

Our Lady and St. Joseph's Primary School Curriculum Rationale

The curriculum at Our Lady and St. Joseph's Primary School is designed to provide a broad and balanced education that meets the needs of all pupils and gives them the skills, knowledge and understanding to prepare them for their future lives.

Our curriculum aims to ensure our children have academic success as well as developing their physical development, well-being and mental health and promote a positive attitude to learning. Our learning behaviours of questioning, creativity, team work, responsibility and resilience underpin all our learning.

The curriculum celebrates the diversity and utilises the skills, knowledge and cultural wealth of the community while supporting the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At Our Lady and St. Joseph's Catholic School we offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced and which builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all children, whatever their starting points, as they progress through each Key Stage. The curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum 2014 and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the pupils in our school. The aim of our curriculum is for pupils to have the requisite skills to be successful, independent and motivated learners in readiness for their next stage of education. It is important that the curriculum considers the development of the whole child only concentrate on academic success.

Most pupils are nearing completion of the Early Learning Goals of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum as they enter Year 1. There is a period in the Autumn Term where the majority of children progress to the National Curriculum. Throughout this period and beyond all children are still developing their phonic knowledge through the Read Write Inc Programme and developing their fluency in reading through guided reading.

The National Curriculum is delivered using a topic approach and assessed using rubrics based on the statutory National Curriculum framework. The more able are challenged further in their learning through the rubric and children who find aspects of their learning more difficult are appropriately supported so that they too are enabled to experience success. National requirements and school requirements are mapped out as a whole school and then individual key stages plan the curriculum for their pupils accordingly. Science is taught on a yearly cycle and where appropriate links to the overall topic. The development of vocabulary is a school priority and woven through all subjects as well as being taught explicitly. The curriculum is underpinned by the school's values of love, justice, trust, honesty, hope, respect, and forgiveness .and these are taught on their own and through other areas of the curriculum, including assemblies. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils and their understanding of the core values of our society are woven through the curriculum and addressed explicitly.

Writing is taught using a whole school approach where children meet a different genre each half term. Spelling, grammar and punctuation is taught explicitly alongside genre.

Mathematics is currently taught through a whole school programme of study developed by our school SLA and supported by the White Rose Scheme of Work. We deliver a mastery curriculum which enables children to develop their fluency, reasoning, and problem solving skills.

Specialist teachers and instructors support music, ICT and physical education. Entitlements, after school clubs and events extend these opportunities further. Additional whole school programmes and approaches support quality teaching and learning and the school is well resourced in terms of learning materials, books and technology.

Pupils have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based and external exhibitions, performances, competitions and events involving other schools. Developing their independence and motivation as learners and their sense of responsibility as future citizens is at the heart of all our teaching and learning.