



POLICY

for

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Reviewed

June 2019	September 2021	September 2024
June 2020	September 2022	
April 2021	September 2023	

**Striving for excellence, caring for all
Within a loving and caring Christian environment.**

Our Vision

We are a community in which everyone is offered the opportunity to fulfil their full potential, to understand themselves and be valued for who they are. Through a stimulating and challenging learning environment, we pursue academic excellence and seek the flourishing of all. This is because we know we are all God's children.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."
John Wesley

Our work and vision is based on five core values of:

- Integrity
- Equality
- Respect
- Care
- Inclusion

We recognise that children are created in the image of God but also value their individuality as they explore their own God given talents and are treated with respect and dignity at all times. We understand that a curriculum is the totality of a child's experience during their entire time at school. It is not isolated to subjects or viewed solely within small timeframes. It is all-encompassing. It is for this reason that our aims and curriculum drivers (outlined below) extend well beyond the individual subjects, showing our commitment to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve in all aspects of their life. Our mission statement reflects this.

Striving for excellence, caring for all within a loving and caring Christian environment.

We believe that our broad and balanced curriculum, underpinned by British and Christian values, plays a major part in delivering excellence which permeates through every element of school life.

It is important that teaching, learning, curriculum and assessment do not unduly add to teacher workload. Any monitoring and evaluation of teaching, learning and the curriculum, as well as assessment and record keeping, undertaken should provide us with a valuable picture of the curriculum as a whole, which in turn impacts positively on future next steps.

Our Intent- what are the aims and principles of our curriculum?

*Our curriculum development journey will always be ongoing as we are constantly revisiting and revising our curriculum design in light of research and our children's needs. Our **curriculum drivers** for the journey are...*

- Respect for all
- Spirituality
- Personal growth
- Success and flourishing
- Community-local and global



These curriculum drivers feed directly into our curriculum aims. They are derived from an exploration of the backgrounds of our pupils, our beliefs about high-quality education and our values. They are used to ensure we give our pupils appropriate and ambitious curriculum opportunities.

Our aims:

1. To enable children to become happy, secure and enthusiastic life-long learners and achieve personal success/greatness
2. To make children the centre of everything we do, where they are challenged and supported through a broad, balanced and creative curriculum
3. To teach and support children to become fluent, accurate and independent readers for pleasure and purpose
4. To support children in developing secure skills and knowledge across a broad range of subjects
5. To develop an environment and school ethos where individual needs are respected and diversity celebrated
6. To build a sense of self-worth, personal responsibility and respect for one another
7. To place the school at the heart of local society, encouraging a caring and supportive partnership between children, their families and the wider community

Moving from Intent to Implementation

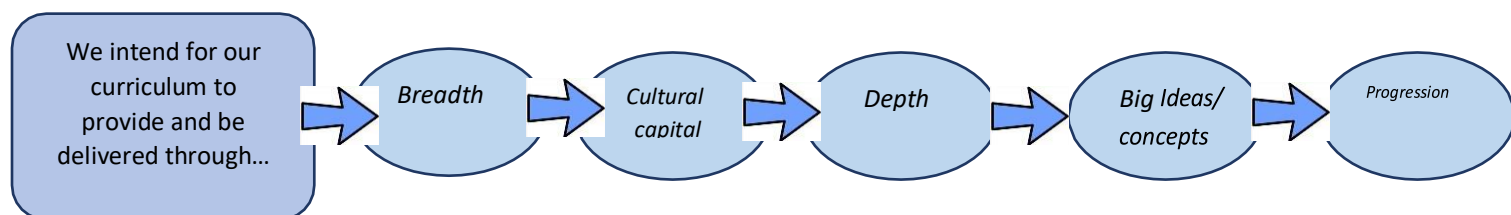
Part 1- What? How? Why?

In this policy we consider **what** children are taught in school, **how** they learn and **why** we have chosen to design our curriculum in the way we have.

The **what** part is driven by The National Primary Strategy, Excellence and Enjoyment, The National Curriculum, reading and research from professionals in the field of curriculum design and our own beliefs about what is important for the children at our schools to learn.

The **why** is in response to national, school and individual targets, and the need to address individual requirements of the whole child in order to develop positive attitudes, ensure children achieve their personal greatness and to raise standards. If we consider **how children learn** and respond to this in **how and what we teach**, we can then become successful in the **why**.

