



At St. Joseph's

we aim to promote a learning community

based on the Gospel values of

Love, Trust and Respect

where the achievements of everyone are recognised and celebrated

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ

Curriculum Statement

We expect everyone at St. Joseph's to demonstrate 'Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ' in a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment. We live, learn, work and serve together in communion with our whole community, to grow in God's way and be witnesses to our faith so as to build God's Kingdom here in Benwell.

Our curriculum has been designed to develop a thirst for knowledge and understanding and a love of learning. We deliver a broad and balanced curriculum in line with National Curriculum requirements. Emphasis is placed on acquiring, developing and applying core skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing and mathematics.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we carefully design, plan and implement a curriculum to provide breadth and balance for every pupil:

At St. Joseph's we place high priority on ensuring children's physical and mental wellbeing. We understand that children will be successful learners if they are emotionally secure, therefore we carefully design our curriculum and adopt a flexible approach to timetabling to ensure that we can meet and respond to any issues which may arise. Children's physical and mental wellbeing are as valued and important as academic development.

We ensure that every child is well cared for and supported. We carefully monitor children's progress with regard to their personal development and our well planned and thoughtful approach to SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural) enables children to grow and develop in order for them to face their future with confidence.

Our balanced curriculum promotes high standards in all subject areas. Achieving national expectations and above enables children to succeed and go on to live as happy responsible citizens.

Reading is a vital skill and an integral part of the curriculum which will support children's learning across the whole curriculum. As a school, we will ensure that our children are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discrete and cross-curricular learning opportunities. We aim for children to be able to read widely, confidently and to a high standard in a range of subjects. Above all, our aim for the children in our school is for them to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers.

Our rich curriculum, with its excellent range of experiences, ensures that every pupil at St. Joseph's makes good progress both academically and personally.

At St. Joseph's knowledge and understanding of our pupils' backgrounds, life experiences, culture and needs has helped us to design a curriculum with three key aims underpinning every subject area. We believe that by focusing on the following key aims our children will be ready to successfully meet the challenges of the next stage of their education and their lives.

Our curriculum aims are:

1. ***Aspiration*** - we aim to provide experiences which show children the wide range of possibilities available for their future.
2. ***Initiative*** - we aim to offer experiences which help children to become independent and resourceful learners.
- 3) ***Responsibility*** - we aim to provide experiences which help our pupils value their environment and understand their responsibilities for that environment as custodians of God's creation.

We have designed and planned our curriculum to offer a range of experiences which contribute to every child receiving a broad and balanced 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, promoting British values within the diverse society to which we belong. 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.

Our curriculum at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is carefully designed, organised and planned for depth of learning:

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School our definition of progress is: the widening and deepening of essential knowledge, skills, understanding and learning behaviours.

We promote five key behaviours for learning - Listen to Learn, Talk to Task, Do as Directed, Rights Respecting, Chase the Challenge - in all aspects of school life. As well as behaviour for learning, children are encouraged to demonstrate the 'Spirit of the Games Values' (passion, teamwork, determination, honesty, self-belief and respect) which we recognise as key qualities of character which enable children to develop into effective learners and make the best possible progress.

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 incorporate many opportunities for repetition and practice opportunities 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 children's thinking to a higher order level of understanding rather than just acquiring new facts and knowledge.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, it is our 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 have an impact on how children feel about themselves, so that they feel confident and ready to tackle any challenge they may face.

