

Curriculum Statement

The curriculum at St. George's Catholic School is designed to help all the children to grow in mind, body and spirit. It fully encompasses the National Curriculum (2014) and, we believe, offers more to the children. Religious education is provided in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and subject to the regulations and oversight of the Bishop. Whilst the content of the curriculum is important we also believe that the curriculum has to be delivered in a way that stimulates the children and develops a desire to learn. We place great importance in encouraging the children to develop a 'Learning Mindset' demonstrating motivation, organisation and resilience. We want all our children to be enthusiastic about their learning, enjoying the tasks set and being eager to take on a challenge. We look to make the curriculum attractive for the children with exciting events inside and outside of the school so that their learning, intellectually, physically and spiritually is a positive and worthwhile experience.

To inform parents about details of our curriculum there are brief statements below on each subject and elsewhere on the website End of Year Expectations leaflets for each year, a Curriculum Overview for each year and Whole School Overviews Grids for reading, writing and mathematics.

Religious Education

Our school follows the Bishops' Conference guidelines that *'Religious Education is the core subject in Catholic schools requiring 10% of curriculum time'*. We use the 'Come and See' Teaching and Learning programme which covers three themes per term. In addition, two weeks a year children will learn about another Faith (Judaism and one other). Termly newsletters will be sent home to parents which gives an overview of the topics and important dates. Collective Worship takes place as a class, Key Stage and Whole School and throughout the year we celebrate key liturgical events.

English

At St George's School we have developed, over the past two years a curriculum for Literacy which suits the rigours of the New Curriculum and our particular school's needs.

Reception Class have phonic sounds displayed on walls for outside learning and high frequency words are displayed to this effect in outside areas around the Key Stage.

In Key Stage One we have a daily phonics session (Read, Write Inc) with children being taught phonics in groups at a pace suitable to need. Children are assessed every half term and change teachers and groups according to need.

Children have sounds linked to spellings sent home as part of the Read Write Inc process of learning to read and spell.

In Reception and Year 1 we have identified that a number of children require extra time on the learning of high frequency sight words due to EAL needs. As a result we have invested in Oxford Reading Tree first word stories to complement our Phonics Programme.

The Infant Reading Challenge encourages children to use a range of strategies to read an incremental list of New Curriculum Words.

Children are taught to write in focused writing groups, which are assessed regularly and children moved through groups according to need.

In Year 2 children who move off of the Read Write Inc programme move on to Literacy and Language in order to learn grammar, spelling and punctuation points embedded within the reading of quality texts. The programme asks high level reading questions to encourage the children to infer, deduce and make links. The programme also offers a model for writing.

In the back of Reading Logs in Key Stage One can be found all of the appropriate spelling lists for children to learn to read and spell in order to support children and parents with home learning.

We teach the children to hand write using the Nelson programme and have Interactive White Board programmes to model handwriting patterns. We have a KS 1 and a KS2 programme to stretch across both Key Stages.

Literacy and Language continues into Key Stage 2 and is being used in Years 3, 4 and 5. Spelling is taught at least 3 times during the week through a homework sheet, a spelling activity sheet and a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check sheet. Teachers across the Key Stage have spelling smart board presentations to teach in a fun and interactive way the Year3, 4 and 5, 6 spelling lists.

Teachers have top tips for spelling on display in their classrooms and refer to these regularly. Spelling patterns and tips for learning spellings are regularly discussed and used and children are tested on spellings weekly. The Literacy and Language programme picks out spelling rules embedded within whole text teaching.

A Spelling Practice Activity Book by Helen Sheridan and Linda Cartwright is the current text being used for spelling lists and activities in Key Stage 2.

Reading is taught through guided reading sessions from our extensive guided reading selection. Children are taught higher order reading skills in small groups. These groups aim to be active and involve children in being busy readers with very little time spent on children waiting around to hear others read.

Reading progress (formative not summative) can be made half termly through the Rising Stars English Tasks and Tests Assessment for Learning Books which each of the Key Stage 2 teachers have copies of.

Children also undertake weekly opportunities to be taught comprehension skills through a written comprehension task and through Reading Response activities in Reading Logs.

Reading Response activities are also used to guide children's personal research when reading for learning within topics. Time is given to allow children to read for learning throughout the curriculum.

