



## ST MARIE'S SCHOOL, A Catholic Voluntary Academy

### **Curriculum Policy**

Our School  
Mission Statement

Each child has a divine beginning and an eternal  
destiny.  
We help him/her on that journey.

This Curriculum Policy has been approved and adopted by the Academy Trust Company on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and will be reviewed in April 2020.

Signed by Director/Company Secretary of the Academy Trust Company:

Signed by Principal/Headteacher:

The curriculum, in its fullest sense, firmly underpins the Vision and Mission statements, from which a culture and ethos is generated that supports the spiritual development of all involved in the community.

The school is committed to ensuring that the curriculum is broad and balanced, in order that the needs of all children are provided for, whatever their gifts and talents.

We believe that intelligence is multi-faceted, and children learn in different ways; the curriculum must support this.

In the daily living out of our Catholic faith, we aim to ensure that religious education and spiritual development will permeate every aspect of the curriculum, so that it is explicit and implicit within the taught curriculum. Rooted in prayer and lived out in the daily life of the school, the children are supported, through the curriculum, to grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God and each other.

The curriculum aims to meet the needs of all children whatever their individual requirements.

#### **Aims:**

As a Catholic School we aim...

- to build a community based on Gospel values: love for God, love for one another, and respect for oneself, others and all of creation;
- to place **Jesus Christ** at the centre of our school life, in our relationships with each other, in our work and play, in all that we try to do.
- to provide the children who attend St Marie's School with an education that will fulfil their

- academic achievement and spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development.
- to help our children to strive for the highest academic standards.
- to encourage our children to think for themselves, to have confidence and to make informed choices.
- to embed in each child a love of learning that will last a lifetime; to experience excitement in discovery and wonder in the world that God has created;
- to help each child acquire knowledge, understanding and skills from a range of curriculum experiences
- to encourage children to respect and tolerate each other, to realise that everyone is equal and must be treated with dignity;
- to help children to appreciate their achievements and efforts, and those of others, through giving and receiving praise and recognition;
- to help our children develop a concern for others, particularly those less fortunate and needy.

### **We achieve these Aims by:**

- recognising that each child is a unique individual; ready to discover and develop his or her own talents and to share them with their fellow members in God's family;
- ensuring that adults provide good role models for our children, witnesses to the message of the gospel;
- recognising the importance of working in partnership with parents;
- harnessing the rich diversity of our school community;
- placing emphasis on the development of a positive attitude to learning from which creativity, originality and freedom of expression may develop and grow;
- giving all children, whatever their abilities, appropriate challenge and support in their learning;
- promoting forgiveness and reconciliation, enabling children to learn through their 'mistakes';
- expecting children and adults to show consideration for each other through courtesy, respect and thoughtfulness;
- through creating a happy learning atmosphere, enjoyed by staff and children, so that our children emerge satisfied and stimulated young people, curious for knowledge and eager for life.

### **Curriculum**

The curriculum forms the basis for our learning and the experiences our children enjoy during their time at St Marie's Primary School.

We place a high priority on teaching children to read and write and have a good understanding of mathematics. In order to ensure children enjoy their learning, teachers use cross curricular links when planning the curriculum, wherever relevant. We know that children learn best when they are engaged in learning.

The Core subjects of the National Curriculum – English, Maths, Science, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education (PE), including swimming, computing and French (at key stage 2) are taught through a topic based cross-curricular approach. Topics are taught in an engaging and relevant way and we have the highest expectations in all subjects. Please see individual class curriculum newsletters for further detail about the content in these areas.

Religious Education is taught through use of the “Come and See” scheme of work, within a Catholic context.

At St Marie's Primary School we use the Read, Write Inc. (RWI) programme to teach phonics in KS1. This is a systematic teaching of synthetic phonics and is a highly successful way of developing children's reading, spelling and language.

Year 2 children follow the English Mastery programme. This approach is built around using high quality texts linked to the class topics, through which all reading, grammar and writing is taught.

In Reception and Year 1 we follow the ARK mastery approach to teaching mathematics. This means that we are aiming to develop a deep, long-term understanding of the subject rather than teaching children to learn procedures by rote. At the heart of a mastery approach is the belief that every child is capable of achieving. The Ark Mathematics Mastery programme will continue to feed up through the school.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure that children develop the skills they need to become confident, self motivated learners, who can engage with and solve challenges innovatively. The pupils are ensured quality access to the whole curriculum so that they may learn effectively, make progress and attain levels in line with, or better than, their prior attainment. Pupils' progress is tracked carefully to ensure that all pupils can achieve their potential, and intervention programmes are used where appropriate to accelerate progress.

Learning takes place in a stimulating environment supported by a variety of experiences, including the full use of the whole school environment, educational visits and the expertise and knowledge of the wider community.

The curriculum is extended in a number of ways:

- Peripatetic Music Lessons
- School Day Visits
- Residential Visits
- Themed Curriculum Days
- Visiting speakers
- Links with our local, umbrella, catholic, secondary schools and universities
- Breakfast and After School Clubs

Statutory assessment is carried out in line with national guidelines: The Phonics Screening Check at the end of Year 1, and formal assessment tests will take place in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) in Years 2 and 6 in the summer term. The school uses a range of assessments throughout the school to monitor progress and to be able to feed back to parents.

Within our curriculum, we realise our vision statement:

**“Through working together, loving each other and always doing our best, at St Marie’s, we will all become the amazing, unique individuals God wants us to be.”**