

ST. MICHAEL'S C.E. PRIMARY

CURRICULUM POLICY - (currently under review)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government is currently reviewing the National Curriculum in England. The aim is to develop a coherent curriculum to allow children to develop their knowledge systematically and support transition through key stages. The new curriculum will set out the essential knowledge that children should acquire and will hopefully allow teachers more freedom to decide on effective teaching methods. When this review is complete and the programmes of study are available we will look to review our own curriculum and see how this can be successfully incorporated within our curriculum plans.
- 1.2 The curriculum is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning and personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experience of the children. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum', or what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others while developing knowledge and skills, so that they achieve their true potential. In 2008, the new Primary strategy framework was introduced.

2 Values

2.1 Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives. Our **school mission statement** can be found in the school prospectus and also on the web site. This statement highlights the eight key experiences as a school we will offer:

- A broad and balanced curriculum.
- A welcoming caring and safe environment.
- A stimulating and happy environment.
- The ethos of a Church school supporting Christian values.
- The promotion of moral, spiritual, social and cultural activities.
- The value and recognition of the importance of home/school/community partnership.
- Ensuring equal opportunities exist.
- Providing an extensive range of extra curricular activities.

To achieve our mission we encourage pupils:

- To be independent learners.
- To become life long learners.
- To achieve high standards.
- To maintain respect and tolerance for all peoples and property.

- To develop high expectations both academically and socially.
- To acquire the skills to live and contribute in a changing technological society.
- To develop self-discipline, self motivation and self confidence in their ability.

2.2 Our school is in full agreement with the values statement included in the introduction to The National Curriculum Handbook for Primary Teachers in England. These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

- We value the way in which all children are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all cultures. We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.
- We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for which they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all the children in our school.
- We value our environment, and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims of our school curriculum are:

- to enable all children to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability;
- to promote a positive attitude towards learning, so that children enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- to teach children the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and information technology (ICT);
- to enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking;
- to teach children about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time;
- to help children understand Britain's cultural heritage;
- to enable children to be positive citizens in society;
- to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- to teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong;
- to help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all;
- to enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.

4 Organisation and planning

4.1 We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each key stage. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review our

long-term plan on an annual basis. Curriculum planning is collated and evaluated by Mrs.Rhodes our Curriculum manager.

4.2 With our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies that we use when teaching each topic. As we have adopted the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies for our school, we take our medium-term planning directly from the guidance documents. We use the national schemes of work for much of our medium-term planning in the foundation subjects.

4.3 Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.

4.4 In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and early learning goals, and there is planned progression in all curriculum areas.

4.5 At Key Stage 2 the curriculum at our school places a greater emphasis on the core and foundation subjects than it does at Key Stage 1, and we teach these subjects separately. This means that, for example, a child may concentrate in one term on a history topic, then switch to a greater emphasis on geography in the next term. Over the three terms of the academic year, each child has the opportunity to experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects.

5 Children with special needs

5.1 The curriculum in our school is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend the school. If we think it necessary to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of individual children, then we do so only after the parents of the child have been consulted.

5.2 If a child has a special need, our school does all it can to meet these individual needs. We comply with the requirements set out in the SEN Code of Practice in providing for children with special needs. If a child displays signs of having special needs, his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need. In most instances the teacher is able to provide resources and educational opportunities which meet the child's needs within the normal class organisation. If a child's need is more severe, we consider the child for a statement of special needs, and we involve the appropriate external agencies when making this assessment. We always provide additional resources and support for children with special needs.

5.3 The school provides an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for each of the children who are on the special needs register. This sets out the nature of the special need, and outlines how the schools will aim to address the need. It also sets out targets for improvement, so that we can review and monitor the progress of each child at regular intervals. Mrs. Henshaw will monitor and evaluate special needs provision within school.

6 The Foundation Stage -EYFS

6.1 The curriculum that we teach in the reception class meets the requirements set out in the revised National Curriculum at Foundation Stage. Our curriculum planning focuses on the Early Learning Goals and on developing children's skills and experiences, as set out in this document.

6.2 Our school fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well-planned structured activities. Teaching in the reception class builds on the experiences of the children in their pre-school learning. We do all we can to build positive partnerships with the variety of nurseries and other pre-school providers in the area.

6.3 During the children's first term in the reception class, Mrs.Wilson will undertake a Foundation stage profile on each child using the six areas of development. Parents will be informed and the results analysed and submitted to the L.A This assessment forms an important part of the future curriculum planning for each child.

6.4 We are well aware that all children need the support of parents, teachers and support staff to make good progress in school. We strive to build positive links with the parents of each child by keeping them informed about the way in which the children are being taught and how well each child is progressing.

7 Key skills

7.1 The following skills have been deemed 'key skills' in the National Curriculum:

- communication;
- application of number;
- information technology;
- working with others;
- improving own learning and performance;
- problem-solving.

7.2 In our curriculum planning we highlight these skills, so that the children's progress in all of these areas can be identified and monitored. All subject areas contribute to a child's progress in these skills. Our school believes that all children need to make good progress in these skill areas in order to develop to their true potential.

8 The role of the subject leader

8.1 The role of the subject leader is to:

- Provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject; by monitoring and evaluating the teaching and learning.
- Support and offer advice to colleagues on issues related to the subject; and led by leading In service provision when necessary.
- Monitor pupil progress in that subject area; this will involve work sampling etc.
- Provide efficient resource management for the subject.

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 Our governing body's curriculum committee is responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented. This committee reviews each subject area in its bi-annual cycle of review and development.

9.2 We have named governors for literacy, numeracy, ICT and Special Needs. The governors liaise with the subject leaders of these areas, and monitor closely the way the school teaches these subjects.

9.3 The head teacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum. Mr. Fraser will monitor the teaching and learning to ensure consistency and continuity in common with our teaching and learning policy.

9.4 Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school. They examine long-term and medium-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.