

Curriculum Policy



Last reviewed on: [Date]

Vision

As a Christian community, Sacred Heart School will empower all children to recognise and fulfil their unique potential; celebrating all God's children as individuals, respecting and valuing difference. Through this, we will prepare the children to embrace and contribute positively to our ever-changing world.

Our Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum is underpinned by a strong emphasis on personal development and has Christ at the Centre.

The curriculum at Sacred Heart aims to develop pupils as well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of self and a commitment to being an involved participant in a community and view themselves as unique individuals with value and worth created in the likeness and image of God.

Our curriculum should be ambitious and give our pupils the experiences, knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life including future learning and employment. Our curriculum should be broad and balanced; it should build knowledge, encourage independence, curiosity and creativity; produce collaborators, innovators, and leaders.

Our curriculum is knowledge rich. All aspects of the curriculum have been designed with progression in mind; this ensures that children build on existing skills and knowledge, which, over time, enables them to know more and remember more.

Our curriculum is built around the objectives set out in the National Curriculum.

Balance

It is our underlying belief that every child should feel valued and experience the feeling of success in a wide range of curriculum areas. We believe that through the curriculum we can impact how they feel about themselves, so that they feel confident and ready to tackle any challenge they may face.

At Sacred Heart, we place high priority on ensuring children's physical and mental wellbeing are met. We understand that children will not be successful learners unless they are emotionally secure. Children's physical and mental wellbeing are as valued and important as academic development.

Our well planned and thoughtful approach to personal development helps to ensure that every child is well cared for and supported.

Our balanced approach to the curriculum is not at the expense of high standards in core subject areas. High standards and enabling children to reach national expectations and above is of vital importance if they are to succeed at the next stage of their education and go on to achieve full and happy lives and careers.

Breadth

We have designed and planned our curriculum to offer a range of experiences which contribute to every child receiving a full and rich curriculum. The range of experiences we offer ensures that our children benefit from a full range of academic, spiritual, moral, social and cultural activities. These activities enrich their lives and those of our whole school community and make them proud of their

British values and the diverse society to which belong and play an active part. We are proud that our curriculum gives our children the skills, confidence and self-belief to lead a happy and fulfilled life by encouraging them to aim high and work towards their goals and dreams in life.

We believe that a broad and balanced curriculum extends beyond the classroom. We tailor and adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of our community, and in doing so, provide a wealth of experiences throughout their time at school.

We are committed to ensuring that all our children have the opportunity to...

- Visit places of worship
- Experience a residential
- Learn a musical instrument
- Go to the theatre
- Visit museums and galleries
- Explore their local environment
- Take part in a sports competition
- Experience democracy by casting a vote
- Enjoy the great outdoors
- Be involved in charitable work

And much more! (See Sacred Heart 40 Things)

Depth

Our curriculum at Sacred Heart is carefully designed, organised and planned for depth of learning. Our definition of progress is; knowing more and doing more. We design, organise and plan our curriculum to ensure that children are not merely covering content but achieving a depth to their learning which enables them to use their skills and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.

Our careful curriculum design and planning means that we build in many opportunities for repetition and practice for essential knowledge, skills and understanding in every subject. This ensures that children are able to revisit previous learning, which allows them to gradually develop a deeper understanding of the skills and processes within subjects, at their own pace and in the best possible way for each individual child.

Our curriculum is designed and planned to move the nature of children's thinking to a higher order deep level of understanding rather than just acquiring new facts and knowledge. We want our children to have the opportunity to produce incredible work. For this to happen, we need to do less, but do it better.

Implementation

Curriculum documents are a framework – a starting point rather than a set of instructions to be slavishly followed. When planning, we start by looking at the standard we expect every child to

achieve and what deep level learning looks like. We plan for the development of skills that can be implemented in all subject areas. These are:

Basic Skills – speak clearly and convey ideas confidently, read and communicate ideas in writing effectively and efficiently, use new technologies confidently and purposefully

Active Learning – seek out and enjoy challenges, collaborate with others, show commitment and perseverance, assess themselves and others

Creative Thinking – ask questions to extend thinking, generate ideas and explore possibilities, overcome barriers by trying alternatives and adapting or developing ideas, connect ideas or experiences in inventive ways

Each subject has specific skills and concepts relevant to that subject. Learning experiences are then planned and sequenced to ensure that every child stands the best possible chance of achieving the expected standard, deep level learning and the secure development of skills. A range of concepts are explored within each subject to help us see things from a wider perspective, develop connections that extend the topic and develop personal and thinking skills.

We have a rigorous approach to the teaching of reading which develops pupils' confidence and enjoyment in reading. At the early stages of learning to read, reading materials are closely matched to pupils' phonic knowledge. As pupils progress their reading skills, novels are chosen to maximise engagement and enjoyment of reading whilst being academically challenging.

Flexibility of timetables allows teachers to explore subjects in depth allowing the children to steer their learning and develop a deep level of understanding.

Many opportunities are provided for parents to become actively engaged in the curriculum establishing a genuine learning partnership between home and school.

Impact

We understand that learning happens over time rather than in a single lesson. As a result of our carefully designed and planned curriculum, pupils' develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well. This is reflected in results from national tests. Pupils are prepared well for the next stage of education and they leave with aspirations. They are confident, articulate learners who have resilience and a drive for improvement. Pupils read widely and often for pleasure. Due to a rigorous focus on personal development, pupils have a strong sense of self and feel a valued part of a community. They care about others and the world they live in and take action to pursue social justice in line with Catholic Social Teaching.