

OUR SCHOOL VALUES



Curriculum Statement

At St Francis' School our intention is to deliver a broad, rich and innovative curriculum which is founded on our Christian beliefs and our school mission and values. We aim to provide our pupils with engaging and purposeful learning experiences which foster a love of learning to last a lifetime.

While we follow the programmes of study for individual subjects as outlined in the National Curriculum in England, we strive to be creative and, where possible, link subjects within topics incorporating 'WOW' moments that spark children's interests and relate to real world issues. We enhance learning through regular trips and outings, first hand experiences, immersive topic days, visits from experts and members of the local community. Our curriculum is enriched by our local history, culture and partnership with our local Christian community.

We have planned additional experiences such as school camps, forest school, participation in community events, opportunities to showcase learning and fundraising activities to support the curriculum and give children skills for life. Our Religious Education programme and our marking of the Church's Year enriches and is enriched by the National Curriculum. We promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of children both discretely and as opportunities arise.

Our curriculum prepares our pupils for life in modern British society by fostering in them attitudes and qualities that enable them to be confident, resilient, creative, and respectful citizens, well prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of modern life. Our curriculum is designed to embrace diversity, recognise gifts and talents and remove barriers so that every pupil achieves.

Implementation

The curriculum is mapped out deliberately and carefully so that skills, knowledge and learning in one subject is built upon in others, thereby deepening understanding. It also ensures that learning in one year builds upon learning in the previous year and will inform learning in the next. Children are given opportunities to revisit learning and embed key concepts.

The curriculum is reviewed periodically. Curriculum leads oversee training requirements and suitable resourcing of their subject areas whilst also offering support to staff.

Long term plans for each subject feed into year groups' medium term plans, which are adjusted if necessary to meet the needs of individual cohorts. Teachers then plan on a weekly and daily basis to meet the needs of individual pupils and respond to both ongoing and more formal assessment.

Impact

We judge the effectiveness of our curriculum in four ways:

- How well do our children learn? Do they make good progress through the school, are they meeting age related expectations and do they leave us ready to tackle the next stage in their education?
- How do our children feel about their learning? Do they enjoy being learners, are they motivated to succeed and are they resilient when approaching new learning?
- How do our children engage with the curriculum? Do they develop character, do they react appropriately with others and do they demonstrate our school values in their everyday lives and behaviour?
- Do our children understand their uniqueness as God-given individuals with a strong personal sense of morality? Do they make decisions informed by their developing moral compass and do they leave us knowing their actions make a difference to themselves and others?

Art

Intent

Art is a subject which recognises our God given talents to communicate creatively and expressively. At St Francis', we want pupils to celebrate the beauty of the world around us and recognise that a love of art can help us to express a sense of awe and wonder. It is a subject which can inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, create and reflect on their own work and of others. We want our pupils to have an understanding of their place in history and what has contributed to the culture and creativity of a nation.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.” - Ecclesiastes 3:11

Aims

- produce creative work, exploring ideas and recording their experiences and imagination
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- learn about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work
- develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space
- develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design
- create sketch books (from Year 3) to record observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- Improve mastery of art and design techniques including printing, drawing, collage, painting and modelling.

Computing

Intent

Through teaching computing at St Francis', we equip our children to participate in a world where work and leisure activities are increasingly transformed by technology. Computing skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners. Children should have every opportunity available to allow them to find, explore, analyse and present information. We focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use electronic devices to access and communicate information as well as teaching them how to programme devices to carry out tasks.

Computing contributes to our learning and faith community by providing the opportunity to explore the safe and ethical use of modern technology. It discovers and nurtures in children God given talents and enables them to fulfil their potential where technologies and cultures are constantly changing. In older years, children consider the moral dilemmas presented when using these technologies. Through the use of online resources, children recognise that media provides us with the opportunity to reflect in awe and wonder at the beauty of God's creation. By using a range of computing programmes, children are able to express themselves creatively.

