

## Our Curriculum Statement

At Ilsington CofE Primary we aim to provide the children with a curriculum which is broad, well balanced and above all stimulates the children to learn. Through a positive and caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. We embrace Christian values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps.

We deliver programmes of study that meet the National Curriculum requirements issued by the DfE. This National Curriculum comprises of: English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, Music, Physical Education (PE), Computing, Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and Religious Education;

The teaching of Religious Education is statutory in all schools. It is taught as a subject outside the National Curriculum but following the Devon Agreed Syllabus.

At Ilsington CofE Primary School we recognize the importance of English and Maths teaching in order to open up other areas of the curriculum and therefore a large emphasis is placed on these areas. In addition to regular maths and English sessions, teachers try to make as many cross curricular links as possible in order to utilize these skills in a range of contexts.

The planning of the curriculum is based around a rolling programme (See Appendix 1) to ensure coverage of selected topics by all children who progress through the school. Planning takes the form of a topic based approach and where appropriate teachers link subjects to provide an engaging and inspiring curriculum.

Whilst the core subjects are taught on a regular basis the foundation subjects may sometimes be taught as blocks of work over a matter of weeks.

This programme is regularly reviewed to ensure compatibility with new directives or to make necessary improvements to the existing programme of work.

At Ilsington CofE Primary School we seek to create opportunities for children to experience and excel in a range of activities that enhance and extend the National Curriculum. Children have opportunities both inside and outside the classroom e.g. Outdoor Learning, Residential trips, gifted and talented workshops, a variety of sporting events, visiting speakers and much more.

We also value the role of modern foreign languages in the curriculum and French is taught throughout the school from Year 1 to Year 6. We liaise with our secondary school colleagues and draw upon their expertise and experience to ensure the children get the best quality provision.

When children leave Ilsington CofE Primary School at the end of Year 6, they should be equipped with the full range of skills that enables them to become lifelong learners. Through our unique approach of teaching and living out Christian Values, children are also equipped with the social, Moral and culture skills they require to become good citizens in the future.

We believe that the school/parent relationship is key to promoting learning beyond the school gates and crucial in ensuring children make the best possible progress. We pride ourselves on our open, friendly and approachable nature that encourages parents to be involved in their children's learning. Furthermore, we host regular sharing afternoons which allow children to share and celebrate their learning with their parents. Finally, we hold parent evening to inform parents about how they can support their child or even to allow them to work alongside their child. Recent evenings include: How to help with reading (EYFS), Expectations at KS1, Child Assault prevention Workshops and On-Line Safety.

## **English**

At Ilsington CofE Primary School we use English to communicate in both written and spoken form. We use language to build our view and opinion of the world and our community. We believe that developing a love of our language in our children is vital in achieving success at school and later in life. The exploration and enjoyment of the English language is our priority and we value all its aspects – speaking, listening, reading and writing. English is taught daily across the whole school with work appropriately differentiated to match all abilities.

### **Speaking and Listening**

Talking is fundamental to learning. Pupils are encouraged to speak clearly, confidently and with expression in order to state their ideas and opinions. Just as important is the need to listen carefully to others and respond in appropriate ways. At Ilsington CofE Primary School pupils are given opportunities in all areas of the curriculum to develop their speaking and listening skills, in paired, group or whole class situations. Therefore, role play and drama activities are intrinsic elements of speaking and listening across the school.

As part of building confidence in speaking, various opportunities are provided to give every child opportunities to speak in small groups, in front of the class, the whole school and to parents. This includes show and tell activities, assemblies, and performances like the nativity and summer play.

### **Reading**

Children who read for pleasure gain a richer vocabulary, more knowledge, critical thinking skills and become independent learners. Guided Reading is an important part of our curriculum along with comprehension activities. Children work in focused groups to develop their reading skills and their understanding of texts. Volunteer parents and helpers listen to individuals read and the children enjoy sharing books in buddy reading. We provide children with rich reading experiences within the English lessons and encourage them to appreciate the author's use of language and writing techniques in order to develop their own writing skills. Our children take their reading books home daily to share with their families/carers. As they go through the school, they are given more responsibility for making their own reading choices from the excellent resources we have in school.

### **Phonics**

We have devised our own phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (Six-Phase Teaching Programme for KS1). We use a range of resources, which include Phonics Play and Jolly Phonics and to support the pupils learning of phonics.

### **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar**

We place great value on the importance of accurate spelling and the correct use of punctuation and grammar. We follow the National Curriculum 2014 to ensure that teaching is both structured and rigorous throughout the school. We use the 'No-Nonsense Grammar' programme for teaching grammar by year group, and then use the class texts to practice using and applying the skills learnt.

