

DESIGNING OUR CURRICULUM

In all subjects we use a range of resources, as well as teachers' expertise and the interests of the children. Rich learning experiences take place outdoors as well as in the classroom and cross-curricular opportunities are provided as appropriate.

RE

We follow the guidance of the Catholic Religious Education Curriculum Directory. We use unit plans from the Diocese of Westminster alongside the framework of the *Come and See* scheme.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The school follows the *Early Years Foundation Stage* curriculum, which is based on active, creative, indoor and outdoor learning. Children play in, and explore, the world around them and develop critical thinking skills.

CORE SUBJECTS KS1 and KS2 (behind the pale blue page)

English

We follow the 2014 Primary National Curriculum. Catch-up programmes are taught by TAs according to the timetable and as required. We also plan for guided reading, library skills, basic skills, handwriting, spelling and story time.

Mathematics

We follow the 2014 Primary National Curriculum, using a wide range of resources.

Science

We follow the 2014 Primary National Curriculum and ensure dedicated time is devoted to developing scientific enquiry skills

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS (behind the pale green page)

Art

The Art curriculum ensures that children have access to a wide range of creative experiences and media. Children have the opportunity to develop skills progressively throughout the school, including appreciation of a range of artists. In KS2 children will learn how to create sketch books to record their observations.

Citizenship

All children are taught how to become responsible young citizens in Britain. Topics include Global Awareness ('Celebrating Diversity') and Citizenship ('How we live in Britain', 'How our Country is Run', 'Personal Safety', 'Money Matters' and 'Relationships').

Classics

We are incorporating units of Classics teaching and learning in our literacy work in KS1 and KS2. These units will introduce children to the classical world through the myths and stories of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. We are also introducing the *Minimus* Latin Scheme to our older children (Years 4 and 5) to aid them understanding the 'root' of our language.

Computing

Computing skills are taught in a discrete session each week. A further session in the Computer suite is timetabled for ICT work across other subjects. Children also make full use of IWBs,

iPads and classroom computers. We follow the *Hertfordshire Scheme of Work*. Children are taught e-safety across all subjects

Design Technology

Children learn about all aspects of the design process in this skills-based curriculum, and understand that products and materials have a range of properties and purposes.

Every class has an allocated weekly session in our Food Technology room, where we prepare and cook healthy food (using organic, Fair Trade products whenever possible). Emphasis is placed on the progression of knowledge and skills.

History and Geography

These subjects are taught as discrete subjects, following the 2014 Primary National Curriculum. There are residential trips in KS2 (for Y4 and Y6), and full use is made of learning opportunities provided by the outdoor environment.

Geography

Teaching equips children with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. The Geography curriculum also places emphasis on the development of pupils' competence in specific geographical skills.

History

This provides a chronological framework for children's developing knowledge of significant events and people and their understanding of how the past shapes the present.

Music

All classes have a music lesson each week taught by a specialist teacher. The curriculum is skills-based, with themed areas of study each term. There are also opportunities for children to have instrumental lessons and participate in the orchestra or choir. There is a weekly hymn practice and numerous school productions.

PE

All KS1 and KS2 classes have two lessons each week and topics are taught as blocked units of work. Every class starts the day with a ten minute aerobics session. There are also many opportunities for extra curricular PE activities and for specialist teaching. Years 3, 4 and 5 each have one term of swimming lessons.

Spanish (MFL)

Spanish is taught in KS1 by class teachers and in KS2 by a native Spanish specialist teacher. These sessions introduce children to Spanish culture and enable them to develop language and writing skills.

PSHE

PSHE is a skills based curriculum, matched carefully to the needs of our pupils, and linked with many other subjects and the overarching ethos of our school. SRE is taught throughout the school using materials from 'A Journey in Love'.

Enrichment

The enrichment programmes across all classes also give children further opportunities to develop awareness of the wider world and their responsibilities as young citizens, and teachers are also able to work with their class in an area where they have a particular interest or expertise.