Aims

- provide a relevant, challenging and enjoyable computing curriculum for all pupils
- use computing as a tool to enhance learning throughout the curriculum
- respond to new developments in technology
- equip pupils with the confidence and capability to use computing throughout their later life
- develop an understanding of how to use technology safely and responsibly.

Design and Technology

Intent

At St Francis' School, Design and Technology (DT) helps to prepare our pupils to engage with and contribute to a rapidly changing society. Children will develop skills in order to think creatively and construct products to solve real and relevant problems that consider not only their own needs but those of a wider audience. Design Technology can easily be recognised and developed within a Christian ethos; the Bible speaks of God the Creator and, as we were made in His image, each human being shares creative qualities and talents.

Aims

- develop an awareness of the built environment and appreciate that we can affect and control it
- observe, identify and understand elements of design in the natural and manmade world
- respond to design criteria when creating products, using knowledge and understanding to innovate and take risks in the search for a solution
- evaluate own and others' designs, appreciating strengths and making changes where necessary

- teach practical skills with a wide range of tools and materials, including food, and select the tools and materials most suitable for purpose
- develop awareness of safety by identifying hazards/risks (including the principles of nutrition) and taking appropriate action
- help develop the social skills necessary to work as part of a team, as well as the ability to work independently when the situation demands
- become aware of the impact of Design and Technology, its contribution to society and our quality of life.

English

Intent

At St. Francis' School, the teaching of English promotes the development and mastery of the essential life skills of reading and writing. It is a subject which recognises our God given talents to communicate creatively and expressively. We acknowledge God as creator through continuous development of our own creative abilities and recognise that a love of language can help us to express a sense of awe and wonder. The ability to speak and listen well is vital if we are to articulate our thoughts, feelings and ideas. Furthermore, by promoting the school values of respect and honesty through English work, we are able to value the thoughts and feelings of others, treating them with respect and integrity. English also contributes to our community by providing opportunities to communicate with and promote our parish links.

Aims

- develop a life-long love and enjoyment of reading and be able to share this with others
- develop comprehension skills and an ability to look beyond the written word that can be applied across the curriculum
- support all children to become confident, expressive and effective independent writers who realise that writing is a life-long skill
- enable children to acquire a range of strategies for correct conventional spelling so that they can spell age-appropriate words and apply this knowledge during independent writing and reading
- develop clear, concise and legible handwriting
- to provide a stimulating environment where key vocabulary, sentence structure and achievements are displayed in every classroom, alongside resources such as dictionaries, word mats etc.
- develop and extend an awareness of other cultures, traditions and languages

Early Years Foundation Stage

Intent

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at St Francis', we believe that all children are entitled to the best possible start in their school life. All children deserve to be valued as an individual and we are

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passionate in giving all children opportunities to achieve their full, unique potential. In order for each child to follow their own learning journey and have their needs and stages of development planned for appropriately, the EYFS at St Francis' provides opportunities, experiences and support to develop, physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally, whilst embedding a positive attitude to school and learning.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Aims

- create purposeful learning opportunities through play
- assess and review children's needs and next steps in learning
- value and nurture parents as partners
- value children's unique journey from entry through to KS1 transitions
- build resilience, confidence & independence within learning
- embed a positive attitude to lifelong learning

Geography

Intent

At St Francis' school, we believe that a high-quality Geography education will help pupils gain a practical knowledge and understanding of where they live, their local area and how they relate to the wider world. Geography helps pupils to understand how people live in different environments, how they make best use of the resources that they have and how different geographical features form part of our amazing world! Through our Geography lessons, we are also able to embed the Christian value of respect through studying other cultures, and inspire awe and wonder at God's world and creativity.

