

Curriculum Statement

St Aidan's Catholic Primary School

The Mission statement of our school is centred on a simple but challenging aspiration:

Learning and growing together inspired by the love of Jesus

Intent

Expanding on this to build a curriculum for our children means embracing the intention to embrace fully what it means to be a Catholic School.

The Search for Excellence

Christians are called to fulfil their potential and strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives. Catholic education therefore strives to offer students every opportunity to develop their talents to the full through their academic work, spiritual worship and extracurricular activities.

- Unlock potential to be the best academically and personally
- Secure a record of achievement in later life as children move on to the next stage of their education
- To be uncompromising in our aspirations for our children to be the best and make the best of their talents. They should aspire to have the best qualifications to do the jobs they choose whilst knowing what is available to them in the wider world.
- We have a curriculum that ensures all pupils have what they need to take advantage of opportunities in life and to eliminate any deficit in cultural capital.
 - *'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'*

The Uniqueness of the Individual

Within Catholic schools and colleges, each individual is seen as made in God's image and loved by Him. All students are valued and respected as individuals so that they may be helped to fulfil their unique role in creation. It is important therefore that we provide high quality pastoral care throughout our schools and colleges in order to support the individual needs of each student.

- Pastoral care and inclusivity at the heart of all that we do
- SEN and disadvantaged children and their families feel no barriers and appreciate the support given
- Curriculum is designed to acknowledge the rich and unique context of the local area that helps to define the identity of our children and their families.

The Education of the Whole Person

Catholic education is based on the belief that the human and the divine are inseparable. In Catholic schools and colleges, management, organisation, academic and pastoral work, prayer and worship, all aim to prepare young people for their life as Christians in the community.

- Subscription to the National Curriculum across Core and Foundation subjects to embrace a rich and diverse range for learning

- A wide curriculum that aims to find avenues of success for every child
- Appreciation that spiritual, emotional, social and cultural currency have as much value as academic
- A curriculum that acknowledges the rich and vibrant resources we have around us and have helped to shape the local area
- One of the key areas for some of our children is to address any gaps in the development of language from an early age and appreciating the impact this can have on future educational attainment

The Education of All

Their belief in the value of each individual leads Catholic schools and colleges to have the duty to care for the poor and to educate those who are socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged. Service to those who are amongst the most disadvantaged in our society has always been central to the mission of Catholic education.

- Open admissions with inclusion for all at the heart of what we do.
- Ensuring that we do everything that we can to secure success for **all** children in our care – ‘going the extra mile’ especially for the more vulnerable children who may be disadvantaged or SEND.

Moral Principles

Catholic education aims to offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on the Christian virtues. In religious education in particular, the Church aims to transmit to them the Catholic faith. Both through religious education and in the general life of the school, young people are prepared to serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

- We grow ‘good’ people who have Gospel Values at their heart
- We expect our pupils to go out into the world living with those values and helping to shape a society based on mutual respect and service to others.
- We have a curriculum that develops moral principles through PSHE and RE and commitment to British Values.

*Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School:
Catholic Church. Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2014*

Implementation

- The curriculum map is designed by each Subject Leader to ensure that knowledge is cumulative and that children have the chance to build on what they have learned previously and embed this within long term memory.
- Our curriculum is delivered in discrete subjects across each half term for each subject across the whole school. Key concepts are made clear in the long term plan and in teachers’ delivery to the children.
- Assessment focus is on clearly defined end points and any gaps that may exist in children’s knowledge. Any misunderstandings should be identified and corrected.

- We are careful to make sure that all children are supported to make age related expectations in each area and that some of the children in each class will be challenged further to exceed this and go on to reach a greater depth. Curriculum Leaders will provide clear criteria to staff to support these judgements.
- Curriculum Leaders will monitor and evaluate their subjects, ensure appropriate training is in place to maintain teacher subject knowledge and support colleagues in the development of the subject.

A rich body of evidence will allow celebration of the wider curriculum through subjects on the school website and with the wider community.

Impact

- We will measure how well our children attain in each curriculum area and what their progress is like. We strive therefore to ensure that achievement across the whole curriculum is good so that all of our children will emerge at the end of their time with us as well rounded and well placed to achieve well in the next stage of their education.
- Reading well will continue to be a focus to ensure that all our children will have access to the wider curriculum and that our children learn to read fluently at an age appropriate level.
- We will evaluate the personal development, spiritual, moral, social and cultural progress of children through the school improvement plan. We will look at attitudes on an annual basis with the expectation that our curriculum delivery will lead our children and their families to be positive about their own education and the opportunities available to them in the next stages of their education.
- We look for opportunities to hold up past pupils as examples for current pupils when they have gone on to realise potential and have enjoyed success.

Our school will be a place that children want to be because it is safe, interesting and rewarding.

Cultural Capital

We are aware that children who are exposed to high quality cultural experiences tend to perform better than their peers in school and that part of our duties in delivering a high quality curriculum means that we are prepared to consider the range of experiences that we provide for our children.

At the same time, we want our children to be proud of who they are and where they are from and not slip into any condescension or patronisation. Nevertheless, we are clear that any opportunities to share music, literature, food, school visits, historical appreciation and the arts are important and we should take every opportunity to do so. Ofsted describe the importance of cultural capital:

It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'

Our aspirations are reflected in the curriculum we have designed for our children and at the heart of that is the love of Jesus as we journey together. We strive for our children to be **good people** and to be **successful in life**.