



## Curriculum Policy

### 1 Introduction

#### **Mission Statement:**

“Let it be known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school the unseen but ever present teacher in all its classes, the model for its children the inspiration for its staff”

The basic curriculum of the school is in two parts:

- Religious Education
- National Curriculum

The school sees Religious Education as the foundation of the entire process communicating beliefs and values that should inspire and unify every aspect of school life and the curriculum. Therefore, it is not to be seen simply as a body of knowledge nor, indeed, as a mere subject to be fitted in after time and resources have been allotted to the core and foundation subjects .

**Every Child Matters Outcomes:** Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution

#### 1.1

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 true potential.

The RE Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and the Church’s liturgical year constitute our RE curriculum. We make use of the scheme of work ‘Here I Am’, recommended by the Diocese of Westminster to support the delivery of the curriculum.

### 2 Values

**2.1** Our school curriculum is underpinned by the Catholic values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

**2.2** Our school is in full agreement with the aims included in The National Curriculum. These are the main aims of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

*Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ!*



- We value the way in which all children are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all cultures. We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.
- We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all the children in our school.
- We value our environment, and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

### **3 Aims and objectives**

#### **3.1** The aims of our school curriculum are:

- to foster the Roman Catholic faith and ensure that the children understand that God loves them
- to give clear teaching of the traditions and practices of the Roman Catholic faith
- to encourage the pupils to enhance their own knowledge, understanding and spirituality through curiosity and questioning
- to foster the development of individual talents and promote mutual respect and compassion for others
- to offer living experience of the life of Faith through child-centred celebration, liturgies and prayer
- to ensure that children learn about, understand and respect other faiths in order to be part of a tolerant, caring multicultural society
- to enable all children to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability;
- to promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- to teach children the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and information technology (IT);
- to enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking;
- to teach children about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time;
- to help children understand Britain's cultural heritage;
- to enable children to be positive citizens in society;
- to teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong;
- to help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all;
- to enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.

### **4 Organisation and planning**



- 4.1** We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each key stage. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review our long-term plan on an annual basis.
- 4.2** With our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies that we use when teaching each topic. As we have adopted the National Curriculum for our school, we take our medium-term planning directly from the guidance documents. We use the national schemes of work for much of our medium-term planning in the foundation subjects.
- 4.3** Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.
- 4.4** In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and early learning goals, and there is planned progression in all curriculum areas.
- 4.5** At Key Stage 2 the curriculum at our school places a greater emphasis on the core and foundation subjects than it does at Key Stage 1, and we teach these subjects separately. This means that, for example, a child may concentrate in one term on a history topic, then switch to a greater emphasis on geography in the next term. Over the three terms of the academic year, each child has the opportunity to experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects.

## **5 Children with special needs**

- 5.1** The curriculum in our school is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend the school. If we think it 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.
- 5.2** If a child has a special need, our school does all it can to meet these individual needs. We comply with the requirements set out in the SEN Code of Practice in providing for children with special needs. If a child displays signs of having special needs, his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide resources and educational opportunities which meet the child's needs within the normal class organisation. If a child's need is more severe, we consider the child for a statement of special needs, and we involve the appropriate external agencies when making this assessment. We always provide additional resources and support for children with special needs.
- 5.3** The school provides an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for each of the children who are on the special needs register. This sets out the nature of the special need, and outlines how the schools will aim to address the need. It also sets out targets for improvement, so that we can review and monitor the progress of each child at regular intervals.

## **6 The Foundation Stage**



- 6.1** The curriculum that we teach in the reception class meets the requirements set out in the revised National Curriculum at Foundation Stage and the RE Curriculum directory. Our curriculum planning focuses on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and on developing children's skills and experiences, as set out in this document.
- 6.2** Our school fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well-planned structured activities. Teaching in the reception class builds on the experiences of the children in their pre-school learning. We do all we can to build positive partnerships with the variety of nurseries and other pre-school providers in the area.
- 6.3** During the children's first term in the reception class, 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.
- 6.4** 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 the parents of each child by keeping them informed about the way in which the children are being taught and how well each child is progressing.