Aims

- develop a life-long love and curiosity for the world
- acquire a range of strategies to discover more about the world
- understand how to use a variety of skills to research facts on a geographical topic
- provide evidence to support findings and discoveries
- ask perceptive questions to gain knowledge and deepen understanding
- think logically and independently on a given topic
- compare and contrast own life and surroundings with those around them

History

Intent

At St Francis' school, we believe that a high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. The teaching of History also allows for Christian values to be further embedded as it encourages children to learn vital lessons

of fairness, respect, trust, honesty, bravery and perseverance through studying important events from the past.

Aims

- develop a life-long love and curiosity to discover more about the past
- learn to ask perceptive questions to deepen understanding and knowledge on a historical topic
- think critically when analysing a piece of historical evidence
- acquire a range of strategies to sift through arguments and find relevant information
- develop perspective and judgement on historical issues
- develop understanding of certain history topics by experiencing at least one off-site visit/visitor within the academic year

Mathematics

Intent

Mathematics permeates much of our everyday life and is critical to most forms of employment. A sound mathematical foundation is therefore fundamental to children understanding the world and engaging productively with it. At St Francis' school, we believe in building an appreciation of the power and beauty of mathematics, evidenced for instance in how it shapes the natural world, understanding this in the context of our belief in God the Creator.

Aims

- provide a high quality mathematics curriculum that is accessible to all, and which ensures all children are challenged and make progress in lessons
- build competency and develop sound conceptual understanding in number and calculation, measurement, shape, data, money and time
- foster the development of deeper mathematical thinking in order to apply knowledge flexibly and creatively to problem solving and reasoning in different contexts
- develop fluency in number so children can recall and apply their knowledge quickly and accurately
- facilitate the development of a rich mathematical vocabulary that equips children with appropriate terminology as well as the language necessary to reason and explain their thinking clearly
- instil a growth mind-set that recognises mistakes as part of the learning process, developing learners who persevere to overcome difficulties and who take responsibility for their own learning
- to provide a mathematically stimulating environment where key vocabulary is displayed in every classroom, alongside resources such as number lines, multiplication squares and historical timelines.

Modern Foreign Languages

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Intent

At St. Francis' school, high quality language education will foster pupils' curiosity about the world and broaden their understanding of other cultures, experiences and traditions. The learning of a modern foreign language (MFL) supports our strong Christian ethos of embracing difference and of the equality of all people, regardless of race or nationality.

Aims

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, asking questions, discussing and improving pronunciation and accuracy
- write for a variety of purposes using the vocabulary and grammar taught
- read the language for a variety of purposes, including through songs, rhymes and stories
- learn about the culture and traditions of the Spanish speaking countries of the world
- understand how the language relates to English and other languages (including children's own first languages) and Latin.

Music

Intent

At St Francis' School, we foster an enjoyment and appreciation of music. Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. Pupils develop an awareness of the music of our own and other cultures and styles. Music can easily be recognised and developed within a Christian ethos. We acknowledge God as creator through continuous development of our own creative abilities and recognise that a love of music can help us to express our feelings and ideas.

“Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord” - Ephesians 5:19

Aims

- develop an appreciation of a variety of music genres by listening to a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.
- learn to sing and use their voices, and have the opportunity to play a range of percussion instruments, xylophone and recorder
- create, compose and evaluate their own music and listen to and reflect upon the music of others
- have the opportunity to join and perform with the school choir and orchestra
- perform and review their own performances and others.

Physical Education

Intent

In teaching Physical Education (PE) at St. Francis' School, we provide children with the opportunity to experience a range of activities that help develop their health, fitness and wellbeing. High quality Physical Education lessons can inspire children to exceed and challenge themselves, showcasing their skills in local and inter school competitions. Not only do we teach Physical Education in order to build on health and fitness but to build character and embed Christian and school values such as fairness and respect.

Physical Education assists children in realising their God-given potential and helps children to acknowledge God as the creator of the human body by encouraging continuous development of physical abilities. Through Physical Education, the children are taught the Christian and school values of respect, trust, honesty, friendliness, bravery and perseverance.

