

CURRICULUM INTENT STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2021

We believe that it is our mission at St Mary's CE Primary school, to enable pupils to meet confidently the challenges of adulthood and the modern world, by striving for academic success and developing strong relationships based on the Gospel values of trust and respect. To this end, we aim to provide our pupils with an engaging, exciting and empowering curriculum that equips them to live a full life.

At St Mary's the curriculum is designed to:

- Recognise prior learning
- Be hierarchical – building upon previous knowledge and skills
- Recognise and respect differences and uniqueness in the community
- Provide first hand experiences
- Allow pupils to develop communication skills
- Develop an enquiring mind; becoming a creative and critical thinker
- Build resilience
- Challenge

The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge and concepts. This is hierarchical, and built upon in successive years. A child's age and stage of development is paramount. We take into consideration the learning styles of boys and girls. We constantly provide enrichment opportunities, and are particularly proud of our development of pupil voice, growth mindset, art and music in the curriculum.

We believe that childhood should be a happy time, to investigate and explore the world you live in, and we aim to develop curiosity, knowledge and a thirst for new experiences. We use our St Mary's values of thankfulness, respect, honesty, love and resilience to promote positive learning attitudes, and responsibility for learning and future success.

Pupils leave St Mary's with a sense of belonging to family within the school and Church, and being part of a community where they can make decisions, reflect and become life long learners.

Curriculum Objectives

The curriculum is designed around content from the national curriculum, and we use Target Tracker assessment tool to record our progress against learning objectives and targets. This enables teaching staff and senior leaders to carry out gap analysis, and ensure that 'no child is left behind'.

Where we identify gaps, we use our in-school resources to ensure that children 'catch up' and the 'gap is diminished'. These resources are wide ranging, from Reading Recovery interventions, to maths club before school.

All children have personal targets, which they are working towards and can discuss. They know how to improve their work.

Our objective is to prepare pupils for life long learning.

Curriculum Structure

All of our pupils of statutory school age follow the National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2. Our pupils of pre-school age follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

Curriculum topics are set in consultation with the pupils, and these are displayed on the school website.

What Else?

In addition to this offer, all of our EYFS and KS1 pupils have French tuition. We also offer tennis coaching from Year 1 to Year 6, and volleyball coaching for all children from the age of 2.

Every term we run specialist workshops (for example Bollywood dancing, author days, Olympics week). We offer a wide range of after school and before school clubs, which are chosen by the pupils and reflect their interests (for example sports, Mandarin, history, film and crafts).

To support our mathematics curriculum, all pupils in Years 2-6 have the offer of attending maths club before school for 30 minutes a day. This provides additional tuition of 2.5 hours per week, and ensures that children are able to explore areas of interest, develop fluency and reasoning skills, and explore areas of interest (for example mathematics in games).

Our school council is very active, and participates in the leadership of the school. This is voluntary, and allows for the development of strong leaders amongst our pupils.

From 2019, we have become a Growth School, with a focus upon looking after our planet and looking after ourselves. This focus supports our curriculum work on Growth Mindset and our wellbeing and mental health programme.

How does the curriculum reflect national policy?

Our curriculum reflects national policy in coverage of all national curriculum areas and content, which is checked by subject leaders regularly.

How does it cater for disadvantaged groups?

We offer a wide range of SEND support interventions, to ensure that accelerated progress is made against curriculum targets. To fund this we use Pupil Premium funding (our main disadvantaged group), and a small amount of additional SEN funding we receive to support particular pupils.