



St. Andrew's CofE Primary School



Curriculum Policy

Summer 2019

	June 2019
Employees were consulted on this document:	Date:.....
The Policy was formally adopted by the Trust on:	Date:.....

Our Mission Statement

'St. Andrew's aims high, promoting a love of life and learning in all its pupils. We take care of each other, working in partnership with families, the Church and the wider community.'

Introduction

St. Andrew's curriculum aims to engage and excite all children with a rigorous design that allows for deep learning and exploration. We strive for lessons to be inclusive yet challenging, whilst promoting a love of learning and life for all. **Our learning behaviours** promote lifelong skills, both holistically, socially and those related to achievement:

Work Hard and Concentrate

Improve

Don't Give Up

Respect Yourself and Others

Try New Things

Imagine

Aims

To educate for Life in All its Fullness; through the curriculum, children will be encouraged to develop:

- Appreciation of possibilities surrounding the arts, technology and outdoor Learning – 'Cultural Capital'
- Recognition of learning behaviours, aspirations and achievement by celebrating their own success and the success of others
- Wise, lively and enquiring minds through 'Big Questions', investigating and making rational decisions
- Interests and skills, including physical activity, which will enable them to access life chances and enjoy and make the best use of their time both in and out of school
- Effective communication skills
- Knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the World in which they live
- Personal, spiritual and moral values and respect for others, their beliefs and the environment
- Recognition of the contribution of science, maths and technology to their quality of life
- An understanding of how nurturing academic habits independently and collaboratively leads to purposeful activity which continues throughout life
- Have high aspirations and value excellence in all things
- An ability to make links across the curriculum and transfer knowledge and skills effectively allowing for deep learning.

Practice at St. Andrew's

All children follow the statutory requirements of the EYFS Curriculum in the Foundation Stage. Cross-curricular opportunities are given wherever possible to enhance children's knowledge and understanding with values based Education at the heart of our approach. The basis for our schemes of work are the **National Curriculum** requirements; these form a starting point from which to create a curriculum that meets the needs of our children. We invest in other commercial schemes where we have assessed them to be of benefit to progress and achievement (e.g. the phonics programme of Read Write Inc). Teachers monitor and assess children's achievement and progress. This is overseen by the SLT.

Creativity and education for the Fullness of Life are high on the school's agenda as a way of making learning meaningful to all our pupils. In every year group, there is one annual child initiated topic in which children have the opportunity to plan their learning. Topics are driven by a focus on either science, history or geography. Half termly topics (although time coverage occasionally varies) ensures a fresh stimulus and focus every few weeks providing interest and motivation. St Andrew's recognises the central role of parents in their child's education. Planned termly **shared learning sessions** are designed each term for parents/carers to work with their children in class. We worked on the format of these with the Parent Consultation Group.

As a Church school we use the Understanding Christianity material and at present for other faiths, the Essex Explore Scheme of Work, and regularly visit the Church to participate in services to celebrate or mark a Christian event. The Church Community visit school weekly during worship, to further develop children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural education. The work they do is largely linked to Christian beliefs and follows the Values Collective Worship of the school. We also offer the Open the Book scheme and CYP visits enrich our provision. The Headteacher plans for Collective Worship across the Trust.

We believe that the children in our school have a lot to learn from each other. On occasion children mix with different year groups across the school to develop caring and collaborative relationships. Children with brothers and sisters in the school often work with their siblings during this time. Older children are encouraged to help and support younger children, whilst younger children thrive on the challenge of working with older members of the school community.

Enrichment Possibilities – Memorable Moments

We aim to create a memorable primary experience for our children. Our school seeks every opportunity to broaden and enhance the children's learning experience through topic enrichment possibilities. These opportunities include those which deliver cultural Capital. Each term we plan at least one first-hand learning experience; these might be in the form of a visit or visitor into school. We also have termly productions, ensuring that children have the opportunity to perform in a play every year. To enhance this we host regular theatre group and author visits.

We have also developed our very own 50 things to do during my primary years list in conjunction with our Parent Consultation Group.

We make great use of our Forest Schools provision on a site based at The Ramsey Academy, and we will offer regular sessions for EYFS and curriculum based sessions for other year groups.

We include a residential trip to PGL at Caythorpe Court in September for our Y6. Events vary from year to year and are planned in line with the school improvement plan or the national/international/local community calendar.

All Year 5 children have the opportunity to learn to play the cornet. We can provide this because we have a whole class set of instruments and employ a music specialist to take this class. In Year 3 this is offered for the recorder. **An Artist in Residence** visits annually to develop and inspire children's artistic talents, the theme of this is led by our distinctive Church School Character. Children have the opportunity to participate in the National Gallery's '**Take One Picture**' scheme to inspire cross curricular work. This rotates with '**Easter Enterprise**', developing children's entrepreneurial skills.

PE provision has long been strength in the school and we have a specialist teacher and HLTA who make up our PE Team. The school provides many out of school opportunities to get active and experience the thrills of competition. This area is led by a PE specialist and the school uses the Sports Funding Grant to aid this high quality provision.

Each class has an interactive whiteboard and recently we have heavily invested in **ICT** and the school now has a set of LearnPads and Storm mini laptops. These investments have been made to ensure our pupils are equipped for the technology rich world we live in. The children often say coding is their favorite area of learning.

Extra curricular clubs

The school also has a well organised set of lunchtime and after school clubs. These are run by staff and some outside agencies and we try to ensure access for all. Children have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of activities with children from other classes and other year groups. These develop physical, musical and artistic abilities.

We feel that children learn best when they have the opportunity to study in depth and apply the skills they have learnt in different subjects. We aim to make these weeks exciting and motivating by providing opportunities for all children including those with SEN and the gifted or talented to have greater time to put their learning into a meaningful context. During these weeks the school places great emphasis on using the wider community as well as professional and specialist help.

Equality and Inclusion statement

We aim to create a happy, safe and secure environment, where members of our school community are healthy, enjoy learning, achieve their potential, respect and value each other and themselves.

As an educationally inclusive school the teaching and learning achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matters. We take account of all pupils' varied life

experiences and needs, providing equal opportunities for all pupils, whatever their age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, attainment and background.
(Taking account of the Equality Act 2010)

Personal Social Health Education, Citizenship and Philosophy for Children

The school includes Citizenship in its wider curriculum by preparing the pupils to take an active role as citizens and develop a sense of belonging to various groups and communities. This is part of the PSHE curriculum.

Trustees have an agreed policy for sex and relationships education, details of which can be found on our website. Our philosophy curriculum uses children's literature to explore 'Big Questions'.

Reference also needs to be made to:

- Equality and Diversity policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- RE policy;
- Gifted, Talented and More Able Child policy;
- Special Educational Needs policy;
- Curriculum Subject policies;
- Homework policy
- Marking and feedback policy;
- PSHE policy.