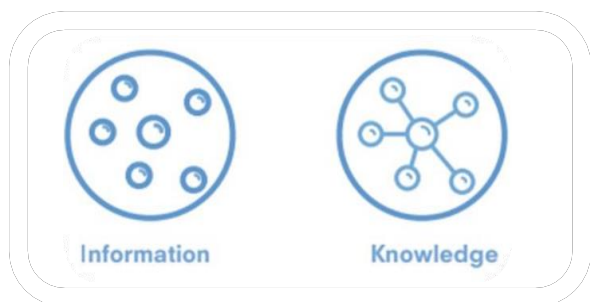
What do we believe is important in our curriculum?



Curriculum breadth is shaped by our curriculum drivers, cultural capital, subject topics and our ambition for students to study the best of what has been thought and said by many generations of academics and scholars.

Cultural capital gives our pupils the vital background knowledge required to be informed and thoughtful members of our community who understand and believe in British values.

Depth there is a great deal of material to be taught, and this often results in a curriculum that is, in William Schmidt's memorable phrase, 'a mile wide and an inch deep' (Schmidt, McKnight, & Raizen, 1997). It is vital to us that our children experience a curriculum that provides appropriate time for chunks of information to be synthesised into meaningful and linked knowledge.



We understand that learning is...

- a change in long-term memory
- knowing more and remembering more
- invisible in an individual lesson
- built over time

Big Ideas or concepts tie together the subject topics into meaningful schema. The same concepts are explored in a wide breadth of topics. Through this 'forwards-and-backwards engineering' of the curriculum, pupils return to the same concepts over and over, and gradually build understanding of them.

Progression Cognitive science tells us that working memory is limited and that cognitive load is too high if pupils are rushed through content. This limits the acquisition of long-term memory. Cognitive science also tells us that in order for pupils to become creative thinkers, or have a greater depth of understanding, they must first master the basics, which takes time. Our curriculum outlines the journey we undertake to improve in a subject, emphasising the importance of building knowledge progressively. By learning the core knowledge specified, they will be well-equipped to build on this as they advance through the curriculum. Effective progression requires a whole-school vision, making meaningful connections across different areas of learning. Given the opportunity cost—recognising that not everything can be taught—it is crucial to focus on what is most important for each subject. This involves carefully sequencing the curriculum to ensure that knowledge is built upon systematically over time.

How does our practice ensure we meet our aims?

Consider Cognitive Load Theory to Optimise Learning

This includes:

- Understanding the limitations of working memory and structuring lessons to minimise unnecessary cognitive load, ensuring that students can focus on the essential aspects of learning.
- Breaking down complex information into manageable chunks, scaffolding instruction to support gradual learning progression.
- Using clear, concise instructions and visual aids to reduce cognitive overload, allowing students to process and retain information more effectively.
- Designing learning activities that encourage deep processing without overwhelming students, thus enhancing their ability to understand and apply knowledge.
- Encouraging active engagement with the material through interactive lessons that reinforce learning while respecting the cognitive constraints of each learner.

Leverage Long-Term Memory and Retrieval Practice

This includes:

- Recognising the importance of long-term memory in securing knowledge and building upon it over time, ensuring a solid foundation for future learning.
- Integrating regular retrieval practice into lessons to help students consolidate their learning and improve memory

retention.

- Creating opportunities for spaced repetition, allowing students to revisit and reinforce key concepts throughout the academic year.
- Designing assessments and activities that require students to recall information from memory, thereby strengthening their understanding and ability to apply knowledge in different contexts.
- Encouraging students to connect new learning to prior knowledge, facilitating the development of well-structured and easily accessible memory networks.

Set high expectations and give every learner confidence they can succeed

This includes:

- Demonstrating a commitment to every learner's success, making them feel included, valued and secure
- Raising learners' aspirations and the effort they put into learning, engaging, where appropriate, the active support of parents and carers
- The curriculum celebrating the diversity and utilises the skills, knowledge and cultural wealth of the community while supporting the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Establish what learners already know and build on it

This includes:

- Setting clear and appropriate learning goals, explaining them, and making every learning experience count
- Creating secure foundations for subsequent learning
- Ensuring our curriculum is broad and balanced, helping pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their education
- Identifying individualised learning needs and adapting the curriculum to support pupils using available resources
- Maintaining subject focus while delivering subjects as part of a topic
- Continually exposing the children to new vocabulary
- Establishing links with Pre-schools, other agencies such as SEND teams, Health, Targeted Support and the Customer Service Team (Safeguarding), Secondary Schools and other members of the Community

Expect mass participation in lessons to ensure that all children are thinking.

This includes establishing strategies such as:

- No hands up
- Wait time
- Cold calling
- Think, pair, share and cold calling
- Mini-whiteboards

Structure and pace the learning experience to make it challenging and enjoyable

This includes:

- Using teaching methods that reflect the material to be learned, matching the maturity of the learners and their learning preferences, and involving high levels of time on task
- Explicit teaching to enable pupils to focus on important information without distraction
- Opportunities for retrieval to aid pupils in encoding knowledge and developing schema
- Making a creative use of the range of learning opportunities available, within and beyond the classroom, including ICT
- Experiencing a rich, creative, well-planned and well-resourced curriculum of learning activities, which promotes and achieves excellence
- Cross-curricular learning, which is vital in establishing depth in knowledge, understanding and skills

Inspire learning through passion for the subject

This includes:

- Bringing the subject alive
- Making it relevant to learners' wider goals and concerns
- Teachers having deep knowledge of the subjects they teach
- Specialists delivering some areas of the curriculum
- Developing planning through debate, collaboration and continually reviewing and reflecting upon it
- Maintaining strong links with the church and local community
- Inspiring pupils so that they are engaged and eager to learn

Broaden children's life chances through a robust reading curriculum and teaching of reading

This includes:

- Delivering a rigorous and dynamic systematic synthetic phonics programme with a whole-school approach to teaching early reading and writing
- Investment in high quality training and ongoing professional development
- Giving children access to high quality reading material throughout the curriculum

Broaden children's life chances through expanding their vocabulary

This includes:

- Acknowledging the different experiences that children enter school with
- Understanding that deliberately building vocabulary is one of the most important things we can do as teachers in school
- Systematically working to close the gap between the 'word poor' and 'word rich' through academy wide practices

Make individuals active partners in their learning

This includes:

- Building respectful teacher-learner relationships that take learners' views and experience fully into account, as well as data on their performance
- Using assessment for learning to help learners assess their work, reflect on how they learn, and inform subsequent planning and practice
- Teaching and learning in a clean, safe, enjoyable and stimulating environment, which is cared for, and valued by all
- Producing newsletters to keep parents and carers informed about events and learning taking place within school
- Pupils being encouraged to continue their learning at home through creative homework tasks linked to their topic

Develop 'Character Education' through the enhancement of learning skills and personal qualities

This includes:

- Helping pupil to understand how they can reach 'the best they can' UNICEF Article 29
- Developing the ability to think systematically, manage information, learn from others and help others learn
- Developing confidence, self-discipline, resilience and an understanding of the learning process, including elements of executive function
- Christian teaching, worship and values establishing an ethos of co-operation and care, where everyone is willing to listen and where everyone expects the same high standard of respect and behaviour
- Us all working in partnership, valuing and respecting each other, understanding our different responsibilities and all working towards the task of continual improvement
- Recognising that each person is unique and has equal rights within a setting of tolerance and understanding

To effectively develop spirituality

This includes:

- The curriculum acting as a vehicle to enable pupils to cultivate spirituality
- Over time, children will develop a growing foundation of spiritual awareness through carefully chosen experiences and reflections
- Developing spirituality through a whole school vision, creating a culture that values and promotes spiritual growth
- A carefully sequenced curriculum to ensure spiritual opportunities are not left to chance

Develop creativity within learning

This includes:

- Staff and pupils being given the encouragement, guidance and support to think and perform creatively
- Teachers developing the confidence to think creatively and where appropriate have the courage to go beyond the basic parameters of Government strategies.
- Using ICT to support teaching and engage pupils
- Pupils using and being offered a variety of ways to record their learning
- Pupils participating in role play and drama used to develop knowledge and understanding through speaking and listening
- Pupils participating in outdoor learning
- Pupils being given opportunities to participate in learning out of the classroom through activities such as performances, theatre and concert visits, clubs, sport and art enrichment

Implementation **Part 2-our approach**

Where does the National curriculum fit in?

