



## **Curriculum Overview Statement**

### *Mission Statement*

*To follow in Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray.*

**Our curriculum ensures learning is effective, exciting and relevant to the needs of our children.**

All pupils will secure firm foundations in English and Mathematics and this underpins a firm accessibility and development in other subjects across the curriculum. Our knowledge and skill-based curriculum offers a broad range of subjects from Early Years through to Year 6. We believe in bringing learning to life, both indoors and out, with an emphasis on engaging and purposeful learning couched in secure and respectful relationships.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School aims to provide a curriculum that is balanced and relevant to the children as well as to the ever changing world we live in. While emphasis is placed on children learning core skills of English and Maths, we place significant value on developing the 'whole child'. Where possible and relevant, links are made across the curriculum. These connections support the children's long term memory.

All of the schemes we use were chosen because they are ambitious for all pupils and systematically develop knowledge and skills. They are planned and sequenced with small steps to build on previous knowledge and improve short term to long term memory recall. They enable staff to systematically check understanding and identify misconceptions in order to adapt their teaching where appropriate.

**Intent:** Through our curriculum children become confident, resilient and independent learners, with a passion for learning and the ability to express their opinions and beliefs.

**Implementation:** Skills are taught progressively across year groups leading to knowledge building over time. We provide learning with clear opportunities for speaking and listening.

**Impact:** This is seen in the work produced and the outcomes for all groups of pupils. Everything we do is with the child at mind, and strong relationships are built between pupils, staff and parents which create an atmosphere for learning which is conducive to success.

At St Joseph's we provide a creative curriculum which is supported by the 'Essentials Curriculum.' Written to support Primary National Curriculum, the Essentials Curriculum is a creative and thematic approach to learning and understanding. The Curriculum ensures that our children receive a comprehensive coverage of the expectations of the new Curriculum based on knowledge building on prior learning. At St Joseph's we believe that children learn most effectively when they are engaged and interested in a topic. We also highly value developing

children's imagination and curiosity about the world. The Essentials Curriculum encourages children to actively use and apply their knowledge and understanding of each topic in a variety of contexts. The Essentials curriculum is broken down into 3 Milestones; Milestone One (Years 1&2), Milestone Two (Years 3&4), Milestone Six (Years 5&6). In each milestone, pupils may demonstrate three levels of understanding of the context; Basic, Advancing and Deep learning.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

At St Joseph's we strive to create a safe and happy environment, which inspires, challenges and supports pupils to achieve their potential. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage provides the structure for our curriculum and approach. The framework covers the education and care of all children in Early Years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities with reading at the heart.

For us this is about providing the children with the opportunities needed to help them to develop a connection with nature which in turn supports good mental health development and a feeling of calm and balance. Children thrive and flourish within these environments and develop robust foundations for learning. We use the Essentials curriculum to ensure coverage and progression. We use the White Rose resource for maths and Read Write Inc for phonics.

### **Key Stages 1 & 2**

For each national curriculum subject, our Subject Leads have all developed a year on year breakdown of the knowledge and skills, based on the National Curriculum, which our children must progress through. These form the backbone of our approach and are delivered through discrete sessions or in a cross-curricular approach, whichever as is most appropriate. These are detailed in our Subject Curriculum documents. They include all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

Please see below for each individual subject:

### **English**

Please see our English policy for the most up to date English Curriculum.

### **Maths**

Please see our English policy for the most up to date Maths Curriculum.

### **Religious Education**

Our school follows the curriculum strategy – Learning and Growing as the People of God - provided by the Archdiocese of Birmingham for teaching RE in a Catholic primary school.

