

Curriculum Policy

“With Jesus, we love, we learn and we grow.”

Please also see our Learning Support Policy (Including Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy); Able, Gifted and Talented Policy; Policy for students for whom English is an Additional Language; Reporting, Tracking and Monitoring Policy; Teaching and Learning Policy

Introduction

As a Catholic school, we recognise that all our pupils are made in the image and likeness of God; each one is special and unique. It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that each one discovers her strengths and gifts and this is done by providing an holistic curriculum which offers breadth as well as depth of learning.

In line with the school’s aims, our curriculum policy:

- encourages each pupil to rejoice and do well through the pursuit of academic excellence across the curriculum and beyond
- provides support and challenge to every pupil to develop their full potential in preparation for the future

Aims and Objectives of our Curriculum

Through our curriculum we aim to:

- Ensure every child succeeds
Provide an inclusive education within a culture of high expectations
- Build on what each learner already knows
Ensure that lessons have structure and pace so that pupils know what is to be learnt, how and why
- Make learning vivid and real
Develop understanding through enquiry, creativity, e-learning and group problem solving
- Make learning an enjoyable and challenging experience
Stimulate learning through matching teaching techniques and strategies to a range of learning styles
- Enrich the learning experience
Build learning skills across the curriculum complemented with relevant and engaging educational visits and workshops
- Promote assessment for learning
Make children partners in their learning
- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
- actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society

Curriculum Content

The content of our curriculum aims to make provision for excellent academic achievement and progress alongside nurturing the spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development of our pupils. It gives experience in the following areas to ensure they acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills:

- Linguistic
- Mathematical
- Religious
- Scientific
- Technological
- Human and social
- Physical
- Aesthetic and creative

To achieve these aims the curriculum is:

- **broad** to ensure that each student is able to develop a wide range of skills and understanding
- **balanced** to ensure that each element of the curriculum is given appropriate emphasis to achieve the above aims
- **Relevant** to ensure that content reflects the needs of today
- **personalised** to ensure that the individual needs of each pupil are met through the provision of appropriate choice, pace, challenge and support at all levels including those with special educational needs/a statement of educational needs (SEN)/an education health and care plan (EHC)
- **stimulating** to promote independent and lifelong learning
- **progressive** to build upon prior knowledge and experience through the introduction of appropriate challenge at all levels
- **Cross-curricular** to give the girls an holistic learning experience through which they make links between different subject disciplines
- **Enjoyable**
- **Engaging**

It is essential that Subject Leaders ensure that these elements are being catered for in their subject's scheme of work and within the planning of their curriculum areas as well as in the delivery of lessons.

It is the responsibility of each individual member of staff to manage individual pupil progress within each subject area and to support Subject Leaders by playing their part in whole school tracking, monitoring and communication processes in place at St Teresa's.

The curriculum at St Teresa's is based upon the knowledge and skills laid out in the National Curriculum supplemented with additional knowledge and skills required for our Senior School entrance examination and other similar 11+ examinations. It is delivered through exciting and engaging topics using the Cornerstones Curriculum.

Subject Allocation

Our curriculum comprises of the following subjects:

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Computing
- Science

Foundation Subjects

- Art
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Latin (Year 6 only)
- Modern Languages (French and Spanish)
- Music
- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)
- Physical Education (including swimming)

These subjects have been allocated a certain amount of teaching time per week to ensure consistency of delivery across the school.

Most subjects are taught by the Class Teacher in differentiated ability groups. There is setting in Mathematics from Year 3 to Year 6.

Specialist teaching takes place in the following subjects:

- Art (Years 3-6)
- Dance (Lower Prep)
- Drama
- Latin (Year 6 only)
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- Swimming

This allows a more in-depth knowledge and understanding of a subject to be shared with pupils thereby raising attainment in these subject areas.

Teaching of the Curriculum

Please see the Teaching and learning Policy.

Curriculum Provision

Subject Leaders should ensure that all pupils within the school are catered for including those with special educational needs (SEND) or an education, health and care plan (EHC). They should also ensure that no content undermines British values and that schemes of work include effective preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British Society.

The Enriched Curriculum

A full programme of activities, drawing on and augmenting the curriculum, is offered to all pupils at lunchtimes and after school. *Please see the Extra-Curricular schedule.*

The Prep School also offers child care before school and runs an After School Care facility from 3.45-6.00pm. This offers a range of activities in a caring and supportive environment.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

In Reception, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This is delivered through a range of exciting topics (Cornerstones Curriculum) and built upon a progressive ladder of skills. There is a balance of child-led and adult-led activities to inspire creativity and foster independence in a safe and stimulating environment.

During the children's day, the seven areas of learning will be accessible and promoted to ensure a good learning balance for all to achieve. These are:

Three Prime Areas:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Four Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Characteristics of Effective Learning are used throughout the Early Years to enable children to create their own experiences.

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

Specialist teachers play an important role in the children's learning journey through their weekly Dance, Drama, Language, Music, PE and Swimming lessons.

During the Early Years' experience at St Teresa's, the children will have a broad range of visitors from different parts of the school and the local community and the Reception class take part in some Educational visits to complement their learning.

Curriculum Communication for the Prep School

Information on the curriculum is provided by the school for each year group in detailed Curriculum Handbooks.

The Curriculum Policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in conjunction with Prep SLT and the Prep School Governor; it is reviewed regularly by the whole Governing Body.