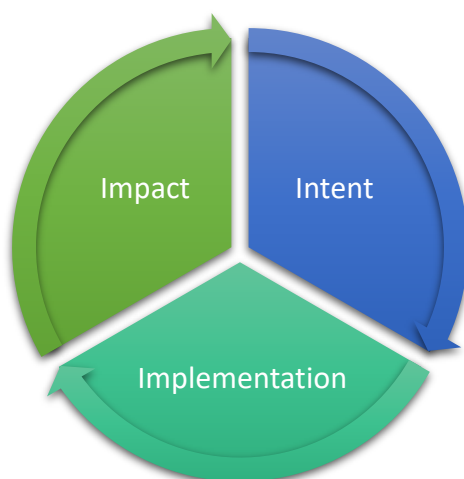


Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy- Curriculum Rationale



The Community of Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy has collaborated closely to devise an inspiring, child-centred curriculum for our pupils. Our curriculum is implemented with a view to improving further the high quality of our pupils' learning experiences. We place a strong emphasis on challenge for all our children to enable them to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability. We strive to ensure our children are motivated and inspired to want to learn by ensuring a broad and balanced delivery of the National Curriculum with exciting, stimulating, cross-curricular links, based on common values, decided upon as a community:



Intent

To motivate children's learning by choosing exciting cross –curricular topics that develop vocabulary and provide opportunities for aspirational experiences.

Implementation

Topics will focus around a high-quality fiction or non- fiction text and have a clear focus on incremental skill building.

Impact

Children will demonstrate high levels of engagement in learning and an enriched vocabulary which is evident in all areas of learning.

Our Curriculum Aims:

To educate our children in the Catholic faith, encouraging our pupils to live and act according to the gospel values.

To be respectful of the communities in which they live and have an awareness of their own and other religious and spiritual development.

To promote self-respect for all in our school irrespective of race, creed or gender. Care will be taken to ensure that resources do not present stereo-typical images, rather role models from diverse backgrounds and cultures reflecting the multi-ethnic nature of our society

To be aspirational as lifelong learners and independent thinkers.

To develop a rich vocabulary to; both further learning and contribute to quality of life.

To be global citizens showing an awareness of their changing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.

To enable children to have self-respect, high self-esteem and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.

To promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school.

To enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking;

Through promoting British Values we help children to understand the importance of justice, truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all;

To provide opportunities for meaningful enrichment experiences across the curriculum to strengthen and deepen learning.

To fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Curriculum structure and assessment:

In RE, we follow the Catholic programme called **COME AND SEE**. The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life. God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. (cf. CCC26) This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond. Our RSE lessons are based around the **TENTEN** materials.

Our curriculum is designed to have a strong emphasis on reading and language development. Our topics are linked to a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts. It is designed to encourage development of new vocabulary but also a range of incrementally developing skills in **Science, History, Geography, Art/design, Design Technology** and **Music**.

Links are made to these subject areas through our **WORDSMITH English** programme supported by the **ACCELERATED READER** comprehension quizzes. We plan **maths** using the **WHITE ROSE** materials and **PURPLE MASH computing**.

We aim to avoid artificial linking of subjects and where an area of the National Curriculum needs to be taught but does not link this will be taught discreetly. The curriculum is designed to give children regular opportunities to revisit previous skills and knowledge.

As a school, we have decided to teach **MANDARIN** as our **Modern Foreign Language** in KS2 as it is the most widely spoken first language in the World. We believe that the introduction to such an important language will have a profound effect on our young people's futures, opening up career opportunities. Learning a language should be about more than just vocabulary and grammar, it brings new ways of thinking. In the Mandarin logographic alphabet, words are built in an entirely different way to European languages. For instance, 火 means fire. A fire vehicle (火车) is a train. A fire mountain (火山) is a volcano, but fire big (火大) means to get mad, be angry. Looking at a passage of characters will open up a whole new approach to learning for our children.

Our **Physical Education** curriculum is mainly delivered by a specialist Sports coach. The programme is based around the National Curriculum and in KS 2 the lessons are tailored to meet the needs of local competitive sports opportunities.

Assessment opportunities for all subject areas are carefully planned into the curriculum. Children's progress across the curriculum is continually monitored over the year, with teachers ensuring that any gaps are addressed.

At Sacred Heart we follow the **Little Wandle new Letters and Sounds** scheme for teaching **phonics**. Each phonic session revisits sounds which the children have previously learnt and then introduces the next sound in the phase they are working in. The children are then practise and apply their phonic knowledge to help them spell words and read de-codable books. Phonics sessions are discreetly taught from Foundation 1 to year 2 (during the first half term). **The Keep-up individual and group materials support children at risk of falling behind**. When children are in year 3 onwards, those who need support in this area will work in a phonics intervention to build on their knowledge and understanding from the previous key stage. The lead Practitioner for English, has tailored the 'Beat Dyslexia' programme to fit in with the order in which we teach phonics.

We are English Hub partners and are working on gaining the Gold Sport's Mark, the Eco schools award, the Equalities and Equally safe awards.



We run parent workshops in Foundation Stage, where parents are given more information about what Phonics are and how it helps their child to develop their reading skills. In year 1, a parent workshop is run in the autumn term to share information regarding the Phonics Screening Check. We encourage children to use their phonics when reading both in school and at home.

Enrichment opportunities:

At Sacred Heart we pride ourselves on enabling our children to have a plethora of experiences while at our school. The wide range of extra-curricular clubs ranging from choir to cricket! Visits and visitors help our children to widen their life experiences and raise aspirations.

We regularly seize opportunities to work in new partnerships to bring unique experiences and opportunities for our children.

Enabling children to try new experiences will broaden their horizons, raise their aspiration and give opportunities to succeed.

We took part in the Leicester City 'Beat the Streets' campaign in 2020/21 and came second in the City and we are part of the City Walk to school scheme- 'Living Streets'



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