## Year 1

Unit A – Creation

Unit B - Families and Celebrations

Unit C - Prayer Unit D - Advent Unit E -

Christmas Unit F - Jesus Teacher and Healer Unit

G - Forgiveness Unit H - Lent

Unit I - Holy Week Unit J - Easter Unit K -

Pentecost Unit L - Sharing Jesus' Life

Unit M - Following Jesus Today

## Year 2

Unit A - Old Testament Stories Unit B - Sharing in the Life of Jesus Unit C -

Advent Unit D - Christmas

Unit E - Parables Miracles Unit F - Special Celebrations Unit G -

Lent Unit H - Holy Week Unit I - Easter

Unit J - Pentecost Unit K - Our Church Unit L - The Mass

## Year 3

Unit A - Belonging Unit B - Reconciliation Unit C -

Advent Unit D - Christmas

Unit E - We Listen to God's Word at Mass Unit F -

Lent Unit G - Prayer Unit H - Holy Week Unit I -

Easter

Unit J - The Eucharist is a Thanksgiving to God Unit K - Pentecost

## Year 4

Unit A - Creation

Unit B - Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray Unit C -

Advent Unit D - Christmas

Unit E - Jesus Light of the World

Unit F - Old Testament: Moses - King David Unit G -

Lent Unit H - Holy Week Unit I - Easter

Unit J - Pentecost

Unit K - Sharing in the Life of Christ

Unit L - Special Roles and Responsibilities

## Year 5

Unit A - Creation

Unit B - Miracles and the Sacrament of the Sick Unit C -

Advent Unit D - Christmas Unit E - Baptism

Unit F - Parables and Sayings of Jesus Unit G -

Lent Unit H - Holy Week Unit I - Easter

Unit J - Pentecost

Unit K - The Work of the Apostles Unit L - Marriage and Holy Orders

## Year 6

Unit A - The Story of the People of God Unit B - Followers of

Christ Unit C - Advent Unit D - Christmas

Unit E - Baptism and Confirmation Unit F -

Lent Unit G - Prayers Unit H - Holy Week Unit

I - Easter Unit J - Pentecost

Unit K - Belonging to the Church Community

Unit L - Celebrating the Life of Mary and the Saints

The thematic approach enables RE to be taught through other subject areas as links in learning provide the children with opportunities to make connections. There are also numerous opportunities for extended writing in RE and to enhance RE learning through the use of ICT resources.

## Science

**Intent:** The aims and objectives of the policy are to stimulate and promote children's curiosity and understanding of natural phenomena in our world so that they will develop a lifelong love of Science. The school's Catholic ethos strives to create a stimulating learning environment to ensure that every child from all backgrounds is encouraged and enabled to develop to their full and unique potential as human beings, made in the image and likeness of God. Children are taught tolerance, understanding and a commitment to supporting each other within lessons and when working collaboratively. We are committed to promoting resilience amongst our pupils to work independently. The children will learn specific skills, vocabulary and knowledge to think scientifically as well as understanding scientific processes.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that all children have rights as outlined in the UN Convention. As duty bearers, we have the responsibility to respect these rights and are committed to supporting our children through their education and to ensure that they are rights-holders.

**Implementation:** Science teaching offers children the opportunity to examine spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of life based on the Catholic Ethos. These will include the amazing processes that affect living things, the evolution of living things, how life was created and promote a sense of awe and wonder regarding the nature of our world. Also, science raises moral and social questions regarding, for example, views on smoking and implication for health, using the world's natural resources, the difference in peoples and their ways of life in our world.

**Impact:** Children will build on their prior knowledge, developing scientific vocabulary and skills that will enable them to follow lines of individual enquiry and to dig deeper into a subject. They will acquire a love of science and have high aspirations for what they are able to achieve, leading to further study, academic success and a knowledge of science that will equip them for adult life.

## Art

**Intent:** At St. Josephs, we inspire all pupils and develop their confidence to develop their own creativity and produce pieces of artwork that they are proud of. Every child has the opportunity to develop their own ability, nurture their creative talents and express their ideas about the world through art. St. Joseph's pupils are introduced to a wide variety of artists from across the world and our art curriculum is sequenced so that there is progression and continuity throughout the years. Curriculum plans have been carefully developed to build on prior learning. Staff teach sequenced art skills, knowledge and vocabulary, with the aim of embedding these into the pupils' long term memory so that they can be built upon in subsequent years. Art is taught as a discrete subject, but some art activities are linked to other subjects, to enable children to understand art as a way of communicating ideas and exploring a topic. This helps pupils to make clear links between the subjects they are learning.

