

St Mark's Primary School



A caring place to learn, play and grow

# St. Mark's C.E. Primary School

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## CURRICULUM POLICY

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# St. Mark's Church of England Primary School

## A caring place to learn, play and grow

### CURRICULUM POLICY

#### VISION

The governors and staff at St. Mark's believe that all children should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We believe equally that it is the package of all school related activities that ensures we are able to provide for the individual needs and potential of each child.

**Our core vision is to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in our children so they can become successful adults by:**

- ensuring every child learns at their maximum potential
- promoting the values and attitudes (spiritual, moral, cultural) and physical development of all our children
- preparing the children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in terms of being healthy, staying safe, having a thirst for knowledge and new skills, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being

#### VISION INTO PRACTICE

We do this through:

- the delivery of our **6R's curriculum** (Nursery to Year 6), the **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum** (Nursery and Reception), the **National Curriculum** (Year 1 to Year 6) and as many planned and unplanned additional experiences that we can – all tailored to reflect the needs and interests of the child, group or class of children we are teaching
- the delivery of our **PSCHE curriculum** that is tailored to the context of our children
- the delivery of the Local Authority **Religious Education curriculum** and our **Collective Worship** programme
- the provision of the **right learning environment** for the child, group, class of children we are teaching
- building systematically on children's existing knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes
- **tracking the progress** of children with their 6R's skills, curriculum knowledge, understanding and skills in order to challenge, provide additional support

#### 6 R's curriculum

At St. Mark's, we believe that there are a range of skills necessary for effective learning and a successful adult life. Some children appear to acquire these skills with ease, whilst others struggle. We believe that it is our responsibility to help all children develop their understanding of learning and enable them to become effective and lifelong learners through the specific teaching of these skills.

We have called these skills the 6R's. These skills are:

- Resourcefulness
- Resilience
- Responsibility
- Reflection
- Relationships
- Responsiveness

For each of the above skills, we have produced an objective based curriculum that is progressional across the year groups from YN – Y6. This forms the 6R's scheme of work which will be used as a planning tool as well as an assessment tool. It is expected that every lesson will support the development of the 6R's alongside the National Curriculum objectives. The scheme is used as a tool to pinpoint where a child may have a particular aptitude or problem. These are identified with parents on Parent's evening and in the annual report.

#### Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)

This curriculum is developed within the school by the Pastoral Leader and covers health, relationships and sex education, drug education, e-safety, anti-bullying, racism and citizenship. This is not statutory but forms an integral part of the curriculum at St. Mark's.

#### Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

RSE is taught as part of the PSCHE curriculum at a level appropriate to the children's age following the Stockport Spiral Curriculum. A copy of the RSE policy is available on our website.

RSE is taught across all age groups and in Year 5 the children receive sex education teaching. The sessions are delivered by teachers with some sessions run as whole class sessions and others as single-sex sessions as appropriate.

Parents are invited into school prior to these sessions to find out what the children will be learning and watching and also the manner in which the lessons will be conducted. Parents are entitled to withdraw children from receiving sex education.

### **Religious Education and Collective Worship**

Religious Education is a compulsory subject and is taught as part of the basic curriculum. It is governed by the agreed syllabus for Stockport. The syllabus covers Christianity and other World faiths. The balance of teaching ensures the majority of the time is allocated to Christianity. The aim of Religious Education in Stockport is to enable children to understand and reflect on religious and spiritual beliefs and practices as well as the provision of opportunities for children to explore and express their own responses and personal beliefs.

Collective worship is held on a daily basis for the whole school or groups within the school eg classes, key stages. The worship is of a mostly Christian nature. Weekly, our Vicar will lead assembly to develop the children's appreciation of the work of Christians. Links with St. Mark's Church are maintained with the Vicar and Curate through the Pastoral and RE/Collective Worship leaders. St. Mark's Church is used as a venue for special services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest times and also during Church Week. The 1988 Education Reform Act continues to allow parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Similarly, specific Church of England teaching may be given for not more than two periods per week if parents so request. Requests for withdrawal should be directed to the Head who will approach the school's Foundation Governors.

### **The National Curriculum**

- The school complies with DfE regulations with regard to the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum.
- In our school it covers three 'Stages':
  - **Foundation Stage** for 3 – 5 year olds (Nursery and Reception)
  - **Key Stage 1** for 5 – 7 years (Infants)
  - **Key Stage 2** **Lower Key Stage 2** for 7 – 9 years (Juniors)  
**Upper Key Stage 2 for 9 – 11 years**(Juniors)
- We organise the curriculum within year group related blocked and linked units of work (often science/ history/ geography led) as laid out in our **Long Term Plan overview**. For some subject areas this is organised in a 2 year cycle to accommodate our mixed age class structure.
- These blocks of work will be the curriculum content through which the **subject specific age related key skills** are taught,
- This overview is then used by individual class teachers to develop their **termly/ half termly topic plans** which give a broad indication of what is planned to be taught within each curriculum area, making as many **cross-curricular links** as possible. **Literacy must be threaded across the curriculum as much as possible.**
- **Love of Reading** is a high priority – the use of the library, weekly, is facilitated to develop a love of books, along with a non-negotiable expectation that dedicated reading time is provided at least 3 times a week.
- The finer detail of planning a topic will come from **collaboration** with the children so the specifics of the topic will then be **co-constructed**.

### **How our curriculum is taught**

- Teaching within each class involves direct whole class teaching, group work and opportunities for paired and individual work – balance between direct teaching and child-led learning
- There are individual plans for children who are experiencing behaviour/ learning problems ranging from where the learning will take place, what approach will be taken and how much 1-1 support is provided
- **Phonics is taught in ability groups.**
- **Groupings within the classroom will vary from subject to subject and make-up of the class rather than the preferred teaching style of a teacher**
- Sometimes the children are taught by subject specialists eg music, art, Spanish, ICT, PE. These sessions provide valuable learning experiences for the children

### **When it is taught**

- Classroom teachers are responsible for organizing the weekly teaching for the class. Some subjects are taught daily such as English and Maths, and others are generally taught weekly such as science (2hrs KS2; 1.5 hrs KS1), PSHE, PE, and RE. The provision is related to the needs of the class.
- ICT skills are taught as they are required whereas programming will be delivered as a discrete topic. E-safety is also delivered as a discrete topic and at every opportunity that naturally arises.
- Other subjects such as history, geography, design and technology, music and art and design may be taught in blocks and are topic related where possible..
- English should be taught throughout the curriculum, particularly in topic. This standard of English in topic work must be of the same standard as it is in English books.

**EAL**

For children whose first language is not English, support and advice is sought by the school from the Stockport Language Development Unit. Advice is given to the class teachers for how to enable the children to access the curriculum. A member of the Stockport Ethnic Diversity Service may work directly with the child but this service would be provided at the discretion of the Local Authority and after an initial assessment, reviewed termly

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Our aim is to equip our children with an awareness of our diverse society and to appreciate the value of difference. By creating a positive and inclusive ethos, based on mutual respect for diversity and showing commitment to challenging and preventing inequality, we commit to create an atmosphere where each child is able to achieve their full potential and is fully prepared to take their place in the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society in which we live. A whole school approach is essential.