For outside learning opportunities there are spellings on windows, fantastic vocabulary signs stuck to walls and grammar reminders in covered areas.

Children experience weekly grammar teaching as a discrete skill, lesson through the Rising Stars Skills Builders Scheme. This complements the grammar points embedded in Literacy and Language.

In Year 6 grammar is taught through excellent use of Smart Board presentation slides provided by the Somerset Literacy Network.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Progress can be assessed regularly through the Rising Stars Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Practice and Assessment Tests.

Talk for Writing is a key element of our teaching of writing across the school. Literacy and Language was bought due to its being heavily influenced by Pie Corbett. To ensure children use writing toolkits in order to write fluently across the curriculum we have Igniting Writing in Key Stage 2 which lays out language toolkits and key features for different styles of writing. These texts can be used across curriculum subjects.

Handwriting is taught weekly through the Nelson Smart Board programme. We also have purchased a Nelson font package so that letters and signage around the school can be produced in a demonstration font.

If any child requires intervention for spelling or reading in Key Stage 2 a number of members of staff are trained to use the SAIL intervention programme and we have a Key Stage 2 Read Write Inc phonics group which ensures all children can pass the phonic screen in the school.

Get Writing is used in Key Stage 2 to complement Literacy and Language for those children who require extra support with writing.

Hi – Lo readers have been bought to ensure we have texts to challenge and inspire struggling or reluctant readers.

Reading Logs are scrutinised by Senior Management regularly to ensure all children are reading at home.

One to one reading catch up sessions are provided by the school to ensure those children not able to be heard read at home can be given support.

Our Level 5 reading resources are very extensive and new books are purchased regularly to ensure children in the school remain enthusiastic about reading.

Mathematics

At St George's Catholic School we aim to inspire all of our children to become confident and successful mathematicians. Mathematics is the study of patterns and relationships in number, shape and space and their application to solving problems in a variety of situations. We hope to give children a positive, enjoyable experience of Maths at an early age, by introducing numbers and mathematical concepts through practical games and activities.

Our new curriculum includes all the elements of the new National Curriculum, which is 65% - 75% number based. We therefore have a strong focus on enabling our children to count, calculate and check their findings as they gain mastery of each stage of their learning. The children progress not only by building upwards from a firm foundation of mathematical knowledge, but also by expanding their skills in a 'sideways stretch' to ensure their understanding is solid and lasting.

Mathematics is an important tool for everyday life. It is used to analyse and communicate information and ideas and to tackle a range of practical tasks and real life problems. Therefore we teach our children to use and apply the skills and knowledge they have learnt to solve real-life problems, at each level of development.

Mathematics has its own specialist vocabulary. Therefore we teach our children the correct terminology to best help them express their ideas and increase their understanding.

Mathematics also provides the materials and means for creating new imaginative worlds to explore. Therefore we teach our children to think like mathematicians, seeing the beauty of the patterns and codes that lie hidden in our mysterious number systems.

Science

We aim to develop the children's scientific skills through first-hand knowledge and practical application. Close observation, planning, predicting, fair testing and the recording of their findings encourage problem solving.

We also introduce and nurture responsible attitudes to the environment and all living things.

History

At St. George's we aim to bring history to life through role play, class visits, workshops, visiting experts and object handling. Children learn about local and world history through enquiry and questioning, using a range of primary and secondary sources. Children learn

how to place key historical periods on a timeline and understand how some things have changed and how some things have stayed the same. They learn to appreciate and analyse how social and political history has shaped our world today.

Geography

Children use maps, atlases, globes, the internet and first hand experiences to explore and study the world. Children use role play (even transforming the school into an international airport) to engage the children with the world around them. At St. George's, we make the most of the varied cultural backgrounds of the pupils to share experiences and cultural identity. CAFOD resources are also regularly used to ensure the catholic ethos transcends all subjects. Children are encouraged to think deeply about their local environment and about people and places in the wider world.

Art & Design

Our art curriculum engages, inspires and challenges pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

Children have the opportunity to use a wide range of skills across the school. We give them chances to draw, paint, print, make collages, use fabrics and threads and model clay. They are taught skills and techniques, including the use of digital media.

