



“I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)

St Mary's is a Catholic Primary School.

We place our children at the heart of all we do,
inspired by the love, life and teachings of Jesus
and the Catholic Christian Church

Curriculum Policy

Rationale

The curriculum, in its fullest sense, firmly underpins our Mission statement, from which a culture and ethos is generated that supports the spiritual development of all involved in the community of St Mary's School.

Every Child Matters underpins all that we do in school. The children were consulted upon what they wanted to learn and the curriculum was designed around their ideas. Care was taken to ensure a completely topic based approach; incorporating progression in skills; progression in achievement; direct links to Every Child Matters; business skills and making full use of the unique surroundings and community of our school. Religious Education, Maths and Physical Education are taught separately but are integrated into topics whenever appropriate. In addition the Pupil Premium and Outdoor Learning are directly referenced as we want these to be at the forefront of our planning.

The school is committed to ensuring that the curriculum is broad and balanced, in order that the needs of all children are provided for, whatever their gifts and talents,. We aim to make provision for academic achievement and spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development of our children.

We believe that intelligence is multi-faceted, and children learn in different ways; the curriculum must support this. Opportunities for all learning styles are sought in all planning. Questioning skills are key in this.

In the daily living out of our Catholic faith, we aim to ensure that religious education and spiritual development will permeate every aspect of the curriculum, so that it is explicit and implicit within the taught curriculum. Religious Education is at the core of our core curriculum. Rooted in prayer and lived out in the daily life of the school, the children are supported, through the curriculum, to grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God and each other.

Aims of the Curriculum

The curriculum aims to meet the needs of all children whatever their individual requirements. The children will be encouraged to develop:

- Their search for the truth;
- Spiritual and moral values from the Gospel including respect for themselves and others
- An ability to work independently and collaboratively;
- High standards and personal achievement measuring themselves against their own personal best
- An understanding that learning is a lifelong process;
- Lively enquiring minds through questioning, investigating and the making of rational decisions;
- Confidence in the basic skills of English, Maths and ICT;
- ICT skills used in all subject areas;
- Interests and skills, including physical skills which will enable them to enjoy and make the best use of their time both in and out of school;
- Knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live and an awe and appreciation of that world;
- An attitude of respect and care for our environment;
- An understanding that our actions have an impact on others and on the environment;
- Appreciation and respect for their own culture and the arts, and the culture and arts of other communities;
- Racial tolerance and respect for religious differences;
- Recognition of aspirations and achievements and celebration of success;

Coverage

All children follow the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or the 2014 National Curriculum for Key Stage 1&2. The pupils are ensured quality access to the whole curriculum so that they may learn effectively, make progress and attain levels in line with, or better than, their prior attainment. Challenging, realistic and attainable targets are set in literacy and mathematics in order to help pupils achieve this. Most learning takes place through topics; however in Curriculum 2014 there are additional aspects that stand alone.

Enrichment Activities, Trips and Outings

Learning takes place in a stimulating environment supported by a variety of experiences, including the full use of the whole school environment, educational visits and the expertise and knowledge of the wider community including:

- A huge variety of after school clubs
- Peripatetic Music Lessons
- Visits and a variety of visitors from the local community and beyond
- Residential Visits
- Themed Curriculum Days

- Links with our main Feeder Schools
- Links with all other Falmouth Primary Schools
- Links with our Parish and close involvement with our Parish Priest.
- Masses for the Parish held weekly in our School.
- Close links with our local police force who provide a variety of educational experiences
- Enrichment support is offered to our most able pupils and our main feeder secondary school also offers extension days at their school during the year. Intervention groups support our less able pupils.
- Citizenship is both planned and spontaneous and is included as part of the PHSE and RE curriculum. A very active School Council also contribute to opportunities for Citizenship.

Relationship to other policies

Reference needs also to be made to the:

Teaching and Learning Policy, Assessment Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Policy for the Promotion of Racial Equality, Policies for SMSC , SEN Policy , Sex Education Policy, Curriculum Subject Policies, Target Setting Policy, Planning Policy and the School Development Plan.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Headteacher /Curriculum Co-ordinator will ensure that:

- All statutory elements of the curriculum are met and the cross curricular topic based curriculum reflects the aims of the school
- That the needs of individuals are met
- The amount of time provided for teaching the curriculum is adequate
- That the procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements and parents/carers receive information to show how much progress pupils are making and what is required to help them improve.

Subject Leaders for Core subjects, RE and PE:

They monitor the quality of teaching and learning, coverage and standards in their subject area, keeping records in their subject leaders file.

All staff will ensure that:

- They implement the cross curricular approach.
- Evidence of curriculum coverage and progression is kept up to date with spreadsheets, subject portfolios and subject PowerPoints.

The Governing Body will ensure that:-

- It participates actively in decision making about the breadth and balance of the curriculum
- Monitor the success of the curriculum at committee level and report at the full governing body meetings.

Evaluation and Review

After each topic individual teachers evaluate the teaching and learning and make any required adjustments.

The curriculum is evaluated by parents, pupils and staff in the form of questionnaires. The Curriculum Coordinator oversees and adjustments to ensure coverage and progression are still in place.

The curriculum is reviewed annually to keep abreast with National Changes and Developments and changes at local levels which may affect the viability of certain trips etc.

During all reviews the following questions are asked:

1. Are individual pupil needs being met? Does planning ensure continuity for individual pupils over time and across the whole curriculum?
2. Are the curricular requirements being met?
3. Is there progression in knowledge and skills across the key stages?
4. Is there a balanced coverage of all areas of the curriculum?
5. Are there adequate opportunities for practical work, problem-solving, developing thinking skills, ICT and speaking and listening?

Curriculum Coordinator: Leanne Austin-Smith

Policy reviewed: September 2017

To be reviewed every two years, by September 2018