**Implementation:** Foundation year, art activities are created from the Physical Development and Expressive Arts and Design areas of learning Teachers are highly skilled in creating activities that develop children's fine motor skills to ensure they are able to manipulate the tools needed in Year 1 and beyond. In years 1 to 6, we follow the Kapow scheme for Art. The topics chosen fit with the Chris Quigley milestones which ensures there is progression as children move through the school. At the start of each lesson teachers recap prior learning and skills that will be useful in the lesson. Children study artists, not to replicate their work but to learn from them and to be inspired to use similar techniques to create their own unique pieces. Teachers use assessment to inform next steps for future planning and to celebrate our children's successes.

**Impact:** At St. Joseph's children build their knowledge and skills progressively, as the vocabulary needed is introduced at the start of each lesson. By the end of each Key Stage, all children can apply and understand the skills, knowledge and processes they have been taught so that they are proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft, and design techniques. Teachers know the skills taught in previous year groups and provide children with the opportunities to make links to prior knowledge and build upon these; creating really solid foundations that children can continue to develop long after they leave St. Joseph's.

## DT

**Intent:** At St Joseph's, our goal is to deliver a comprehensive and inclusive design and technology curriculum that allows children of all abilities to explore and experiment with various skills and materials. This approach broadens their knowledge and understanding of art and design, fostering creativity and practical problem-solving skills.

**Implementation:** We implement our curriculum through the Cornerstones framework and also use the KAPOW scheme, ensuring thorough coverage and progression across key stages. Children engage in Focused Practical Tasks (FPTs) in a safe and controlled environment, allowing them to handle a wide range of materials and equipment. These practical experiences are foundational, enabling children to apply their learnings to their own design projects. Opportunities for presenting their work through observation, experimentation, and illustration are integral to our approach.

**Impact:** Our curriculum is designed to provide an immersive creative education, equipping children with the ability to use creativity and imagination to design and make products. By tackling real and relevant problems within various contexts, pupils consider their needs and the needs of others. They draw on a diverse range of subject knowledge, including mathematics, science, computing, and art. This multidisciplinary approach helps pupils to become resourceful, innovative, enterprising, and capable citizens. They learn to evaluate past and present design and technology, gaining a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world.

## History

**Intent:** The aim of history teaching is to build a sense of wonder, curiosity and interest in the past. Also, at St. Joseph's we intend to develop and use their understanding of the present in the context of the past. Furthermore, we aim to develop a sense of identity through learning about the past (focusing on local History of Sutton Coldfield in the curriculum). We use the Chris Quigley milestones to ensure coverage and progression of the key historical concepts.

**Implementation:** At St. Joseph's we will deliver a broad and rich History curriculum for all children. By the end of Year 6 children will have:

- A clear sense of belief systems, government structures in contrasting periods, settings and cultures
- Instantly recognise certain practises, terms, institutions e.g. Roman Gods, the Roman Army.
- Draw on examples of diverse belief systems/government systems and their cultural expressions, because they have been fully immersed in depth and details of contrasting cultures
- Be curious about how diverse cultures/settings influenced each other e.g. How did the Romans influence and change the Celts in Britain
- Have a clear sense of chronology of the ancient world to modern day and increase their understanding of the present in the context of the past.

**Impact:** Our learners are equipped with historian's skills and knowledge that will enable them to be ready for the secondary curriculum and for life as an adult in the wider world.

## PE

**Intent:** The teachers at St Joseph's understand the value PE plays in both pupil's physical and mental health. We want children to develop a love of physical exercise and sport which will stay with them throughout their lives.

