

At St Joseph's we provide a creative curriculum which is supported by the 'Essentials Curriculum.' What is the Chris Quigley 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.

Basic; knowledge building, learning the fundamental foundations.

Advancing; decision making to apply fundamental foundations.

Deep; non routine thinking that requires inventive application of fundamental foundations.

Within all topics there are Key Concepts that flow like golden threads allowing the children to make connections and build their next learning on the information previously acquired.

### **English Curriculum Statement**

Our English curriculum is organised into a number of key areas: Spoken Language, Reading, Writing and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Whilst the English curriculum is delivered through specific timetabled lessons, the knowledge and understanding shared is referred to and developed in other curriculum areas.

#### **Reading**

For those children who are developing early reading skills, we follow the synthetic phonics approach. As children progress through the school, 'Guided Reading' sessions are a daily opportunity for children to practice key reading skills and engaged with reading focused activities. An appreciation of reading is developed through the sharing of books as a class, having the opportunity to borrow and read books from the library and taking part in events such as the [Summer Reading Challenge](#).

#### **Writing**

Key writing skills are taught during Literacy / English lessons. Often the writing stimulus for a unit of work will be taken from the Essentials Curriculum and / or will be an engaging, high quality reading text. Throughout the year, the children will have the opportunity to work with a range of genres; cross – curricular links are made wherever possible. To meet the requirements of the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Curriculum, class teachers plan daily focus sessions so that the children can develop an understanding of different key elements. The class teachers follow a whole school programme to ensure that previous knowledge is built upon and enhanced each year.

Progress and attainment are monitored regularly, and through pupil progress meetings following a termly Assessment and Review Week.

### **Maths Curriculum Statement**

Our mathematics curriculum equips pupils with tools that include logical reasoning, problem-solving skills, and the ability to think in abstract ways.

During the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, maths forms part of many interactive learning experiences. Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematics through play, exploration and discussion. Children work with shapes and begin to learn their properties, use language to give positional clues and compare quantities, identify and recreate patterns. They learn to count, read, write and order numbers to 20 using songs and rhymes, which is extended to 100 and beyond during The National Curriculum in Key Stage 1.

During Key Stage 1 children are taught in a variety of either mixed or ability class groups as appropriate for their main maths lesson. Additionally, they learn about shape and space, through practical activities which build on their understanding of their immediate environment. They develop their use of mathematical language, using it to talk about their methods and explain their reasoning when solving problems.

During Key Stage 2, children are again taught in mixed or ability groups for their daily maths lesson. They move from counting reliably to calculating fluently with all four number operations. Children will use a wider range of mathematical language, diagrams and statistical charts. They learn to tackle a problem with mental methods in addition to using any other approach, always supported with help and encouragement. They extend and secure their use of mathematical language, using it to talk about their methods, explain their reasoning when solving problems and applying it during investigations.

### **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.