

# **St Peter's Curriculum Rationale**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a Christ centred community where every person's uniqueness is celebrated with joy and truly valued. We foster caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love. We embrace the different communities to which we all belong – home, school and parish, as well as our local, national and global families. When we welcome the child, we welcome the family. We strive for excellence in all we do - to be the best that we can be.*

## **Intent**

Our school exists to develop the spiritual, academic, social, moral, physical and cultural development of the children entrusted to our care.

At St Peter's we provide children with their entitlement of a wholesome, varied and dynamic curriculum as laid down in National Curriculum guidelines. Our curriculum is designed to create an interesting, stimulating and friendly environment, reflecting the Catholic ethos of the school and to foster a love of life and learning: "I come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

We nurture a respect for all religions, races and cultures and develop an appreciation of the views, beliefs and moral values of all.

Our children benefit from a broad, balanced, sequenced and individually adapted curriculum carefully matched to pupils' ages, abilities, aptitudes and needs. It gives them the best chance to embed what they have learnt, to build on prior knowledge and to make meaningful links between different curriculum areas.

We exist to develop the 'whole child' of each and every child entrusted to our care. Our curriculum is designed to enable each child to reach the highest standards they can achieve - not only in the academic core skills of literacy and numeracy, but also in the wider curriculum, where they use their core skills to enhance their learning.

We passionately believe that developing the children's skills of literacy and numeracy is essential to developing a life-long love of learning and to equipping them with the essential tools to succeed in areas of future learning.

## **Implementation**

At St Peter's we embrace a challenging curriculum for all, where each child is encouraged to strive to be the very best that they can be. Children are taught to be independent learners who can recognise the level of challenge that they need to work at in order to progress with their learning most effectively.

During learning children are expertly supported through highly effective teaching and have access to adapted tasks which are designed to enable each of them to succeed. They are encouraged and guided in choosing tasks that compliment their understanding of a subject and extend their knowledge. Children who excel at the core work are provided with opportunities to ensure that they deepen their understanding of a subject and make links with prior learning in other areas. Teachers have the highest expectations of every child in their care. Where it is appropriate and meaningful, learning is planned to incorporate links between different subjects.

## **Quality first teaching**

- Carefully planned lessons with precise learning objectives, linked to an end-point curriculum.
- High expectations of engagement from all pupils.

- Highly skilled teachers who use questioning, modelling and clear explanations to raise standards in learning.
- High expectations that children will develop independence and an understanding of where they can improve.
- Supportive, praising environment where children are rewarded and encouraged for their hard work.

### **Focussed assessment**

- Regular, meaningful and manageable assessment of children's performance takes place to inform classroom teaching.
- Assessment for Learning is evident across the school: learning objectives, success criteria, peer collaboration, self-evaluation.
- Summative assessments track progress and allow monitoring of how well knowledge is being embedded and used and applied.

### **Interventions**

- Interventions are led by the pupils' needs.
- Ongoing interventions for particular needs are mapped out, assessed at the beginning and evaluated at the end to assess progress.
- Regular, flexible interventions are carried out for pupils on an as-needed basis informed by daily assessment.

### **Curriculum Organisation**

- The curriculum is organised to cater for children of all needs, interests and learning styles.
- Teachers are entrusted with organising provision in a way that best enables them to deliver high quality teaching for their children.
- Links between different areas of the curriculum are encouraged and emphasised in every key phase.
- For a more detailed breakdown of each subject please see individual subject rationales.

### **Effective learning**

- We recognise that all children are unique and that they learn and retain information in a variety of different ways. We ensure children experience a variety of learning strategies including: investigation and problem solving, open-ended tasks, reasoning, practise and consolidation, paired and independent work, effective questioning, presentations, drama, use of computing, visitors, educational visits, themed days, creative activities, cross-age collaboration, physical activity, homework, extra-curricular clubs, performances and pupil leadership meetings. Through weekly home learning, visits, visitors and themed days, we maintain and strengthen a constructive partnership between home, school and the wider communities to which we all belong.
- At St Peter's we ensure that all children experience a wide variety of different experiences that enhance our curriculum. Some of these can be viewed on our St Peter's Charter which we review and add to in order to enrich the experience of our children.

## **Impact**

- At St Peter's we have high expectations for all pupils in all areas. We measure the impact of our curriculum through targeted, differentiated questioning, daily marking, regular formative assessments, termly summative assessments as well as end of key stage tests - which show that school performs above national averages in all areas in all key phases.
- We value each and every one of our children as individual people, giving them the confidence to reach their full potential in all aspects of life.
- Most importantly of all we look at the impact our curriculum has on developing well-rounded individuals who embody the Gospel values, knowledge, skills and attitudes which will make them life-long learners and the best future citizens that they can be.