

Curriculum Intent

At St Martha's, our curriculum is central to achieving our school vision:

"Our vision is to create a community based on Catholic faith and values where every child is empowered to be the best he or she can be, nurtured by outstanding teachers, staff and Governors."

We strive to provide our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum which is creative, inspiring and challenging, and also provides pupils with the knowledge and skills they need both now and in the future to become confident and successful lifelong learners.

We inspire and foster a love for learning through offering children new and exciting experiences both in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities. The broad range of sporting, artistic and academic opportunities on offer allows children to discover their unique gifts, talents and passions, which in turn build self-esteem, resilience and independence.

At St Martha's we have designed a thematic structure to our curriculum. We want pupils to feel confident to make links between the knowledge they are acquiring and to be able to use their skills to develop their understanding of key concepts and ideas. To this end we have designed a curriculum based around cross-curricular themes that change each term. These themes are interwoven into multiple subjects where natural connections can be made.

There is good evidence that teaching subject knowledge and skills as part of a wider theme-based curriculum allows pupils to make useful links between subjects and different areas of learning and also consolidate skills. We provide a knowledge-rich curriculum which is carefully designed to ensure pupils retain knowledge over the long term through careful sequencing, planning of spaced learning, revisiting key content and regular retrieval practice. Our thematic links are primarily history and geography although we believe that some subjects need to be taught discretely to maintain subject discipline and ensure pupils acquire the cultural capital they need, but this is organised flexibly based on the specific content at any given time.

Developing children's reading and spoken language is an integral aspect of teaching and learning across all subjects at St Martha's. Chances for pupils to read widely and explore vocabulary are embedded at any opportunity. Moreover, we aim to instil a love of reading in our pupils which will last a lifetime.

Through our curriculum we celebrate the diversity of our school community and enable all pupils to acquire the attitudes which give them the resilience to thrive through our curriculum. We also recognise the importance of each and every pupil acquiring the cultural capital they will need to thrive in the future. We inspire pupils to think like scientists, historians etc. by exploring examples of significant human creative and innovative thinking and achievements. Furthermore, it is of crucial importance that pupils can 'see themselves' in our curriculum, so we ensure the achievements of those from many different backgrounds are recognised.

At St Martha's we believe in order for all children to flourish and 'be the best that they can

be' they deserve to learn in a nurturing, safe and spiritual environment, routed in mutual respect. +

Curriculum Implementation

We ensure our curriculum intent is achieved through systematic and detailed curriculum plans for each subject, which clearly state the knowledge and skills that each child should acquire in each subject in each year.

Our curriculum has been designed so that children can remember more, learn more and do more so that information can be stored in long term memory. Therefore within each subject, units are carefully mapped to ensure coherence, progressive sequencing and clarity. Key concepts and ideas are revisited across subjects and over time. Blocking lessons is avoided in order to give pupils the spaced repetition they need to remember content over the long term. Teachers ensure that they give time regularly for the retrieval of previously learnt content.

Each subject has an intent statement to ensure all members of staff have a shared understanding of what we as a school are trying to achieve for our pupils in each subject. We are in the process of embedding a pedagogical model to support teachers in their planning.

For progress towards our areas of improvement from our most recent Ofsted, curriculum content and teaching approaches are subject specific, so pupils are clear on which discipline they are studying at any one time. That being said, links are made between subjects wherever possible, but not at the expense of pupils acquiring the key knowledge and cultural capital they need for future success.

Curriculum Impact

Where our curriculum is successful, pupils have acquired and remembered the knowledge and skills set out in our long-term plans. This can be measured through formal and informal testing, teacher assessments, observations and pupil voice.

Furthermore, a successful implementation of our curriculum should lead to sustained mastery. Procedural knowledge should be fluent, and pupils will be able to use their knowledge to make connections, explore, innovate and create.

Personal development is a key intent of our curriculum. Pupils will live out the Gospel values in their words and actions. They will love reading and learning, be confident, ambitious and creative. They will be resilient and unafraid of making mistakes. Our pupils will be aware of their feelings, how they can impact on their behaviour and self-regulation strategies.

Our curriculum will be reviewed annually to adapt to the changing needs of our school community.