



Our Trust's Curriculum

Intent

What is our intent? What are we trying to achieve with our curriculum?

In our Trust, our curriculum is designed to inspire, engage and challenge our pupils so that they acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be successful, independent and motivated young people, ready for the next stage of education and their future in today's world.

We have a mixture of non-faith and Christian foundation schools and our Trust is set up with a strong Christian Foundation. We therefore prioritise spiritual and moral education whilst also ensuring children have the knowledge and skills to flourish in every other part of the curriculum. We are geographically distant from major centres and have a sparsely populated catchment. Using communication technology, especially computing, is crucial to our children's development.

Through a flexible, school-led and creative approach to the curriculum, we aim to harness children's natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge to foster an interest in the local community, and the world beyond. Lessons, visits, residential experiences, wider cultural experiences, outdoor learning and real-context projects are all used to enhance learning across the curriculum and develop communication, collaboration and cooperation.

The National Curriculum core subjects of reading, writing, maths and science and foundation subjects – RE, music, computing, geography, history, design technology, art, and PE are taught as well as personal and social, health and relationships education.

Implementation

How do we deliver our curriculum?

Our curriculum is delivered through a carefully planned sequence of lessons. These are led by children's interests and change regularly. Wherever possible, lessons are embedded in 'real' contexts so that children understand the relevance and importance of their learning.

As the children become able to use Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) more independently, we offer each child a laptop computer which they will keep until they leave the Trust. This enables seamless transition between online learning, independent and class-based learning. Currently we have 923 laptops, and this is set to grow to 1200 in September 2021.

All subjects have clear progression plans and children are given opportunities to explore, investigate, question and analyse in order to learn the skills of critical thinking, reasoning and problem solving.

Reading and phonics have a high priority as a vital skill for everyone and the gateway to future learning. We use Read Write Inc as our phonics programme.



Impact

What is the impact of our curriculum and how do we know?

School leaders, including Governors, and teachers regularly measure the impact of our curriculum through the monitoring of teaching and learning, monitoring of behaviour, assessment and on-going self-review. We talk to children and parents, undertake learning walks, look at books and review the curriculum as subject leaders. We also conduct termly NGRT reading and spelling tests and annual cognitive ability tests, Progress tests in maths and English – all of which produce a national calibrated, standardised score which enables us to tailor our curriculum around the diagnosed learning needs of our children.

As a result of our high-quality curriculum and teaching, our children are well prepared for the next phase of their education, they are motivated to achieve and are equipped with the personal skills they need for a successful future.