

Our Curriculum Ethos



At All Saints C of E Primary School, we have developed our own **bespoke thematic curriculum**, All Saints Journeys of Discovery. This follows guidance set out by the DfE in the National Curriculum 2014 and is enhanced by the Cornerstones Maestro Curriculum.

In developing our approach, it was important that our curriculum design provides inspirational learning experiences for all our pupils. Our thematic curriculum is varied, practical and based on real-life experience and current events; we ensure that children are at the heart of shaping their own learning.

At primary school age, we believe that children benefit from an integrated theme-based approach, focused on the development of key skills and our curriculum reflects this ethos. Engagement activities bring learning to life at the start of the theme and pupils complete a final task or product to express their skills, to demonstrate and apply their thinking.

Our thematic curriculum ensures that all learning is aspirational and subjects are interwoven through a range of linked projects. We build pupils' expertise across all subjects, enhanced by the involvement of practicing experts in their fields, such as, scientists, authors, artists and athletes.

This means that learning at All Saints C of E is meaningful, engaging practical and fun!

Whole School Approach

Our curriculum is a unified whole school approach as each half term all classes work under the umbrella of a main theme. Examples of themes we will cover are:

Nose in a Book, Seconds from Disaster, Step Back in Time, Adventure Time and Don't forget your passport for... and much more.

Over the course of the year, we have a range of subject-based themes to reflect all key curriculum areas, for instance, English (Nose in a Book) and Science (Seconds from Disaster).

Within the whole school theme, each year group pair focus in-depth on a particular topic at an appropriate and challenging level for their Key Stage.

An example of this is below:

Seconds from disaster ...			
Foundation	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
Heroes and villains	Dinosaurs	Rocks, relics and rumbles	Stargazers

Teachers plan schemes of work across the curriculum to link with the theme title using Cornerstones' Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs). These projects provide inspiring, exciting and motivating learning activities that link across subject areas.

Every year group will experience 5 Imaginative Learning Projects in a year. Each individual project is split into sections, which see children progress through four stages of learning:



1) Engage - Bringing Learning to Life

We have an exciting start to each new theme with a 'Super Learning Day' where staff design thrilling activities to bring the learning to life! Adults and children dress up to enhance the experience and pupils move around to different classrooms experiencing a variety of exciting activities. This is a fantastic way to start the new theme and engage children from very beginning. Photos of previous Super Learning Days can be found on our website.

2) Develop - Pupils Shape their Own Learning

Pupils also have a hand in shaping their own learning. At the beginning of each theme they share their current knowledge and pose questions, which they would like to investigate. This information is a valuable part of a teacher's planning process and informs lesson design.

At the end of each theme the investigation questions are reviewed with opportunities for children to share their knowledge with the whole school in a special assembly.

3) Innovate – Applying skills in real-life contexts

Throughout the theme, children have the opportunity to apply their skills, knowledge and understanding in practical situations. They solve real or imaginary problems using the skills that they have learnt.

4) Express – Celebrating our achievements

Pupils become performers, experts and informers for the grand finale of the project, when they have the opportunity to share their learning with other classes, parents and the community.

A Cycle of Improvement

At the end of each half term, pupils and teachers evaluate the success of the theme and discuss improvements that could be made for future cycles. Skills are also rigorously assessed and learning evaluated to ensure all skills across the curriculum are comprehensively covered. The following year discussions around new themes will take place to either improve learning or to ensure learning is fresh and innovative.

Coalville – Local Community Links

During the final four weeks of each academic year, the whole school will focus on area of Coalville's geography and/or history. In conjunction with Cornerstone's units such as: Street detectives or Firedamp and Davy Lamps, we aim to teach our children about the town they reside in. These units will include visitors from the local area, trips, surveys and much more.