## **7 Key skills**

- 7.1** The following skills have been deemed 'key skills' in the revised National Curriculum:

### **English**

- Teachers will develop pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary as integral aspects of the teaching of every subject. English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching; for pupils, understanding the language provides access to the whole curriculum. Fluency in the English language is an essential foundation for success in all subjects.

### **Spoken language**

- Pupils will be taught to speak clearly and convey ideas confidently using Standard English. They should learn to justify ideas with reasons; ask questions to check understanding; develop vocabulary and build knowledge; negotiate; evaluate and build on the ideas of others; and select the appropriate register for effective communication. They should be taught to give well-structured descriptions and explanations and develop their understanding through speculating, hypothesising and exploring ideas. This will enable them to clarify their thinking as well as organise their ideas for writing.

### **Reading and writing**

- Teachers will develop pupils' reading and writing in all subjects to support their acquisition of knowledge. Pupils should be taught to read fluently, understand extended prose (both fiction and non-fiction) and be encouraged to read for pleasure. Schools should do everything to promote wider reading. They should provide library facilities and set ambitious expectations for reading at home. Pupils should develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. They should be taught the correct use of grammar. They should build on what they have been taught to expand the range of their



writing and the variety of the grammar they use. The writing they do should include narratives, explanations, descriptions, comparisons, summaries and evaluations: such writing supports them in rehearsing, understanding and consolidating what they have heard or read.

### **Vocabulary development**

- Pupils' acquisition and command of vocabulary are key to their learning and progress across the whole curriculum. Teachers should therefore develop vocabulary actively, building systematically on pupils' current knowledge. They should increase pupils' store of words in general; simultaneously, they should also make links between known and new vocabulary and discuss the shades of meaning in similar words. In this way, pupils expand the vocabulary choices that are available to them when they write. In addition, it is vital for pupils' comprehension that they understand the meanings of words they meet in their reading across all subjects, and older pupils should be taught the meaning of instruction verbs that they may meet in examination questions. It is particularly important to induct pupils into the language which defines each subject in its own right, such as accurate mathematical and scientific language.

### **Maths**

- Pupils' will develop pupils' mathematical fluency. Confidence in numeracy and other mathematical skills is a precondition of success across the national curriculum using the Singapore bar ideology.
- Teachers will develop pupils' numeracy and mathematical reasoning in all subjects so that they understand and appreciate the importance of mathematics. Pupils should be taught to apply arithmetic fluently to problems, understand and use measures, make estimates and sense check their work. Pupils should apply their geometric and algebraic understanding, and relate their understanding of probability to the notions of risk and uncertainty. They should also understand the cycle of collecting, presenting and analysing data. They should be taught to apply their mathematics to both routine and non-routine problems, including breaking down more complex problems into a series of simpler steps.
- working with others;
- improving own learning and performance;

**7.2** In our curriculum planning we highlight these skills, so that the children's progress in all of these areas can be identified and monitored. All subject areas contribute to a child's progress in these skills. Our school believes that all children need to make good progress in these skill areas in order to develop to their true potential.

## **8 The role of the subject leader**

**8.1** 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 pupil progress in that subject area;
- provide efficient resource management for the subject.



- 8.2** The school gives subject leaders non-contact time each term, so that they can carry out the necessary duties involved with 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 review the way the subject is taught in the school and plan for improvement. This development planning links to whole-school objectives. Each subject leader reviews the curriculum plans for their subject, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum and that progression is planned into schemes of work. The subject leader also keeps a portfolio of children's work, which s/he uses to show the achievements of children at each key stage and to give examples of expectations of attainment.

## **9 Monitoring and review**

- 9.1** Our governing body's curriculum committee is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. This committee reviews each subject area in its bi-annual cycle of review and development.
- 9.2** We have named governors for all subjects. The governors liaise with the subject leaders of these areas, and monitor closely the way the school teaches these subjects.
- 9.3** The Headteacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher/Subject leaders monitors the weekly lesson plans for all teachers, ensuring that all classes are taught the full requirements of the National Curriculum, and that all lessons have appropriate learning objectives.
- 9.4** Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school. They examine long-term and medium-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.

### **Disability Equality Scheme**

This policy supports the school's Disability Equality Scheme and it is available in a range of different formats, for disabled parents and the wider public.

**Signed:** *Linda Payne*  
*Adrian Ramsden*