



Whole School Curriculum Rationale

Our Lady and St Thomas Catholic Primary School, Willington has designed a curriculum which is built upon our mission statement '***You are unique, talented and loved by God***'. We are now part of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Trust with a family of schools with a shared curriculum that each school makes bespoke to their own individual community and context.

Aim

Our aim is to provide our children with an exceptional educational start in life. Our curriculum considers the needs of a 21st Century child and is ambitious in providing our children with the knowledge, skills and learning behaviours required to become successful life-long learners.

Intent

At the heart of our school are a set of core values. These underpin our curriculum and the ethos of the school. At Our Lady and St Thomas Catholic Primary we place great importance on a curriculum which develops the whole child. Through our core values, we foster an environment where the emotional, physical, academic, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of each child is considered. We firmly believe that everyone is entitled to an ambitious curriculum and our curriculum design is accessible for all, including children with SEND and disadvantaged backgrounds.

Implementation

This describes the way in which we deliver our intent consistently each day. Our curriculum is designed to enable learners to become skilled Scientists, Historians, and Mathematicians etc. developing a strong knowledge base through carefully planned, engaging topics. Skills are carefully and progressively mapped across each key stage and subject area to ensure a consistent approach for mixed age teaching. This is detailed in our long term plans which have been developed as a rolling programme for this purpose.

Knowledge is consolidated and built upon to support retention and recall and is clearly outlined in the Learn It, Link It knowledge organisers. This ensures all pupils know more and remember more and that all pupils are secondary ready by the time they leave our school.

Enquiry Based Approach

Knowledge is taught through an enquiry based approach. This consists of a main question that the children are unable to answer at the beginning of a blocked unit.

Teaching provides the children with the knowledge and skills to provide or demonstrate a response to this enquiry driver and we call this the final outcome.

How do we plan the Curriculum?

The Bishop Hogarth Trust has used a writing team to develop the Foundation Curriculum. Our Subject Leaders are integral to the planning process and understand the pathway that their subjects take. Progression of knowledge and skills is carefully mapped across Key Stages.

Cultural Capital

Staff are committed to ensuring every child is immersed in a wide range of enrichment opportunities. Planned visits, experiences and challenges are integral to developing cultural capital in our pupils.

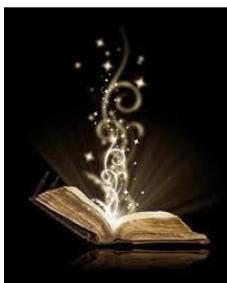
Teachers instil a strong sense of belonging and pride in each child to be part of this school and local community. Staff support pupils developing an awareness of the wider world around them. High aspirations at school inspire our pupils to pursue their hopes and dreams for the future.

Pupils are taught Respect cultural diversity and differences with an understanding of how the world works and encourage participation in the community at a range of levels, from the local to the global. We teach our children to make the world a more sustainable place and to take responsibility for their actions. We do this through our Global curriculum.

Impact

Pupils leave Our Lady and St Thomas Catholic Primary School ready for the next phase in their Education. Close links with our Secondary schools supported by the Transition Curriculum that links with Year 7 ensures that all our pupils thrive in their new schools. Pupils leave confident, independent learners with a secure grounding in all areas of learning and the necessary skills to succeed.

Pupils leave with a strong sense of pride knowing they belong to school family of schools and are loved. Pupils understand how to be socially, morally, spiritually and culturally responsible and aware and how to make positive contributions to the local community and how to endeavour to be the best that they can be. We aim for all of our children to leave Our Lady and St Thomas Catholic Primary School respectful, ambitious and with a thirst for life and all it has to offer.



All pupils leave having experienced a wide range of rich texts and have a love of reading. They understand the importance of feeding our minds and the magic that books unlocks.

"He that loves reading has everything within his reach" – William Goodwin

OLST Global Curriculum

Intent

At Our Lady and St Thomas Catholic Primary, we firmly believe that our pupils are the leaders of the future. We aim for every child to become a global citizen who has a strong understanding of our changing world.

In 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 goals for a better world by 2030. These goals have the power to end poverty, fight inequality and address the urgency of climate change.



Guided by these 17 Sustainable Development Global Goals, we want our pupils to understand the importance of working together to create fairer and more sustainable world for all and a better future for everyone.

In all year groups, children are taught about the Global Goals through National Curriculum subjects, themed assemblies, whole school initiatives and participation in global events such as Global Recycling Day and World Wildlife Day.

Implementation

Each term, we focus on one of the 17 goals. As children become more familiar with the goals, they gain a greater understanding of the social, environmental and economic challenges we face today.



Lessons are driven by key questions that have been generated by the children to spark enthusiasm and interest. As a result, our focus this term has been on Goal 13: Climate Action

Pupils supported the CAFOD 'Go Green' campaign in the Autumn term and raised money to support the work of CAFOD overseas. They were appalled by the issue of de-forestation and pledged to become active within their own community.



The whole school has become involved with OASES and has sourced seeds from our local woodland and planted them. KS1 are growing our own baby trees onsite and taking care of them with a view to planting the baby trees as a lasting legacy. KS2 have planted a tree each in the local area as we are all keenly aware how important trees are to the environment.



Eco Champions

Mrs Graham leads our new Eco Team. These children from Key Stage 2 have expressed a strong interest in helping to achieve the goals and ensure we are doing everything we can at OLST

Our Eco Champions have half termly meetings where they help to make decisions about global initiatives we participate in as a school.

In order to celebrate the achievements of our children, we will upload a termly newsletter documenting some of the things that the children have been doing at home and in school to make a difference.

Impact

As global citizens, Our Lady and St Thomas pupils will understand that everyone has a responsibility to ensure the world continues to develop in a sustainable way.

Our pupils understand that the issues our world is facing today are not going to improve if we don't help towards making a difference. We aim to take action towards achieving the goals and protecting our world for future generations.



The Earth is our environment to protect and the garden to tend to.

— *Pope Francis* —

AZ QUOTES