

St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Curriculum Intent Statement



Intent

The aim at St Oswald's is to offer children a text-based curriculum that prioritises reading, ensuring all children, irrespective of background or need, become fluent readers which allows all areas of the curriculum to be accessed. We want our children to be articulate with an extensive vocabulary.

Our bespoke, sequential curriculum is knowledge based and ensures that our children learn more and remember more so that they are prepared for the next stage of their education. We instil within our children the knowledge, skills and the ambition to create a future that they aspire for themselves to prosper in society- challenging social mobility and preconceived ideas.

We enrich our curriculum offer further so that pupils have their eyes widened to the world and the life they are able to make for themselves by creating first- hand experiences for them to enjoy, be inspired by and to learn from.

We endeavour to ensure that all subject areas are given equal importance so that all children shine and have their individual talents nurtured and celebrated.

We expect all the adults and children in our school community to follow our Ozzie's Way. We are a Catholic school and so we work hard to live as Jesus taught us so that we can learn, play, work, live and grow together in 'Loving Learning, Loving Jesus and Loving Each Other'. We continue to be an Emotionally Aware School- the wellbeing of our whole school community is of paramount importance.

Implementation

St Oswald's provides a highly inclusive environment which follows the National Curriculum and the statutory framework for the Early Years Stage. All children have access to high quality, carefully selected texts and our Reading Ambassadors promote the importance of reading. If meaningful links can be made to a text and units within the Long Term Plan, then they are explicitly utilised, alongside other cross-curricular links.

Pupils at all levels are helped to achieve their potential across all curriculum areas. Those who are most able are challenged and encouraged to expand their skills and knowledge through many and varied curriculum opportunities. Those who learn in different ways are encouraged and given targeted support to embed skills, to develop at their own pace and to learn in a style that best suits their individual needs working with our highly skilled Teaching Assistants.

At St Oswald's children become fluent readers and writers as young as possible through our text-based curriculum which opens up the world in an engaging way, providing pupils with opportunities to access high quality texts. These texts broaden their vocabulary and children are exposed to a range of vocabulary. The meaning of subject specific language is explicitly taught to them when a new unit begins. This runs parallel to children being taught to be effective readers, beginning in EYFS, with the implementation of Monster Phonics; a systematic, synthetic Phonics scheme. This scheme continues into KS2 as an intervention for particular children during 'Sparkle Time' so that all children, particularly our SEND/PP children, access a broad and balanced curriculum, whilst being well supported. We are meticulous in ensuring that all pupils achieve their personal best and all have the support and guidance they need.

St Oswald's focus on curriculum development and our curriculum is based on educational research and evidence and is carefully designed to ensure coverage and progression throughout the phases. We work on a two-year cycle so that all pupils access the full curriculum available across the phase and do not omit any key objectives relevant to their phase. Subject Leaders have, in consultation with consultants from Liverpool School Improvement, implemented a bespoke curriculum, identifying the key knowledge that the children will acquire. These Long Term and Medium Term plans clearly state how a unit of work builds upon previous learning and how the unit will be needed for future learning. Children build on knowledge, year on year, and therefore develop their long-term learning memory. There are regular opportunities, such as retrieval type activities to begin lessons/units of work, use of Knowledge Organisers etc, to revisit and embed learning, both in school and at home, so that knowledge is deepened. Children are then able to showcase their work to their parents/carers during 'Book Looks' and assemblies.

Some subjects, such as Dance, Gymnastics and French, have specialist teachers to deliver these areas of the curriculum. There is accurate assessment of when the children have achieved a Knowledge Based Learning Intention or have developed a particular skill using Target Tracker.

High quality subject leaders monitor, evaluate and review the curriculum regularly, identifying supportive resources and delivering CPD meaning that staff have the subject knowledge to deliver a specialist curriculum. It provides pupils with memorable experiences, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. A primary focus of our curriculum is to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in achievement, provide a purpose and relevance for learning and ultimately to help every student to find their own strengths and interests.

All staff members have the highest of expectations in regards to the presentation of work and the children's attitudes to learning. This means that the children are ready to learn and staff are imparting knowledge and developing skills.

Sport has a high profile at St Oswald's, and pupils are introduced to a huge variety of activities in order to keep them physically active and aware of the impact of exercise on their physical and mental health. We also have established links with local sports clubs such as Wigan Athletic and Wigan Warriors and run a 3 day outdoor education residential in Y6 every year.

To ensure that children are prepared to live in Modern Day Britain, understand British Values and are prepared to be global citizens, there are weekly PSHE and RSHE lessons. These run alongside our Journey in Love programme and No Outsiders.

High quality visits and visitors into St Oswald's are also well designed to enhance the curriculum and raise cultural capital, particularly for our Disadvantaged pupils. St Oswald's provides the full core offer of extended school provision. To promote physical health and wellbeing, we give learners an opportunity to access a wide variety of clubs after school hours. This also involves implementing emotionally aware, nurturing interventions, such as R Time, for some children within small groups. We also have our Well-Being Warriors who are trained to help other children if they are upset and are extremely pro-active on the playground.

Impact

We have a text-based, bespoke curriculum that is progressive and sequential from the Early Years Curriculum. It ensures that the needs of individual and small groups of children can be met within the environment of quality first teaching, supported by targeted, proven interventions where appropriate. When external visitors and consultants speak to the children, they find them to be extremely knowledgeable and articulate in talking about their learning pathways using vocabulary relating to the subject confidently.

Our curriculum impacts in a very positive way on pupil outcomes- this is clearly evident in the high-quality work that the children produce, within the school environment and within our KS2 SATs results in 2022 and Phonic Scores. Our pupils consistently achieve above national standards in Reading, Writing and Maths, including those attaining Greater Depth, meaning they are ready for the next stage in their education across all subjects. The impact of our curriculum offer is also clearly evident in the many competitions that the school has won and the successful pupils who have moved onto great things, such as children gaining a scholarship to Manchester's Cheetham's School of Music.

Enjoyment of the curriculum promotes achievement, confidence and good behaviour. Children feel safe to try new things. Our pupils are well prepared for secondary school and we have established links with St Edmund Arrowsmith, our feeder high school, to support with a smooth transition. Pupils have a, "can do," attitude and they demonstrate resilience and positive attitudes to learning, seeking support from staff and each other through the very positive relationships built on mutual respect and trust: The Ozzie's Way.

Our children have strong attributes to work hard alongside fantastic attitudes to learning. This is regularly commented upon by external visitors and St Oswald's has a strong reputation within the local community. This is clearly evident when new families are complimentary about the school and how the staff 'go above and beyond'.

We are an Emotionally Aware School- we were the first school in the Wigan Local Authority to be awarded the Bronze Award and are now working towards the Silver Award.

Progress of pupils is reported to parents and carers each term, through progress reports and parent interviews and parents know that they can contact school any time to discuss their concerns about their child's progress with the class teacher, SEND leader and/or SLT. Our curriculum enables our pupils to have high standards and they enjoy articulating and celebrating their new learning across their phases and across the school, reflecting their true love of learning: living out our Mission Statement.