The National Curriculum outlines objectives for each year group that will provide pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be well educated citizens. The objectives set in this curriculum ensure that children are working to the national standard and being continually supported and challenged to achieve their best in every year group across school. However, the National Curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. It provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers develop exciting and stimulating lessons with the understanding that they have the freedom to extend beyond the National Curriculum specifications.

Our curriculum, as a whole, is a vehicle to helping us achieve our vision and the subject element is delivered through well-sequenced, comprehensive and engaging units. Some of these units are discrete while others are complementary and form topics within each year group.

Just a few examples are...

- *Once upon a time...*
- *That's not my mummy!*
- *Into the Unknown*

They often contain a:

Stunning start

Marvellous middle

Fabulous finale



This is created through visits out, visitors into school, role play, theme days and many more creative and imaginative activities, which help deepen and strengthen learning throughout a topic, building a schema upon skills and knowledge from previous years.

Creating a Learning Culture

The Learning Environment

We see the physical environment and routines as vital to effective Learning and Teaching, to promote high standards and independent learning. The Accelerated Learning Cycle creates an all-embracing teaching and learning environment which includes:

1. The physical environment:	2. The affective environment:	3. The learning environment:
Temperature	Good relationships	Physical organisation
Lighting	High self-esteem	Resource provision
Nutrition	Positive behaviour strategies	Resource accessibility
Hydration	High expectations	Display
Ventilation	Promotion of positive well-being	Use of ICT

Teaching Strategies (Quality First Teaching)

Each of us is unique in the way we experience life and respond to events. There are as many different ways of learning as there are children in our classroom. Because of this we need to use a range of teaching methods to try and ensure 'personalised learning'. We are committed to 'Quality First teaching', where we meet the needs of every child.

and around the school. Everywhere should be kept tidy and litter free at all times and there are opportunities for recycling in school. The school should be checked daily and any lost property should be put in the lost property box. Nothing should be left on the cloakroom floor. All equipment must be returned to its appropriate place and all kit bags hung on pegs or placed in lockers.

Staff CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

We recognise that we too are life-long learners. In order to move forward we must often stand back, review and consider different ideas and methods. This may do little more than raise awareness but it also helps to broaden our outlook and promote positive thinking. It is often said that no-one has a new idea - they are recycled, shared or simply stolen! However, through professional development we ensure that they are never lost. In acknowledging this we:-

- attend courses, meetings and workshops
- keep abreast of new development
- plan in-service days
- liaise with governors/trustees
- share with all colleagues
- work with 'experts' across our Trust, Teaching School Alliance, family of schools and outside sources

The SLT are committed to:

1. Disseminating CPD materials effectively and ensuring a coordinated approach for embedding excellent learning and teaching in school
2. Deploying staff resources to optimum effect and devoting the necessary time needed to make best use of initiatives
3. Establishing learning communities to exchange best practice on learning and teaching and maximise the impact of initiatives within the school and across other schools

