



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Living, Loving, Learning in God's Care

Living, Learning and Loving in God's Care

O Lord, teach me how you want me to live! Psalm 86:11

This scripture verse reminds us that our Christian values of gratitude, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, kindness, perseverance and courage, creativity, respect and reverence underpin how we live and how we learn (through a unique and deep curriculum) grounded in God's love.

Curriculum Intent

St Mary's Church of England Primary School has an agreed aim to design a curriculum, to meet the needs of every child. The uniqueness of every child is recognised and valued in our small rural school. Our focus is to equip each child with skills for life and a passion for learning through the delivery of a dynamic, culturally rich, vibrant curriculum and inspirational innovative teaching. We have considered the sequence of our curriculum carefully to enable children to expand and interconnect a web of knowledge, ideas, concepts and vocabulary. This will ensure long term memory learning; promoting capacity for maximum performance and progress. Our journey of learning is regularly reviewed and adapted.

Developing staff expertise, planned schemes and valid and purposeful assessment, leads to improved teaching and learning. The curriculum vision for our school in Muckleston, is to provide an education for all pupils, allowing the able to be challenged, vulnerable learners to make excellent progress and all to be resilient and take responsibility for their own learning. Some curriculum subjects are taught through the content of a topic theme, other subjects are taught discretely. The curriculum is mapped to ensure coverage of both the National Curriculum and school's own additional curriculum needs. By linking subjects together, more time is provided for pupils to investigate areas of interest and deepen understanding.

Curriculum Implementation.

Pupils are taught in mixed aged classes. St Mary's operates a 2 year rolling programme for Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4. Carousel teaching of a maximum of 2 year groups is a particular strength of our teaching and curriculum, allowing subject leaders to teach across both key stages, to share their passions and expertise for the subject and ensuring continuity and teaching of knowledge and skills from Year 1 to Year 6 in foundation subjects.

We continue on our journey of personal growth to build a bespoke curriculum. Together with a shared school improvement plan and strategic vision document at heart of the school,

these sum up the 'intent aspect of our curriculum design' and vision for the future for our children. Our strong church and community links enhance our taught curriculum and broaden pupil experiences.

Our current aims for our personal growth are:-

1) *Harness excellence in phonics and reading*

- ***Reading buddies and reading ambassadors***
- ***Retro library system***
- ***Visits from authors and poets***
- ***Encourage a broad range of genre for pupils to read and explore a range of authors***
- ***Develop poetry in school***
- ***Library links/community members hearing readers in school***
- ***Focus on comprehension and reading for meaning skills***
- ***Reading intervention programmes***
- ***Reading champion – support staff***
- ***Daily worship liturgy***
- ***Confident reading performance in church and school***
- ***Robust teaching of phonics scheme accompanied by a comprehensive reading scheme***
- ***Staff follow 'Pathways to Read'***

2) *For pupils to build learning power to become more independent and resilient learners*

- ***Purple pen of power***
- ***Good quality scaffolding and support mechanisms to promote independence in the classroom***
- ***Peer marking, edit and improve***
- ***Literacy Pathways – Mastery scheme***
- ***Increase writing for a purpose***
- ***Good to be green – behaviour strategy***
- ***Choice of homework tasks***
- ***Free writing sessions to build stamina***
- ***Use of technology to support learning***
- ***Effective use of questioning and feedback based on cognitive science principles***

3) *The Christian ethos of our school continues to understand diversity and celebrate this*

- ***Visitors into school from all denominations and other faiths – focus on faith days***
- ***Our vision incorporates celebrating difference in our school***
- ***Visits to Derby Open Centre, Shrewsbury and Lichfield Cathedral***
- ***Focus on Faith days***
- ***Links with House of Bread***

- ***Mucklestone Music Mash choir and orchestra***
- ***Church links and Children's Church services***
- ***Our children are very accepting of each other differences***
- ***Family circles***
- ***Friendship group***
- ***Developing a sense of belonging***

4) *Build a greater sense of community and form stronger links to widen experiences for our pupils*

- ***Strong links continue with Cheswardine – Residential and Nursing home links to build intergenerational bridges***
- ***St Mary's PTFA – fundraising events and activities***
- ***Mucklestone Music Mash***
- ***After school club links with Loggerheads community projects and events***

Children at St Mary's are expected to work hard and demonstrate positive learning behaviours to both maximise their own individual learning potential, as well as contribute to the school and wider community. We have high expectations of attendance, academic achievement and pupil behaviour. We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers as we believe that when home and school work closely together, we get the best outcomes for our pupils. Pupils continue to develop resilience and independence in the classroom to maximise learning outcomes and reach their full potential.

Our Christian values lie at the heart of our curriculum. When subjects are taught pupils know what subject they are learning and how to apply the transferable skills they acquire and can then utilise across other subjects. Our bespoke curriculum framework recognises the importance of a PSHE thread running through. Regular focus on wellbeing, positive self-awareness, relationships and the wider world is important for all children. Our pupils have access to a wide range of opportunities which promote personal safety and pupil voice with all children being actively involved in whole school decision making through the School Council and many positions of responsibility. Our curriculum recognises the importance of pupils' physical and mental well-being in shaping their long term life-style choices.

We believe that our fundamental task is to teach our children to speak clearly and articulately and to read and write effectively. Phonics and Reading across all curriculum areas is a priority, to extend and deepen pupils understanding and use of vocabulary. We want pupils to develop a love of reading during their time at St Mary's and be exposed to a range of classic and contemporary literature. The use of the school library and class shared texts are pivotal to this.

Children from across the school have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities in both sport, music and the creative arts. Each half term our clubs change offering a vast range of experiences for our pupils.

Continuing Professional Development for all staff is a priority to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver the highest standards across the

entire curriculum. Subject Leaders have the necessary expertise to play a pivotal role in both the design and delivery of their subject area; ensuring a clear progression of both skills and knowledge across all year groups, underpinned by a robust assessment system. They can confidently articulate how learning is re-visited and developed year-on-year, to ensure a real depth of learning right across the school.

Impact

- Our children demonstrate confidence, independence, resilience and a real thirst for learning
- Our children are prepared to be global citizens and appreciate diversity
- Our children are able to form meaningful relationships based upon mutual respect and trust, recognising and celebrating difference, not only within the school community, but in the wider world as well
- Our children have access to a wide and varied curriculum, allowing each of them to excel as individuals and be the best they can be
- Our children achieve at least the expected standard across the entire curriculum by the end of Key Stage Two
- Following various forms of assessment any pupils not making expected progress receive a programme of rapid intervention
- Our children are well prepared to access the challenges of the secondary school curriculum
- Our children have aspirations for the future and know that these can be realised with hard work and determination
- Our children grow up being able to make a positive contribution to the world in which they live