### **Writing**

At Ilsington CofE Primary School we aim for children to be independent writers. We aim to inspire children to love writing and aspire to create imaginative, interesting pieces of writing using ambitious grammar, vocabulary and punctuation. This is done through outdoor learning, trips, interesting activities and the study of quality texts. There are high expectations for writing in all areas of the curriculum. We encourage them to write clearly and with confidence in any given genre and subject.

We teach them to use punctuation and grammar accurately, to be able to proofread their own work and make amendments and improvements. We give children a wide range of opportunities in which to develop their writing skills and display work of which they are proud. Through our English curriculum, we aim to nurture in the children a love of literature and language, and the confidence to continue reading and writing throughout their lives.

Our children are involved in the setting of their own targets for improvement from Key Stage 1 onwards, their progress is rigorously monitored through termly target setting and Pupil Progress Meetings.

### **Mathematics**

The Maths Curriculum is delivered using the National Curriculum 2014 and the Early learning Goals are followed to ensure continuity and progression from the Foundation Stage through to the National Curriculum.

At Ilsington CofE Primary School we provide a daily maths session that seeks to reinforce previous learning and allow children to take on new skills and apply these in a range of contexts. Children are often grouped according to ability which allows teachers to target individual needs.

We feel that mental maths skills are key to allowing children to access the more complex calculation and number objectives set out in the National Curriculum and as such we run a dedicated programme to allow all children to develop these skills. This involves a 15 minute dedicated session daily in each classroom from Y1-6.

Furthermore, we feel it is important to develop children's logic and reasoning skills and therefore we have developed our own Scheme of Work which encourages the children to be exposed to these skills regularly.

### **Science**

Children are encouraged to develop an investigative approach to science that reflects their own natural curiosity. Children learn what it means to be a real scientist and apply this understanding to their learning, particularly when taking part in science experiments. They use their existing understanding of the world to enhance their learning. Our school environment, particularly the outdoor space and pond area, enables the children to enjoy a range of exciting hands-on learning.

### **Humanities**

In the most part History and Geography are the key drivers behind termly topics and other areas such as English will be utilised as a vehicle to explore these areas. At Ilsington CofE Primary School we are keen to provide children with opportunities to experience geography and history first hand and as such teachers organise regular school excursions to help inspire the children.

### **History**

In Key Stage 1 children learn about the lives and lifestyles of familiar people in the recent past and about famous people and events in the more distant past, including those from British history.

In Key Stage 2 children learn about people and important events and developments from recent and more distant times in the locality, in Britain and in other parts of the world. Children will learn about historical enquiry by looking at as many real sources as possible and by recreating events from the past.

## **Geography**

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. In the Early Years, children learn about their immediate environment and how to read and draw simple maps using invented and conventional symbols.

In Key Stage 2, the children develop this knowledge into a wider area and study transport, weather and landscapes, both in their local area and in many other countries.

## **Art**

Children have opportunities to draw, paint, print, make collages, use fabrics and threads and use clay. They are taught the skills and techniques and then given the opportunity to practise them to produce individual and group pieces of work. Children are encouraged to critically evaluate their own work and that of others in order to learn from their experiences.

## **Design Technology**

‘DT’ incorporates many traditional skills – cooking, model making, drawing and sketching, problem solving, observation and discussion – putting them together in an approach which encourages the children to become designers and inventors.

The children are taught how to use tools and materials safely and economically.

## **Music**

The school has a long tradition of musical activity, offering considerable opportunities for children to develop their talents in all aspects of music including composition, singing and appreciation.

Visiting peripatetic teachers for guitar, violin and piano offer the opportunity to work towards music accreditation. We have an exceptional choir who regularly perform in the community and take part in singing festivals.

## **Physical Education**

The aim of physical education is to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Children are taught to observe the conventions of fair play, honest competition and good sporting behaviour as individual participants, team members and spectators.

Children take part in games, gymnastic movement, dance and athletic activities using indoor and outdoor environments where appropriate. Children can take part in after school clubs and have the opportunity to compete against other schools.

In Year 5/6, children go on a residential course for outdoor activities.

All Keystage 2 children participate in swimming lessons during the summer term

We have strong links with the School Sports Partnership that provides regular sports coaching to all of our pupils YR – Y6 and organise many exciting sporting events.

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is a curriculum entitlement for all children and the school follows the Devon ‘Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education’. Religious Education does not seek to urge religious beliefs on children or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over

another. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. Suitable alternative provision will be made.

**Religious Education Aims:**

To develop an understanding and respect for the beliefs, values and practices of other people.

To reflect on and respond to the values, beliefs and practices of religions and philosophies.

To enable pupils to develop their own insights.

**Personal, Social, Moral and Health Education (PSHE)**

Weekly lessons explore feelings, social situations and aspirations through circle time, drama and group activities. We have a whole school planned curriculum which includes progressive and age appropriate learning about drugs, smoking and sex education. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education if they so wish. We are always happy to discuss and share with parents the materials we use for this area of the curriculum and parents are notified in advance when this topic is due to be taught.