Aims

- develop an enjoyment for physical activity
- become aware of how to live a healthy and active lifestyle and how this contributes to well-being
- develop the social skills to work as a team
- be taught the key values of teamwork, determination, fairness, respect and self-belief through physical activities and competitive sports
- gain leadership skills, taking on responsibilities through becoming sports leaders, coaching and running events
- develop confidence, tolerance and appreciation for individual and others' strengths and weaknesses.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and British Values

Intent

At St. Francis' school, high quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education helps children to thrive when they reach adulthood through gaining a better understanding of the world, economically and socially. It celebrates each child as an individual, helping them to achieve their maximum potential and enabling them to make a full contribution to society. PSHE can allow pupils to understand how their bodies change and how to live a healthy and safe lifestyle. Our Catholic ethos promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the children in our care.

Aims

- prepare children to be global citizens now and in their future roles within a global community
- give children regular opportunities to learn about, recognise and apply the British Values of democracy, tolerance, mutual respect, rule of law and liberty
- teach children how to be safe, and to understand and develop healthy relationships both now and in their future lives

- allow children the opportunity to learn about difficulties and emotions that might arise, and signpost them to support available
- learn to take responsibility and make good decisions
- recognise their rights and responsibilities, while becoming healthy, independent members of the school community and of a diverse society
- gain an understanding of themselves personally and socially, developing their sense of self-worth and tackling the social and physical issues of growing up.

Religious Education

Intent

We attach the greatest importance to Religious Education (RE) in the life of St. Francis' School and ensure that all children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Our Christian values are embedded into our curriculum vision which is expressed and explored in religious education. Our Christian ethos underpins all that we do at St. Francis' School, but the specific teaching of RE is primarily educational and for this reason will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as core curriculum subjects.

Aims

- develop the child's sense of awe and wonder
- teach RE in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- foster religious literacy among pupils, including the foundations for an understanding of the liturgy, prayer and the sacraments
- to help pupils think spiritually, ethically and theologically
- help pupils to grow in confidence
- provide opportunities for children to celebrate their faith
- provide a Christian environment in which everyone feels welcome, valued, respected and secure
- familiarise the children with the Gospel message and scriptures
- foster in all the understanding of God's Kingdom through work in our local and wider community
- ensure the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school
- help children in their search for the meaning of life through the way in which God reveals himself in Christ
- develop an understanding of other world faiths.

Relationships and Sex Education

Intent

RSE at St Francis' school is taught within the moral, social and spiritual framework that reflects the

beliefs and ethos of a Catholic school and our commitment to the development of the whole child.

Children learn about their uniqueness as part of God's creation, His love for each person, and how this means we must respect one another. It helps children to establish self-respect and positive friendships, and it contributes to child protection.

Aims

The school works towards all aims in partnership with parents/carers.

- develop positive and healthy relationships with peers both now and in the future
- endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- have respect for themselves and others
- have positive body images
- understand the physical aspects involved in RSE at an age-appropriate level
- contribute to the development, growth and journey of the whole person towards becoming "fully human, fully alive" as a unique creation made in God's image.

Science

Intent

At St. Francis' school, science means exploring, discovering and investigating the world around them, as well as using and applying process skills. Science in our school is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to make sense of and understand the world in which we live, and also help them make decisions in the future about issues concerning themselves and the environment. Through the teaching of science, we encourage children to become caring people who develop respect for living things and the non-living environment in order to genuinely care for and sustain the world that God bequeathed them.

Aims

- build a body of scientific knowledge that will help make sense of the world and prepare for a life in an increasingly scientific and technological world
- understand the way things work and recognise how scientific discoveries and ideas have affected the way people think, feel, create, behave and live
- build on children's natural curiosity and develop a scientific approach to problems
- develop skills of enquiry, investigation, planning, reviewing, interpreting and evaluating work alongside other key skills such as application of data handling and number, ICT and problem solving
- work both individually and together in groups, to communicate and help each other, to develop positive attitudes towards learning and to become motivated to find out more.