Our aim is for all our pupils, particularly those with SEND and who are socially disadvantaged to follow active and healthy lifestyles; as well as develop their cognitive, emotional, moral, and social values. We believe that active and regular engagement in physical education can develop key aspects such as: confidence, resilience, teamwork, performance skills and fitness, which impact positively upon physical and mental wellbeing.

We provide staff with training and resources to carry out effective teaching of P.E including CPD from specialists who are experts in a particular sport.

Our children are taught the Key PE knowledge Categories which are:

- Developing tactics and strategies
- Developing movement across a range of sports
- Understanding the importance of Personal and Social aspects in sport
- Developing their leadership
- The relevance of P.E. to a healthy life-style
- The importance of safety aspects of P.E.

**Implementation:** PE in our EYFS supports our children to gain the skills to throw, catch, roll, kick, jump and skip in addition to many other skills which are covered within our PSED area of learning, for example: team work, taking turns and creating rules. Our PE lessons help the children to work towards their early learning goal in Physical Development, this is supported by gross motor and fine motor activities throughout the week and opportunities to ride bikes and scooters to continue to build this strength.

From Year One upwards, we use the PE Hub as a cohesive scheme of work addressing the statutory aspects of the National Curriculum. As a school, we believe in delivering fun and engaging lessons which help to raise standards and allow all pupils to achieve their full potential.

**Impact:** Progress is measured through regular teacher assessments. These tasks take place at the end of each unit of work taught helping to inform Assessment for Learning. In order to continually develop our teaching, we use pupil voice questionnaires to gain a better understanding of our children's enjoyment and engagement of their P.E lessons.

## **Facilities and Sports Competitions**

The school benefits from a large, well equipped hall, two large playing fields (one of which includes a Daily Mile Running Track) and a playground hard surface area which are used extensively by the children.

The school competes at inter school level in competitions between the other primary schools in the Local Sutton area and the Catholic Network of schools. Some of these sporting events include: Football, Netball, Athletics, Chess, Swimming and Tag Rugby.

## **Computing**

**Curriculum Rationale:** We believe that skills in Computing are fundamental to children's learning and should be incorporated into all areas of the curriculum wherever possible. It is recognised that we have a responsibility to encourage digital literacy in all pupils to support children in the present and in preparation for their future. New technologies require children to be able to interact fully with computers, laptops, tablets and a growing number of other devices, programs and software in order to fully support their learning in a number of contexts. It is recognised that the level of expectation on children's capabilities for using new technologies is rising particularly within the National Curriculum for Computing with its strong emphasis on computer science and computer programming skills which we teach through the Purple Mash scheme.

At St Joseph's, we use the Purple Mash scheme, which is an engaging programme for children, providing differentiated activities, as well as interactive resources. It is fully aligned with the 2014 National Curriculum for Computing. It supports the teaching and the development of computing and builds computer science capability for current and future learning.

**Intent:** The teachers at St Joseph's understand the value technology plays in supporting the Computing and whole school curriculum, day-to-day life of our school and also the increasing role it plays in our pupils' lives as they grow older. We believe that technology can provide: enhanced collaborative learning opportunities; better engagement of pupils; easier access to rich content; support conceptual understanding of new objectives and can support the needs of all our pupils.

In addition, we recognise that technology can allow pupils to share their learning in creative ways and provide accessibility opportunities. We are aware that the best prevention for a lot of issues we currently see with technology/social media is through education. Our knowledge rich curriculum is balanced with the opportunity for pupils to apply their knowledge creatively which will in turn help our pupils become skilful computer scientists.

We provide staff with training and resources to carry out effective teaching of Computing; monitor this through assessments, moderation of children's work and support where identified or requested.

Our aim is for all our pupils to develop their computational thinking skills and creativity. At the core of the Computing Curriculum lies Computer Science. Our children are able to build on their knowledge using information technology skills and by becoming computer literate. The use of Purple Mash across the school underpins the curriculum needs for all of these areas. Additionally, it enables us to forge cross-curricular links across other subject areas.