Every year the children are involved with a variety of competitions and workshops within the local community. We recently organised a whole school Creativity Week allowing members of staff to show off their skills and strengths and offer a wide range of activities to the children. It was a huge success and we are looking forward to organising the next one.

Music

Music is a key element of both the curriculum and general school life at St. George's Catholic Primary School. The National Curriculum objectives for Music are taught throughout the school as a class subject and in cross-curricular ways. The aim is to develop each child's musical potential giving opportunities for self-expression, musical appreciation and creativity.

Whole class ensemble teaching of the Recorder in Year 3 and the Ukulele in Class 4 gives each child the chance to learn a tuned instrument and provides an opportunity for the children to begin to read music and learn how to play as part of an ensemble.

With regular singing assemblies all children are given the chance to enjoy singing and performing. We also have a well-established school choir who perform regularly at whole

school events such as the Harvest Festival, as well as in the wider community during Family Masses at St. George's Church.

P.E.

We strive towards providing children with up to 2 hours of high quality P.E each week. The children receive a one half hour swimming lesson each week by a qualified swimming instructor.

We have an extensive range of extra-curricular clubs on offer which provide children with the opportunity to engage in even more physical activity each week.

P.E lessons focus on the fundamentals of movement through the school's investment in 'Real P.E.'

Children have opportunities to engage in competition through both inter and intra school sport competitions.

Leadership opportunities are given to older students through their role as playground leaders and/or our sports crew.

Children engage in regular festivals organised by the Tone Sports Partnership which allows them to try out new and exciting sporting activities.

Children have opportunities to take part in outdoor adventurous activities as part of the residential trips in Years 5 and 6.

Strong links are established with Castle school and Richard Huish College who run clubs, lead lunchtime activities and help with sports day.

Computing

'A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.' (National Curriculum – 2014)

At St George's we aim for the children to confidently use and apply information technology skills to support and extend their learning.

Children in all classes have access to a bank of 32 shared laptops and 32 iPads. The children are taught using Interactive Whiteboards, visualisers, digital cameras, iPods, voice recorders, and numerous other technologies.

There is a key emphasis on learning skills for computing; these include programming, debugging and exchanging information. Our children are taught how to access information, evaluate its suitability, store it, share it with others and tailor it to meet their own needs.

Digital Literacy is a big part of the curriculum, with children learning how to use ICT safely – at regular points throughout the year children undertake e-safety sessions on topics such as cyber bullying or keeping information safe.

We have trained digital leaders in each class to help share knowledge and information with the whole school. They are starting to take on more responsibility especially in the area of e-safety.

Design & Technology

Design and technology at St George's provides the children with the opportunity to tackle problems of a practical nature. The children are encouraged to explore and try out different materials, tools and processes of making.

In Key Stage 1 pupils learn how to think imaginatively and talk about what they like and dislike when designing and making. They explore how familiar things work and talk about, draw and model their ideas. They learn how to design and make safely and start to use ICT as part of their designing and making. By the end of Year 2 they will have used a variety of skills, which include cooking and food hygiene, working with textiles and mechanical components.

In Key Stage 2 pupils work on their own and as part of a team on a range of designing and making activities. They think about what products are used for and the needs of the people who use them. They plan what has to be done and identify what works well and what could be improved in their own and other people's designs. They draw on their knowledge and understanding from other areas of the curriculum and use D & T in a range of ways.

French

In Key Stage 1 the children experience a light touch introduction to languages as teaching in this area is optional at this level.

In St George's School we use La Jolie Ronde across Key Stage 2.

French is taught by a single teacher to ensure consistency between year groups.

Lessons are lively and children learn to understand, speak and write in French from Year 3 through well-planned use of ICT, songs, games and fun pencil and paper activities.

Children also experience learning about the culture of another country through the lessons and via pen pal links to children in schools in French speaking countries.

Early Years

Reception Class is the final year of the Foundation Stage. At St George's we provide learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom which meet the Statutory Guidelines.

"Each area of learning and development must be delivered through planned, purposeful play and through both adult-led and child-initiated activity." (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage)

A profile of each child's progress is completed at the end of the year. We assess children as 'emerging', 'expected' or 'exceeding' against the Early Learning Goals and comment on each child's skills and abilities in relation to the three key characteristics of effective learning.

For more information please click on the following links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>