

The Foundation Curriculum

The Foundation Subjects are: History, Geography, Art, Music, PE, PSHE and Design & Technology.

Key Stage 2 children also learn French.

Rationale

“The glory of God is a human being fully alive” (St Irenaeus)

This is the goal of the curriculum at Corpus Christi – to draw out the potential in each child to the full.

Delivering a rich, broad and balanced curriculum that engages, challenges and supports the needs of all our pupils is central to our Foundation Subject curriculum at Corpus Christi. We aspire to inspire our children to reach their full potential. Our curriculum covers the National Curriculum standards and often goes beyond these. At Corpus Christi Primary School, we believe that our children deserve the best - both academically and personally.

Aims

Our Foundation curriculum, alongside our core curriculum, is designed to offer our children a deep, broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes the values necessary to live in our society today. We deliver the National Curriculum in a way which is appropriate to our city, our area and our school; a curriculum that offers rich opportunity and experience, to set firm foundations to promote a life-long love of learning.

Our Curriculum

A detailed curriculum overview has been mapped out for each foundation subject across Key Stages 1 and 2. As with English, Maths and Science, we teach four “elements of learning”: knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes – as the bases for planning learning experiences within each subject. Year-on-year, these are built upon ensuring progression through the school. Wherever possible, opportunities to apply English, Maths and Computing skills are planned into foundation subjects.

Learning is carefully planned to ensure equality of access to all children.

Termly newsletters are sent to parents, listing the topics to be covered in each subject, to ensure that skills taught in school can be reinforced at home.

The Foundation subjects are informally assessed by teachers using a variety of methods. This information is then used to plan for the application of skills across the curriculum. Opportunities are then given to revisit skills to help children achieve greater depth in their learning. Foundation subjects are formally assessed annually and children’s progress and achievement is reported to parents.

Class teachers continually develop and improve their knowledge and skills, both through internal and external training and by sharing our expertise. In addition to our skilled class teachers, we offer specialist teaching in PE and Music.

Our curriculum is enhanced and enriched by carefully planned school trips and visits taking advantage of our location to expose to children to the full range of historical and cultural experiences London has to offer. We welcome many visitors to share their expertise and

knowledge including theatre groups, authors, artists, sportspersons, musicians, parents, governors, and community and parish members. Our curriculum is enhanced further by the provision of numerous after school clubs, including Little Mandarin, Italian, Coding, Cookery, Drama, Current Affairs, Art as well as many sporting clubs.

From Year 1, children are invited to give a talk to their class on a topic of their choice. The talks last between ten and twenty minutes, and are given once a year on a date set by the class teacher. Topics covered are connected to the children's own interests, talents and hobbies. Children often bring in props or PowerPoint presentations which help to bring their talks to life. The talks are highly valuable in developing children's speaking, language and confidence, and are thoroughly enjoyed by the class and staff alike.

Subject Leaders along with the Senior Leadership team, continually monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum using a wide range of sources including learning walks, formal and informal observations, book looks and listening to a wide range of voices, including pupils. Action points are discussed and agreed by staff, who regularly scrutinise the current curriculum as a basis for developing it further.

History and Geography

History and Geography are taught using a topic based approach. We deliver a rich and vibrant curriculum that engages the children and promotes a love of learning. Children are provided with opportunities to raise questions, which encourages them to become inquisitive learners.

The use of visitors and trips is a key strength in our delivery of the curriculum. Our use of the church garden as an outside learning resource links our teaching to the local Parish community. As a school, we continually review our provision and respond to local and national events, enabling the children to gain a greater understanding of our local area and the wider world. Most recently, the children have explored, Black History month, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Centenary of World War I and we are already making plans for the Tokyo Olympics.

Subject Lead: Mr M. Calvey

Physical Education

A high-quality physical education curriculum inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically demanding activities.

It should provide opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

Through the P.E. curriculum at Corpus Christi School, we aim to:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives

Assessment

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant Key Stage (programme of study). Assessments take place twice throughout the year.

We deliver an active P.E. curriculum through:

- weekly timetabled P.E. lessons with specialist coaches
- additional P.E. / fitness sessions with class teachers and professional dance teachers
- extra-curricular opportunities for competitive sport
- active residential trips (Juniors)
- swimming lessons (Lower Juniors)
- encouraging children to make healthy food choices (at lunch)
- outdoor experiences (for example through Natural Thinkers in EYFS, trips to Brockwell Park)
- external visitors and workshops

We have begun trialling “The Daily Mile” to increase our pupils’ fitness.

Subject Lead: Mrs G. Jenson

Music

We are very proud of our Music department at Corpus Christi. All children receive weekly music lessons with a specialist music teacher. All children have the opportunity to learn an instrument and take part in Band in Key Stage 2. Individual instrumental tuition, including instrument loan, can also be arranged with expert peripatetic teachers (subject to availability). We also have a large Choir which is open to all pupils without audition. The Choir sing not only at Masses and school events but also in the community, including carol singing at Christmas and participating in the Lambeth Music Festival at the Royal Festival Hall.

Subject Lead: Ms A. Thomas

Art and Design & Technology

Our creative curriculum follows the National Curriculum and teaches children the key skills in drawing, painting, design and technology. Our children develop their skills and make excellent progress, as our many displays of our wonderful art work demonstrate. Children also learn about food and nutrition and have the opportunity to look at the works of a range of great artists and iconic designers.

We use a cycle of ask, imagine, plan, create and evaluate to enable the children to work with growing independence and self-reflection.

Subject Lead: Mrs C. Kerr

Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE)

In addition to teaching the National Curriculum we have a strong Catholic ethos which underpins the values taught. The subject is taught through lessons, assemblies and visitors welcomed to school. All subject matter is age appropriate and delivery is child friendly. Three main strands are taught— health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world. We are preparing our children to become good citizens, who uphold our British values.

There are many opportunities for children to contribute to and influence decision making including: School Council, Green Team and Patient Ambassadors. (In association with King's College Hospital)

We are proud to hold a Healthy Schools London Bronze award.

Subject Lead: Mrs G. Jenson

French

French is taught to all Key Stage Two children. The emphasis in lessons is on speaking and listening. Children are able to develop their skill, confidence and understanding of the French language and culture.

Subject Lead: Mrs K. Smart