**Implementation:** Computing at St Joseph's is taught in a number of ways.



We have created a comprehensive curriculum map for staff to follow to best embed and cover every element of the Computing Curriculum. The knowledge/skills statements build year on year to deepen and challenge our learners. In the Early Years the approach is through cross-curricular learning with an emphasis on hands-on experiences within every area of learning. From Year One upwards, we use Purple Mash as a cohesive scheme of work addressing the statutory aspects of the National Curriculum. As a school, we believe in delivering fun and engaging lessons which help to raise standards and allow all pupils to achieve to their full potential. By Year Six, our pupils can transfer their coding skills to other programs such as 'Scratch'.

Whilst our discrete Computing lessons use Purple Mash as a foundation for teaching, we also enjoy the flexibility of using Computing to enhance our other curriculum area lessons and further engage the pupils in leading their own learning. They are able to use technology imaginatively and creatively whilst also becoming efficient learners and critical thinkers. Cross-curricular teaching helps enthuse and equip children with the capability to use technology throughout their lives. We believe that this transference of skills can aid in teaching pupils the strategies and knowledge necessary to enable them to reap the benefits of the online world, whilst being able to minimise risk to themselves or others.

All year groups begin each half-term teaching a lesson on Online Safety and this is reviewed and recalled upon during Computing lessons throughout the year. This ensures children are aware of the dangers they may face online and have a good understanding of how they can keep themselves safe online. Additionally, subject specific vocabulary is discussed and recalled at the beginning of each Computing lesson to support children in using computing vocabulary in everyday life and allow for them to talk about Computing and the different skills they have learnt confidently.

**Impact:** We encourage our children to enjoy and value the curriculum we deliver. We want learners to discuss, reflect and appreciate the impact Computing has on their learning, development and well-being. Evidence of work is uploaded to Seesaw and monitored by the subject lead. Children will build on their prior knowledge, develop Computing vocabulary and skills which will enable them to achieve academic success, leading to further study. Furthermore, we want our learners to be equipped with Computing skills and knowledge which will enable them to value the role technology plays in their current everyday life, future education and lives as they grow older as technology evolves and advances.

## Geography

**Intent:** Our intention is to inspire children's curiosity and interest to explore the world that we live in and its people, and in turn, incite a passion for learning. Children will be equipped with essential geographical skills, which enable them to develop their knowledge of places, people and environments, both human and physical. Our Geography teaching will help children to acquire and develop the skills and confidence to undertake investigations, problem solve and seek answers to their own questions through exploration and research. By inspiring children's sense of responsibility for the environment and people of the world we live in, we can increase children's awareness of our changing planet and what is needed to improve and sustain it for future generations. Through our teaching, we intend to develop respect for, an interest in different cultures, races and religions, and in turn, understanding the relationship that the United Kingdom has with other countries.

**Implementation:** Our Geography teaching is organised into three 'Key Concepts':

- Investigating Places
- Investigating Patterns



- Communicating Geographically

Each of these concepts contains a multitude of skills which children will acquire as they progress through St. Joseph's.

A typical Geography lesson will begin with a vocabulary focus learning new vocabulary or reinforce previously learnt vocabulary. Lessons will be based on the 'micro-topics' and will contain a POP task, which shows proof of progress in the lesson. The POP tasks provide opportunities for children to really challenge their thinking and deepen their learning.

As children move through school, their knowledge and skills will develop progressively, and they will be constantly making links to prior learning. This will enable children to retain, use and build on their skills and understanding as they make the transition to secondary education. Learning is continuously assessed throughout the lesson, with children accessing proof of progress tasks. Teachers also use quizzes both in lessons and at the end of micro-topics, as well as evidence seen in books to inform summative assessments. These methods also allow children to be aware of the progress they are making.