Curriculum planning

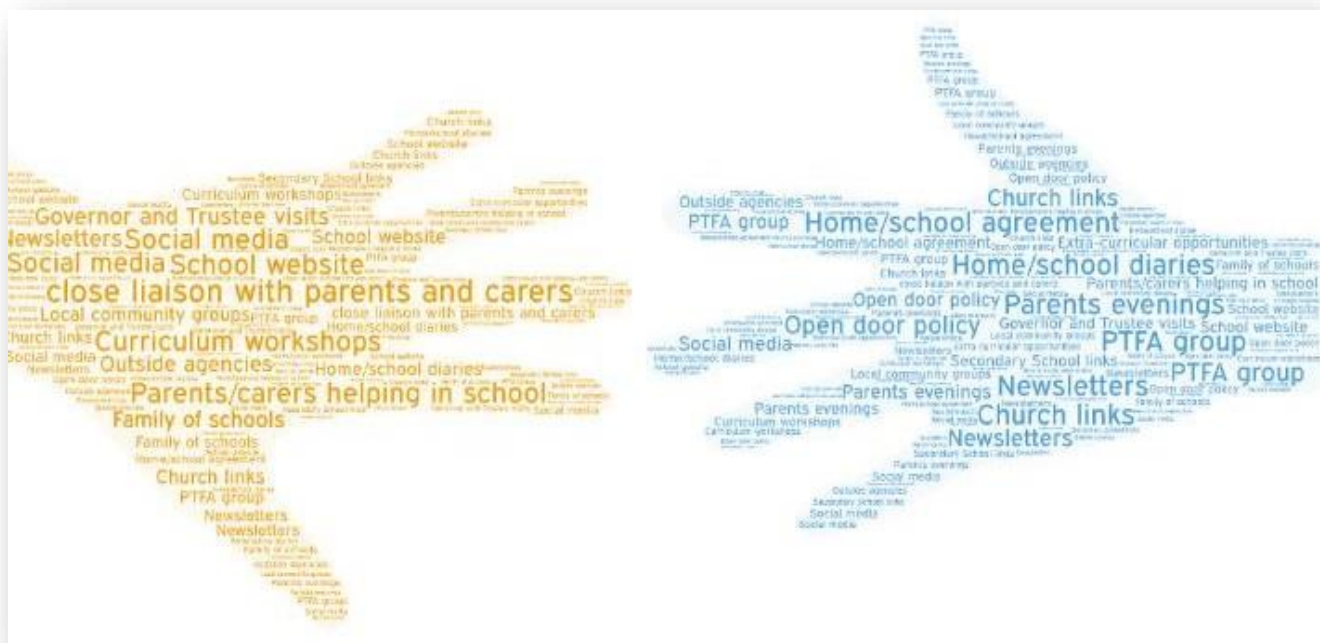
Each year group in our Trust has an overarching curriculum map which outlines the curriculum for the year. Medium plans clearly outline the carefully sequenced units within each subject and teaching slides across the curriculum include aspects of learning and teaching found to be successful.

Key aspects of our planning include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Scaffolding | Ownership by learner / learning objectives and outcomes |
| • Small steps to support working memory | retrieval quizzes |
| • Opportunities for rehearsal | Modelling |
| • Flexibility | Possible misconceptions |
| • Illustrations, examples, analogies | Challenge |
| • Examples an non-examples | SEND |
| • Able and talented | Oracy |
| • LSA support | Sustainable/Eco work |
| • Cross-curricular links | Homework |
| • ICT | Links to Christian Values |
| • Links to Unicef | Outdoor learning opportunities |
| • Thinking skills | Curricular target setting |
| • Creativity | Spirituality |

School Community

In order for children to learn effectively they must be supported not just by the school but by their family and community. We recognise the need for real partnership if we are to maximise children's development. We practice this through:



Impact

The curriculum content that our pupils engage in is strong with clear knowledge and skills embedded and as a result children achieve their best. Pupils' work across the curriculum is of a consistently high quality.

Pupils attainment and achievement is monitored through:

- making accurate assessment of a pupil when they enter school
- consistent and accurate tracking of pupils
- setting challenging targets for pupils
- identify trends in data and acting upon this to raise our pupils' attainment further
- Pupils receiving accurate and helpful feedback from teachers on their progress and ways of improving their work
- Self and peer assessment

To ensure that pupils work across the curriculum is of a consistently high quality, a variety of structures and mechanisms are in place:

- Dynamic, imaginative leadership, encouraging everyone in the school to think deliberately about the curriculum and engage in debate about it
 - Appraisal and Professional Development meetings
 - Monitoring (**in a variety of forms**) by Executive Head Teacher, Head of School, SLT, Team Leaders, Subject Leaders
 - Subject Leaders self-evaluation and acting upon findings
 - Whole school staff meetings and Key Stage meetings
 - SLT meetings
 - Trustees/Governors
 - Analysis of assessment data
 - Questionnaires
 - Academy Improvement Plan
 - SEF
 - SIAMs

This policy is to be read alongside:

- Assessment policy
- Staff well-being policy
- Feedback policy
- SMSC policy
- Spirituality across the curriculum policy
- Character Education Statement
- Curriculum Statements
- Monitoring and Evaluation policy

As a RRS (Rights Respecting School – UNICEF) this policy upholds the following articles from the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child):

As a RRS (Rights Respecting School – UNICEF) this policy upholds the following articles from the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child):

- Article 2: Everyone has equal rights whatever their race, religion, ability, whatever they think or say or whatever their family.
- Article 28: Every child has the right to an education
- Article 29: Every child has the right to be the best they can.