

St Mary's Curriculum Statement

At St. Mary's, we are a Catholic school, with Christ at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every child is a gift from God, created in his own image and likeness. The desire for every child to reach their full potential is at the heart of our mission Statement. As John's Gospel states, "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness".

Pupils' learning and development is at the centre of our school's curriculum; it is broad and balanced and equips pupils with the skills necessary to succeed in life after school. We recognise that our children are the leaders of tomorrow and that we must prepare them to play an active and responsible role in society. Our curriculum focuses on ICE – Inspiration, Challenge and Excellence.

This curriculum intent statement outlines how the school has created the curriculum and the benefits it brings to pupils' learning and self-improvement.

CURRICULUM INTENT

At St. Mary's, we have designed our curriculum around the development of pupils' learning of knowledge and progression of skills. We recognise that an excellent curriculum has to be broad, balanced and offer pupils opportunities to grow as individuals as well as learners. Our school values the input of its pupils, parents, governors and the local community with regards to the planning and delivery of the curriculum. We believe pupils get a well-rounded education if everyone is involved in shaping it. The curriculum is a flexible document, adaptable to change, local opportunities and current need. Subjects are taught with the knowledge of information running alongside the progression of skills. The topic plan is carefully organised, with clearly defined teaching sequences.

We aim to ensure pupils enjoy learning; taking an active role and feel prepared for life after school. Our school is committed to promoting healthy wellbeing, alongside a love of learning.

We offer our pupils new and exciting experiences through extra-curricular activities that are designed to build resilience, confidence and self-esteem. Our curriculum is delivered in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, through a variety of methods, including those outlined below.

Classroom-based learning: Accessing different learning resources and equipment to broaden pupils' knowledge, and making cross-curricular links where possible within lesson plans, so that pupils can draw upon knowledge from different subjects and understand how each topic plays a part in everyday life. Where possible, links are made to the local area and current issues, in order to give their learning context and build their desire to understand and invoke change.

Classroom teaching also includes one-to-one and small group tuition for pupils who require additional support.

Extra-curricular activities: We provide an extensive variety of extra-curricular activities for pupils that enhance their learning experience, allow them to form personal connections with their peers, and teach skills essential for life after school. These activities include a variety of sports clubs, choir, ICT, cookery, homework, crafts and drama. We also value the contribution of residential visits, with visits in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Values

St MARY'S is a happy and vibrant family where each child and adult is cherished, valued and enabled to grow in confidence to their full potential. It provides a safe environment in which each individual is encouraged to live as Jesus taught and to reach levels of personal development, creative and academic achievement.

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the Gospel Values. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objectives of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need to lead fulfilling lives.

These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

- We value every child and individual in the school community as unique and created in the image and likeness of Christ. We learn to live the values Jesus taught.
- Our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual, as well as for people of all faiths and cultures. We believe that the spiritual and moral development of each person, is as important as their intellectual and physical growth.
- We value the importance of each person in our community and how they affect our lives. Our curriculum promotes co-operation and understanding between all members of our community. We seek opportunities to link our learning to the wider community.
- We aim for every child to meet their full potential, gaining personal success in all areas, regardless of background or prior ability. We treat all children with care, respect, courtesy, fairness, challenge – and above all – love.

Aims: The aims of our school curriculum are:

- That all children are happy learners; developing their skills to the best of their ability;
- to foster a love of learning, so that children acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- to teach children about the love of God and to build their relationship with Him;
- to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum
- to enable all children to acquire the basic skills of literacy, numeracy, science and information technology;
- to enable creativity, imagination and critical thinking to flourish;
- to teach children about the developing world, including how the environment and society have changed over time;
- to help children understand Britain's cultural heritage and the heritage of other cultures
- to enable children to be positive citizens in society, empowered to be the leaders of tomorrow, making a difference in the world;
- to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and appreciate the importance of mental wellbeing
- to enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Organisation and planning

At St. Mary's, we plan our curriculum in three phases. We have established a long term plan (Curriculum Topic Plan) for each key stage. This indicates where topics are taught in each term and to which groups of children. We review our long term plan (Curriculum Topic Plan) on an annual basis and strive to adapt to current issues and global challenges.

With our Curriculum Maps, alongside our medium term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching sequences. The maps incorporate both the development of knowledge and the progression of skills. Each subject has a Skills Ladder, showing the progression of skills across KS1 and KS2.

Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each lesson, the core activities and the opportunities for strategies integral to dual coding and retrieval practice.

We adopt a topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is a full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and early learning goals. Within topics, links between subjects are made where possible, however, there is also the teaching of individual subjects.

Lessons include a variety of teaching techniques to appeal to different types of learners and to maximise participation. Additional adults are deployed effectively to support children who require additional help and also to give additional challenge to the more able.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we also recognise the importance of feedback, both adult and peer, as an integral part of the teaching and learning cycle, and aim to maximise the effectiveness of its use in practice. We are mindful also of the research surrounding effective feedback and research from cognitive science regarding the fragility of new learning. In response to this, planning is flexible and responsive to pupils' needs.

Meeting the needs of individual pupils (inc. pupils with special educational needs and more able pupils)

The curriculum in our school is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend the school. Intervention groups are timetabled to ensure that children have access to all subjects. If we think it is necessary to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of individual children, then we do so only after the parents of the child have been consulted.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The curriculum that we teach in EYFS meets the requirements set out in the revised Early Years Foundation Stage. Our curriculum planning focuses on the Early Learning Goals and Development Matters. There is a focus on developing children's skills and experiences, as set out in this document.

Our school fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well-planned structured activities. Teaching in EYFS builds on the experiences of the children in their pre-school learning. We build positive partnerships with the variety of nurseries and other pre-school providers in the area.

During the children's first weeks in EYFS, their teacher makes a baseline assessment to record the skills of each child on entry to the school. This assessment forms an important part of the future curriculum planning for each child.

We are well aware that all children need the support of parents and teachers to make good progress in school. We strive to build positive links with parents of each child by asking them to complete their assessment of their child's strengths and areas for development, by inviting them to information evenings and keeping them informed about the way the children are progressing, including the use of Tapestry.

Key Skills

The following skills are a focus for our work in all curriculum areas:

- development of language and technical vocabulary;
- the application of reading skills;
- the application of number across the curriculum where possible;
- engagement and responsibility for own learning;
- collaboration;
- information technology;
- problem solving.

The Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the subject leader is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject;
- support and offer advice to colleagues on issues related to the subject;
- monitor the subject implementation, pupil progress and pupil voice in that subject;
- audit, manage and review efficient resource management in the subject.

St Mary's gives subject leaders time, so that they can carry out the necessary duties involved in their role. It is the role of each subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subject, at both national and local level. They draft annual action plans, which are regularly reviewed and shared with governors. Additional time is always available on request to ensure greater work life balance.

CURRICULUM IMPACT

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. We base these upon the teacher's detailed knowledge of each child, striving to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each child's level of ability. Our lesson plans make clear the expected outcomes for each lesson. We make a note of those individual children who do not achieve at the expected level for the lesson, and we use this information when planning for the next lesson. We also keep this information as a record of the progress made by the class.

Day-to-day, on-going assessment is a crucial method of assessment which provides instant feedback to the teacher and ensures progress within every lesson. Formative strategies are used in all lessons. These strategies provide a clear picture of a child's level of understanding and, ensure that teachers can quickly assess when a child does not understand and needs greater support. Lessons should be flexible enough to allow teachers to adapt to the needs of the child. Ongoing assessment during sessions should also be used to inform planning for subsequent lessons.

Progress is assessed regularly. At the end of each term, assessment data is gathered and progress is checked by subject coordinators and the Senior Leadership Team. Children are expected to make good or better progress in all subjects and this individual progress is tracked. In cases where children are identified as making 'slow progress' in English or Maths, rapid interventions are put in place to address gaps in learning.

Monitoring and Review

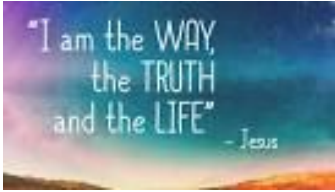


St Mary's governing body's teaching and Learning committee is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. Curriculum developments are shared at each governing body meeting, with challenging questions being welcomed.

We have named governors for each member of staff, who share subject developments with subject leaders at regular meetings. Governors monitor the strengths and possible barriers in the teaching/development of subjects.

The headteacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum. There is a robust termly monitoring schedule in place, where subject leaders and SLT examine planning, carry out book scrutinies and monitor pupil progress.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Subject Statements

<p><u>RE</u></p> <p>In St Mary's School, Religious Education enables children to know of God's love for them and to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, focusing on their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development. It encourages awareness of and respect for people of other faiths. It helps children to reflect on the ultimate questions of life, while presenting them with the same challenges and demands that they meet in other areas of the curriculum.</p>	
	<p><u>English</u></p> <p>At St Mary's we see English as a means of communication. It allows children and adults to communicate with each other and to understand others. We believe that fluent and accurate reading is one key to independent learning which directly affects confidence and self-esteem, and contributes towards the school's mission to enable children to grow in confidence to reach their full potential. Reading and Writing are essential skills for learning across all areas of the curriculum and beyond.</p>
<p><u>Mathematics</u></p> <p>Within St Mary's school, we strive to provide the children with the skills, knowledge and understanding of mathematics necessary for them to be able to play a valued part in society. We achieve this through the development of a fascination for mathematics, the nurturing of a positive and tenacious attitude and the encouragement of an eagerness to investigate, thus allowing each child the opportunity to develop to their full potential.</p>	



Science

At
St. Mary's we

create a stimulating science curriculum where the children can

investigate and

explore the world around them by nurturing their natural curiosity and intellectual development

new discoveries are made and

challenges will be experienced through a hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum. Children will

enjoy finding out.

Computing

In a world of constant technological advancement, our aim is for the pupils of St Mary's to become proficient in the use of devices and programs that will develop understanding and skills specific to information and communications technologies as well as enhance their learning in subjects across the curriculum. They will know how such technologies are created and utilise skills necessary in programming through coding. We aim to provide a curriculum that will ensure that our pupils can acquire, organise, store, manipulate, interpret, communicate and present information and ideas in a variety of ways. They will also develop a curiosity and appreciation of how technology assists and enhances vast aspects of human life in the 21st Century.



PE

At St Mary's Primary School our vision for Physical Education and Sport is that every child should have a range of opportunities to inspire them to become more physically confident and competent. We hope that, through all the sporting opportunities and physical activity we offer, the children will potentially develop a love and passion for sport and continue this into their later lives. We embed the importance of team work, fair play, resilience, respect, passion and determination. We strive to give as many children as possible the opportunity to compete in a variety of competitions.



History

At St Mary's the History curriculum is designed to help children gain an enthusiasm for learning about the past, an understanding of their own heritage, the influence of the past on their lives and their place in the wider community. Through sequenced topics, they will develop a chronologically secure understanding of significant people and periods in history. The children will explore changes in history, their causes and impact, whilst developing their skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem solving.



Geography

At St Mary's we want our children to have a curiosity and fascination of the world that will stay with them through their lives. Our geography teaching aims to deliver a high-quality education where children are inspired and enthused to find out about the physical and human world. When developing their understanding of geography, children will learn about, and develop a respect for, the world and the people who live in it. We aim to instil in children a sense of environmental responsibility and encourage them to understand environmental issues at a local and global level.

Art

Art and design sparks children's creativity and imagination. For this reason, these subjects are called upon often at St. Mary's. Be it storytelling, responding to our changing environment, or exploring their own emotions, art is a tool that we use to deepen children's knowledge and understanding of our world. In lessons, art and design is taught so as to encourage children to think critically about creative works throughout history as well as to inspire the curiosity to create their own work; to contribute something new and unique. Pupils engage with their own practice, reflecting critically on the variety of mediums and techniques that they work with and drawing links between their work and that of well-known artists and designers.





DT

At St. Mary's our pupils will have the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge through designing, making and evaluating products. We believe that design and technology helps to prepare children for the developing world and encourages them to become curious and creative problem-solvers. This will enable them to develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world.

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. The high-quality music education at St Mary's engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

We aim that children will gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. We strive to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life.



PSHE

At St. Mary's we aim to fulfil our mission to cherish and value each child, and enable them to grow in confidence through all aspects of their school life and especially through Personal and Social Development. We encourage children to learn and achieve whilst supporting them in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

MFL

Modern Foreign Languages is the development of children's linguistic competence. At St Mary's it is seen as a lifelong skill. Learning a language opens up avenues of communication and exploration as well as promoting, encouraging and instilling a broader cultural understanding.

