



Curriculum Statement

- At Our Lady and St Thomas RCVA Primary School we offer a curriculum for pupils aged 4-11 which is broad and balanced and which builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all children, whatever their starting points, as they progress through each Key Stage. The curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the pupils in our school.
- The aim of our curriculum is for pupils to have the requisite skills to be successful, independent and motivated learners in readiness for their next stage of education. We are a Rights Respecting School and this and our distinctive Catholic nature ensures we have a strong emphasis on mental health and well-being of all in our school family.
- Pupils have a staggered soft start to the school day from 8.40am where pupils have access to breakfast snack upon arrival. We recognise how important it is for the brain to function more efficiently and have included this in our provision for every child so learning is maximised for all our children. We also have installed an all-weather running track on our school field so that exercise and promoting healthy lifestyles is also part of our daily offer.
- The school uses a cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning. This means that skills, knowledge and understanding across a range of subjects are brought together and form a topic. Within the topic, children are able to practise and apply their reading, maths and English skills in other subject areas.
- Our Long Term Curriculum Maps show each year group's overview of topics and curriculum learning. We work on a two/three year rolling programme and have planned our coverage to incorporate split year groups e.g. both Y3/4 class and the Y4/5 class are taught an Ancient Civilisation and where possible this is chronological throughout the school.
- Our overviews show each year group's half termly areas of learning. They are led by enquiry questions posed by the pupils to determine what they already know about the topic, what they would like to know and what they have learned. The topic maps detail the class novel, writing and maths across the curriculum and hooks into learning through experiences. These could include a class trip, a visitor to school or a celebration of learning event.
- Specialist teachers and instructors support Forest School and Physical Education. We are fortunate to have language specialists and teach Spanish at KS1 and KS2. All subject leaders are given training and opportunity to keep

developing their own subject knowledge, skills and understanding so they can support curriculum development and their colleagues throughout the school.

- Language acquisition and developing a love of books and reading is at the heart of our curriculum. Children are exposed to classic texts and a wealth of rich texts and authors to develop their vocabulary. This is evident in their writing.
- Pupils have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based or external presentations, performances, competitions and events involving other schools. Developing their independence and motivation as learners and their sense of responsibility as future citizens is at the heart of all our teaching and learning.
- Pupil questionnaires evidence our children enjoy their learning and their curriculum is vibrant and exciting.
- Theme weeks, whole school activities and opportunities within and outside school all enrich and develop the children's learning. After school clubs and events extend these opportunities further. The school is well resourced in terms of learning materials, books and technology.
- OLST is a partner school of the RSC and our pupils enjoy the performing arts with leading Shakespeare ambassadors. Our Y5 pupils have worked on Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummers Night's Dream. This year the focus is on Much Ado about Nothing.
- Pupils also have the opportunity to learn an instrument in Y3/4 and OLST has some very accomplished violinists.

Enrichment Opportunities

A variety of sporting clubs are offered across the academic year including cricket, football, athletics, judo, archery, football and multi-sports.

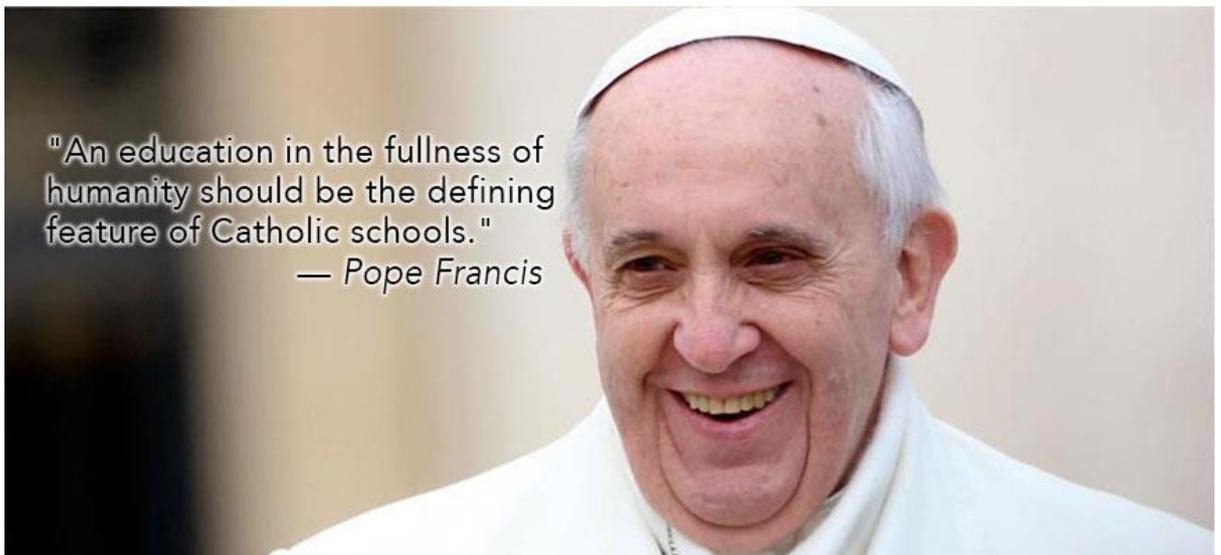
Pupils have access to a Forest/ Green Fingers Gardening After School Club in our forest area where pupils are taught how to grow their own produce with farm to fork principles culminating in a delicious feast to share with families.

Pupils also have the opportunity to work with Jack Drum Arts and the Gala Theatre as well as the school choir to hone singing, dancing and acting talents.



Reach for the Stars

- At Our Lady and St Thomas our Global Curriculum is in place to provide children with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to move into the next part of their lives and further into the world of work.
- We want our children to know that there is a whole world of opportunity out there, to aim high and reach their potential.
- We do this through the curriculum and also by making sure the children have experiences they would not normally meet.
- We hope to introduce following Covid restrictions opportunities through the curriculum for the children meet people from local businesses and industries, visit their places of work and discuss their roles. They study themes such as stereotypes, sustainability and prejudice in the world of work- both now and in the past.
- The pupils know that we have the next great leaders in our school that our children have within their power the ability to make the world a better place for future generations.



For more detailed information about Curriculum, please ask to speak to Mrs Ruth Veitch, Head teacher.