

St Thomas's C E Primary School

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

At St Thomas's Church of England Primary School, we believe that the school curriculum should reflect and underpin our aims and values, reflecting the school's commitment to developing all aspects of pupils' lives.

Curriculum Aims

- To enable children to become happy, confident individuals with self-belief, and capacity to learn.
- To promote love of learning that goes beyond Primary years.
- To enable children to be successful in making good personal progress and achievement.
- To help children learn how to be healthy and safe.
- To develop social, moral and cultural understanding that enable pupils to contribute positively to their communities and better understand communities beyond their experience.

As a Church of England School, we aim for children to:

- Recognise and respect Christian values and the values, beliefs, cultures and religions of others.
- Respect and care for God's creation of the world and living things.
- Develop our core Christian values of Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Trust, Hope, Humility, Compassion, Endurance and our over-arching school value of Friendship

The unique elements which make up our curriculum

- Learning approaches which include our ***CHALLENGE AND CHOICE CURRICULUM***. Children are presented with 3 levels of challenge and are able to choose the one that is pertinent for them. In KS2 differentiation takes the form of **Core/Support/Extension** with children opting for the group best suited to them. This enables children to take ownership of their learning and empowers them to challenge themselves to reach their full potential.
- All children undertake ***DIRT (Designated Improvement and Reflection Time)*** during the week. This enables all children to consolidate what they have learnt by correcting and improving their work to a higher standard.
- All classes have vibrant ***Learning Zones*** outside of the classrooms where children can engage in supported and structured learning
- Cross-curricular topics, events, clubs, visits, visitors, community and Church participation all go to enhance and create a stimulating delivery of the Statutory National Curriculum and Foundation Stage Curriculum

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- The development of personal, social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) and of British Values is threaded throughout the curriculum and pastoral work of the school
- The curriculum and life of the school inspires achievement with a strong emphasis on English and Maths
- **The Challenge and Choice Curriculum** enables children to learn across the range of subject within the National Curriculum, many of which are taught through topics or themes which link subjects in a meaningful context for all children.

Our Curriculum:

- ✚ **Enables** children to develop personal, social and emotional skills, so that they have a sense self-belief and feel valued within the school community, recognise their strengths and are ambitious.

They know how to be healthy, how to stay safe understand and manage feelings and emotions they may experience, and empathise with others.

They take responsibility for their own learning, reflect on learning, setting goals and working towards them be able to persevere and learn from mistakes, show resilience and be willing to try new things.

They relate well to others, work collaboratively, listen, negotiate, share, and develop core school values.

- ✚ **Enables** children to acquire essential English and Mathematical skills The National Curriculum states the expectations for pupils of different ages, and we aim for all our pupils to meet or exceed the required high standards.

Our curriculum has a strong emphasis on developing English and Maths skills, as we see these as essential skills for learning and preparation for the next stage of their educational journey.

English and Maths programmes follow the requirements of the National Curriculum. The subjects are taught as a daily lesson as discrete subjects, as well as through planned opportunities for children to use and apply their developing skills in a range of ways across topics.

Phonics, Spelling and Handwriting are taught, following the requirements of the National Curriculum. We use *Read, Write Inc* to teach phonics daily in Early Years and Year 1. In Year 2 any phonics catch-up programmes are initiated.

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✚ **Enables** children to learn across a range of subjects.

Teaching and learning of subjects is carefully planned to follow appropriate areas of study for each subject outlined in the Foundation Stage Curriculum and National Curriculum 2014. In the Foundation Stage (taught in our reception class), children are taught across the 7 areas: communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. These are underpinned by the characteristics of effective learning (motivation, engagement, critical thinking).

In the National primary curriculum (Years 1-6),as well as the core subjects of English and Maths, children are taught Science , Art & Design, Design Technology (including cooking) Geography, History, Spanish (KS2), Computing, PE, and Music. RE is also a statutory subject and as a Church school we follow the Cumbria Diocesan scheme of work.

PSHE is a non- statutory subject, but in our school it is taught across the curriculum and through discrete lessons.

For each class a curriculum overview is available on the curriculum page of the website under each class. Many of the subjects are taught using cross-curricular 'themes' which enables links to be made between children's learning. This ensures learning is relevant and engaging for our children, making learning contribute exceptionally well to children's positive attitudes.

We endeavour to include a range of opportunities for pupils to grow in confidence and broaden their experiences through clubs, visits, performances, Forest Schools/outdoor learning, and links that are local, national and international.

For further information about the curriculum for each class please refer to class pages on the curriculum area of the school website.