

St. Mary's C of E Primary School, Westbury

CURRICULUM POLICY

As a C of E school, we want to ensure each policy reflects the Christian Ethos which affects the very core of our school. We consider the importance of including, supporting and encouraging each child to reach their potential within an environment of acceptance and respect as the key aspects of what our school represents. It encompasses our school motto of Achievement, Creativity and Equality with the intention of providing opportunities for each child to know their value as an individual in every area of school life; preparing them for the future. This is the aim of each member of staff with the full support of the governing body.

Introduction

The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experience of the children. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their full potential. Our curriculum is rooted in the Christian values demonstrated in our school aims.

We believe that our curriculum should be broad, balanced, and relevant and meet the needs of all children whatever their ability. We ensure the children have a range of learning experiences that challenge, stimulate and promote thinking and learning. The curriculum meets statutory requirements.

The curriculum at St Mary's is context based. Each term the staff decides upon a context outcome that will be the focus of the terms work. We believe this gives children a real purpose for their work and a clear idea about why they are doing things in school. Each term the staff plan for visits and visitors that are linked to the current theme. This exposes children to a greater range of experiences and develops the creativity in the curriculum.

Aims

The aims of the curriculum are to:

- allow children to develop independence and initiative
- encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning and progress and instill personal pride and aspiration through achievement and success
- promote high standards in reading, writing and maths
- allow children to develop a knowledge of themselves in time and space
- enable children to acquire knowledge and skills in science
- enable children to be confident in the use of ICT
- promote spiritual development; and enable pupils to develop moral sensibility through carefully taught values which are embedded within a Christian ethos
- provide children with the skills they will need to cope as future employees within an ever changing technological future

- promote physical and mental development and an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle
- enable children to be aware of the importance of and participate in the arts and related cultural themes
- develop the personal and social skills of each child
- provide equality of access and the opportunity for all pupils
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The curriculum is planned effectively, providing continuity and progression. It promotes an enjoyment of learning and a commitment to learning and achieving.

Through the provision of rich and varied activities, we aim to:

- encourage the best possible progress and the highest attainment for all pupils;
- enable pupils to make connections across different areas of learning;
- help pupils to think creatively, strategically and solve problems;
- develop pupils' capacity to learn and work independently and collaboratively;
- enable pupils to respond positively to opportunities, challenge and responsibility;
- enable pupils to acquire and develop a broad range of knowledge, skills and understanding.

The Organisation of the Curriculum

- the curriculum is taught through linked "theme" areas and discrete subjects where relevant;
- A whole school and key stage map indicates links between subjects. This is planned on a three year rolling cycle in key stage 1 and a four year rolling cycle in key stage 2, allowing for the small class sizes.
- units of work are planned, usually over a term's duration. These are called MEDIUM TERM PLANS and contain the detail of the work to be covered with a progression of learning objectives. The plans indicate how the work will be differentiated and what the pupil outcomes will be;
- SHORT TERM PLANNING is carried out in detail for literacy and numeracy using an agreed format;
- the children are taught in mixed aged year groups
- units of work are planned using the framework of the National Curriculum and the Literacy and Numeracy strategies;
- the RE scheme of work follows the Agreed Syllabus for Shropshire

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head teacher has the responsibility for the leadership of the curriculum and delegates responsibility to key staff:

- the Head teacher co-ordinates the work of the subject leaders and ensures that the curriculum has progression and appropriate coverage. They evaluate and monitor standards in their subject.
- class teachers are responsible for writing the medium term plans and liaising over the content and delivery of the units of work.
- class teachers ensure that the curriculum is taught and that the aims are achieved for their class. They plan collaboratively to ensure parity across the school.

- the assessment coordinator ensures that the progress of each pupil is tracked and that there is appropriate challenge support and intervention.
- the Governors monitor the success of the curriculum at committee level and at whole Governing Body meetings through the termly Head teacher’s report.

This policy was written/ reviewed in: **March 2015**

This policy was adopted by governors in: _____

Signed by Chair of Governors: _____

This policy is due for review in: **March 2017**

Signed by Head Teacher: _____

This policy has been shared with the following staff and they have signed to show they have read the policy fully:

Name (print)	Signed:	Date: