims are:

- to provide a Catholic Christian education based on the teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of our school life;
- to provide an environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and to promote the full potential of each child through a curriculum which develops spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth;
- to provide a curriculum which is creative, imaginative, enriching, relevant and challenging, where children experience the opportunity to learn in a wide range of contexts.

The aim at St Columba's is to provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, resilient, confident, successful learners with high aspirations who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society. We are highly inclusive. St Columba's ensures that children are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Subject leaders have an important role in the success of the curriculum because each subject leader 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.

The curriculum is supported through enrichment experiences, educational visits and visitors that really bring our learning to life. We use of our local area, to enrich the curriculum.

Areas of the curriculum underpinned by a range of texts, vital in our promotion of a language rich environment to support the increasing communication needs of the children in our school. Displays are designed to promote a wider variety of vocabulary and subject specific language.

At St Columba's we ensure that children are happy, stimulated and challenged so that they can make progress across the curriculum and achieve the highest standards possible.

#### **INTENT**

Catholic education remains at our core. This involves preparing our children to be citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Maths and English are core subjects and we also recognise R.E as a core subject, so we follow the curriculum of 'Come and See'. We also recognise that parents are the primary educators of the faith and we work closely them. Charitable links and service remain a focus of our regular enrichment days/events, as does seeking awe and wonder. The school recognises that foundation subjects are exceptionally important and exciting, providing key learning experiences for children. These are fully embedded in our curriculum.

We recognise the social and economic backgrounds of our children. Our curriculum is designed to enhance children's awareness of different cultures, practices and beliefs. We try to provide a wide range of learning experiences. We also plan opportunities for the children to know about keeping safe, with particular focus on keeping safe online. We include and promote British values, (Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as a UK citizen. Children are encouraged to make links and transfer their skills and knowledge from one curriculum area to another.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are valued. They are able to empathise with the feelings and actions of others, seeing points of views and beliefs other than their own. Particularly in RE and PSHCE. The pastoral support given to children so they can access the curriculum is exceptionally strong. The work of the team allows vulnerable children to fully access their learning and curriculum entitlement. The school has various systems which support the emotional and mental well-being of children and provides signposting to their parents.

Emotional and mental wellbeing is also greatly enhanced by sport and forest school. Sport is an important part of our curriculum and extra-curricular provision. We have invested heavily in Forest schools with a clear focus on inclusion for all. Both of these areas develop our children as whole and rounded individuals.

### **Implementation**

Our curriculum is focused on quality learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Our Forest School is a fully embedded to inspire and engage learners across the school. Our curriculum is designed to encourage children to make links between traditional areas of the curriculum and to use and apply the skills and knowledge they gain.

Our approach to the Foundation Subjects is cross curricular as far as possible and we make authentic links with the core subjects whenever possible. Some Foundation subjects are primarily stand alone for example PE, MFL and Music although links are still sought whenever appropriate.

Whole school topic weeks take place throughout the year. These are determined by the school needs or relevant, upcoming themes. A cross curricular approach is encouraged

Reading and Writing are a feature of all Foundations Subjects. Links between reading and writing and the foundation subjects are encouraged. Basic skills in Maths are developed through the foundation subjects wherever possible.

Please see Annual Curriculum overviews for each class.

### **Impact**

The curriculum at St Columba's is planned to enable a wide range of engagement, not only within class but in providing out of class opportunities to enable children to develop themselves as learners and encourage each child to be as independent as possible. Pupil voice feedback and specific whole staff planning time during staff meetings and subject leader time allows the staff to regularly review and assess the impact that the curriculum is having.

Assessment through the teaching of key knowledge and skills ensures teachers are able to assess pupil outcomes against the Focus objectives. Outcomes in each subject are monitored and tracked. Medium term plans are evaluated and adapted. Both summative and formative assessment

approaches are used. A cycle of monitoring takes place which include lesson observations, book scrutiny, learning walks and pupil consultations.

### **Curriculum Enrichment**

Wherever relevant and possible, our curriculum is enriched with workshops, visiting speakers, special events and educational trips. Staff try to ensure that there is an enrichment activity where possible for each topic.

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