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## MFL

**Intent:** At St Joseph's Catholic Primary school, we believe that learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. Language deepens children's understanding of the world and helps them develop their speaking and listening skills. As well as fostering children's curiosity of the world, we endeavour to lay the foundations for learning a language in Key Stage 3 and beyond.

**Implementation:** At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, We develop pupil's speaking, listening and understanding skills through the use of Salut! from the Co-ordination Group Publications (CGP) scheme of work to teach French to children in Years 3 to 6. The teaching in Key Stage 2 is progressive and is built upon each year, supported by the guidance material within the scheme of work.

Teachers use a variety of techniques enabling pupils to have an active engagement within their modern foreign language lessons. This includes games, role-play and action songs. Lessons include introductions to key vocabulary for each lesson, flashcards to support learning, as well as games and songs to reinforce the learning objective. Lessons are intended to be as enjoyable and entertaining as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude to the learning of another language. 'Salut!' is organised into units of work; three core units, followed by multiple units which cover children's day-to-day routines, as well as their interests and home life. We consider learning a foreign language, an essential part of being a member of a multi-cultural society and so we ensure that other cultures and celebrations are celebrated as a whole school.

**Impact:**

Children build on their knowledge by recycling, revising, recalling, and consolidating language. They understand MFL culture and history, can confidently discuss France, and apply MFL knowledge to other areas of learning and interests, showing genuine appreciation.

Learning a foreign language opens doors to other cultures and broadens perspectives. High-quality language education fosters curiosity, enables expression and comprehension in another language, and facilitates practical communication. Pupils learn new ways of thinking, read literature in its original language, and are prepared to study and work in other countries.

**Music**

**Intent:** Our intent at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is to deliver a broad and balanced Music curriculum that is ambitious, challenging and engaging. Our objective is for all of our children, including those who are disadvantaged and pupils with SEND, to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music. We are committed to ensuring that children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts. We are committed to endeavour that our students leave our school with a value for the impact which music can have upon the world.

**Implementation:** At St Joseph's the Music Curriculum is embedded through a structured scheme on a musical platform called Charanga. Through this scheme the children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Each year group is assigned with musical vocabulary which the children are exposed to at the beginning of their weekly music lessons.

All the children are able to take part in singing, percussion and are allowed to have an appreciation of music. Instrumental tuition is provided to our school for pupils in KS2, but has to be paid for by parents. These lessons are held during the school day. Currently pupils receive tuition in the Brass and stringed instruments. Many children who have learnt to play instruments at our school have performed at special whole school events, as well as at places such as Symphony Hall. Children are encouraged to perform in assemblies and other social occasions throughout the school year. At St Joseph's we also have a school choir who are provided with a rich variety of opportunities to perform, for example during Masses, concerts and seasonal events.

**Impact:** As a result of our engaging and vocabulary rich curriculum, children at our school are provided with opportunities to explore music in depth openly. The Charanga Scheme allows for the children to be challenged through three key areas which can be selected 'Bronze, Silver and Gold', Gold being the most challenging of all. The scheme is interactive and allows the children to experience music not only through instruments and learning to sing but also through exploring music through their bodies, for example by finding the pulse with actions. Music allows the children to identify with their individual cultures and enables them to make preferences around the styles of music which they prefer. They explore a range of musical styles from around the world. Music is a universal language, it allows all children to express themselves regardless of their abilities in other subjects, children can explore the subject without pressure and expectations. At Saint Joseph's we are proud of the music at our school and promote the pupils to participate in extracurricular activities as well as musical opportunities within the school. We offer musical instrument lessons to the children with opportunities to learn both string and brass instruments; as well as a choir club which provides the children with a variety of performance opportunities at masses and concert events. We promote hymns during Masses and assemblies which allows our Catholic Faith to also be embraced through the musical ethos of our school. Such events and lessons allow the children to explore music in more depth and promote their confidence, when showcasing their talents.

**Date Reviewed July 2024**

