

St Mary's Catholic Primary School - Curriculum Policy



"The Christian life is a call to a deeper communion with God and with one another, and this finds particular expression in our schools, which are rightly recognised as being families themselves, where no one is a stranger and where everyone, whatever his or her background or academic ability, is welcomed, treasured, supported and helped to become the person that God calls them to be." Bishop Malcolm MacMahon.

Curriculum Rationale

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are preparing our children to be ready, willing and able to learn and flourish for life. Our curriculum is based upon our children's needs so that they may lead full and successful lives, both now and in the future. To achieve this, our pupils learn through a variety of different strategies and techniques involving individual or group activities through practical, spoken and written tasks tailored to the strengths and needs of each child. Throughout we incorporate academic, creative, emotional, social, physical and moral qualities into our teaching and learning encompassing our Gospel values within a Catholic setting.

In all lessons, we aim for the children to be actively engaged with their learning and involved in their individual progress and achievement in becoming 'global citizens'. We want children to leave us as collaborators, innovators, leaders and very importantly, young people who are ready for life in the 21st Century; empowered to be '**agents of change**'- educated and caring people who have the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to flourish as human beings and make the world a better place.

We believe that learning is an enjoyable lifelong process through which everyone can achieve their potential and exceed their expectations. We will challenge and support all our pupils to do their best by providing an extensive range of learning experiences within and beyond the statutory requirements. Learning will be supported with a wide range of high quality reading texts. We believe that '**reading is the gateway to learning**'.

Where possible, our curriculum is organised with a cross-curricular approach supported by our local community, parish and parents with opportunities throughout the year to maximise and maintain the pace of learning. Our topics involve activities which challenge, question and enthuse the children to remember, understand, apply, create, analyse and evaluate ideas, therefore building upon their independence and creativity.



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Our curriculum is underpinned by a Catholic education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The Gospel values are at the heart of our school ethos and underpin our expectations for how everyone behaves, interacts with one another and approaches school life. We deem the community to be an integral part of what we do. The children need an understanding of where they come from, their heritage, how they can have a positive effect on those around them, how their role within the community fits in with the wider world and how their actions can have far-reaching impact. We are committed to providing an excellent Catholic education for every child in our care.

What are we trying to achieve through the curriculum? (Intent)

- Ensure our curriculum meets statutory requirements across all subjects.
- Provide a bespoke curriculum that meets the needs and interests of the community that we serve.
- Ensure that we provide a curriculum that is progressive in terms of knowledge and skills.
- Provide an innovative, memorable, cross-curricular and creative curriculum that motivates and inspires children to learn and adults to teach.
- Provide a curriculum that allows movement and flexibility so that learning can be led, to some extent, by the children and their interests.
- Ensure the curriculum enables all children to be equipped with the lifelong skills and knowledge to achieve in modern Britain in the context of global citizenship.
- Provide children with the maximum opportunity to reach their potential year on year.
- Provide a progressive approach to the teaching of 'life skills'.

How is our curriculum being delivered? (Implementation)

- Based on statutory requirements of the curriculum
- Progressive in terms of both substantive and disciplinary knowledge and skill
- Allows for the repeating / developing of knowledge and skills and in doing so deepening children's knowledge, understanding and skills
- Allows for the application of knowledge and skills learnt in an appropriate context
- Thematic, creative approach that relies heavily on a cross-curricular approach to learning and teaching
- Allows for the school to respond to the needs and interests of the children and the wider community
- Allows for teachers to 'block' subjects where appropriate

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What difference is our curriculum making? (Impact)

- All statutory aspects of the new national curriculum are met
- Increased percentage of children assessed at the national 'expected' level across the curriculum which will be evidenced in books
- Increased percentage of children assessed at the national 'mastering' level across the curriculum which will be evidenced in books
- Pupil, staff and stakeholder perceptions will be positive
- Staff and pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on learning and themes and make changes
- Pupils will have the opportunity to lead their own learning in order to deepen their knowledge and skills
- Pupils will be ready for the next stage in their learning and life in modern Britain

How do we know how well our children are doing?

English and maths will be tracked via ongoing formative assessment and termly summative assessments. EYFS, Year 1 (phonics), Year 2 and Year 6 will be assessed against national assessments. Year 4 will have their online Multiplications tables check. Other strategies to track the progress of our children against our curriculum include comparisons between initial and end of unit '**knowledge harvests**'. Our curriculum acts as its own progression model: **progress is knowing more and understanding more.**

Reviewed January 2025

Next review January 2026

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INTENT	Our Trust's Vision	<i>To be a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy and stimulating environments and leave us with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities and aspirations, to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel</i>									
	Mission Statement	<i>At St Mary's, we aim to live out our mission through showing love and respect to each other within our Catholic family. We nurture each other's individual talents and skills, as Jesus taught us to do. We believe that everyone matters and is loved by God and this builds the foundation for our learning community.</i>									
	Gospel Values	Courage	Compassion	Humility	Peace	Forgiveness	Integrity	Kindness	Justice		
	Curriculum Intent	Learning: To enable all our children to develop a deep understanding of the knowledge and skills in each subject, integrating this into their long term memory.		Achieving: To instil high aspirations in all our children, developing resilience, building a positive mindset and a sense of belonging by tailoring to our children's needs.		Flourishing: To enable our children to flourish in all areas of our enriched curriculum creating positive school memories and creating lifelong learners.		Catholic Life: To support children in gaining confidence at expressing their beliefs and to have an awareness and sensitivity of diversity that will enable them to succeed in our modern world. There is an emphasis on a Catholic community; a welcoming and all-inclusive family, valuing the role and contribution of each member of our school community without judgement. To support children in understanding that their own actions have an impact on each other the world we live in, uniting and caring for our common home as promoted in Laudato Si.			
IMPLEMENTATION	Quality Teaching	Tailored learning	Aspirational thinking	Prior Learning	Clear Learning Journey	Learning Review	Immersive Learning	Growth Mindset	Constructive Feedback	Teacher/ Parent Partnership	
	Broad & Balanced Curriculum	English		Mathematics		Science		Religious Education		Foundation Subjects	Personal Development
	EYFS	Literacy		Mathematics	Communication & Language	Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Understanding the World		Physical Development	Expressive Art & Design	
IMPACT	Outcomes	Academic Outcome: A child will leave our school with a wide range of skills and knowledge which have been integrated into their long term memory that will allow them to access and explore the world around them, helping to develop their self-esteem and identity.			Emotional Outcome: A child will leave our school with the skills to remain flexible, adaptive, coherent, energised and stable `by monitoring their emotional responses, understanding their bodily sensations and using their thinking brain to make informed choices.			Identity Outcomes: A child will leave our school with a wide range of positive school memories, skills, knowledge. They will have a strong understanding of their likes and dislikes and detach this from their emotional stability to gain a sense of who they are as a unique person.			
	Evaluation	Nationally generated performance information about pupils and attainment	Monitoring (Learning Walks, Book Looks)	School Development Plan Outcomes	Pupil Voice	Trust Monitoring	Governor Monitoring	Parent Voice	External Validation (S48, Ofsted)		