

St Ethelbert's Intent, Implementation and Impact

Overview of the Curriculum

The curriculum was reviewed during the spring and summer term of 2023 and we identified that our children respond better to discrete subjects to generate interest. In September 2023, we implemented our new curriculum which is delivered through engaging and exciting discrete subjects of English, Phonics, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, History, Geography, Music, Art and Design, Design and Technology, Computing, Physical Education, RHE and French. This ensures we cover the breadth and depth of the skills and knowledge from the National Curriculum. We have designed our new curriculum with fresh and relevant links to our local community to specifically meet the needs of our children.

St Ethelbert's Curriculum Intent

At St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, our intention is for every child to fulfill their academic, social, behavioural and emotional potential in the surroundings of a Catholic community, and in which each individual shares or respects the Catholic Church and Christian way of Life.

We have high expectations for all and want every pupil to become a responsible citizen, a sophisticated learner and a confident individual. We aim to achieve this by providing a stimulating education, which nurtures and enables children to reach their full potential whilst igniting in them, the light of Christ. Our curriculum is our most important tool in developing children more broadly, supporting their creative and sporting aspirations and enabling children to grow up spiritually in the context of our strong Christian culture. We help children to build a moral foundation through the explicit teaching of Christian values that are compatible with modern British values, in order that they develop qualities such as respect, compassion, tolerance and forgiveness. Activities are designed to build confidence and self-esteem, which in turn will support children's mental health and wellbeing. The curriculum celebrates their achievements and challenges them to be the best they can be in all that they do.

At St Ethelbert's, we believe that an aspiring, exciting curriculum is the key to transforming children's lives and developing them into lifelong learners. Our school values of Inclusion, Knowledge and Thoughtfulness are woven into the curriculum while we relate it as much as we can to the local community that we live in. Our value of knowledge reminds everyone that we never stop learning; our curriculum is broad and balanced to enable curiosity and a love of learning, equipping children with the skills, values, and attitudes to make them very well prepared for the next stage of their education. We build the foundations to prepare them for modern Britain and the wider world.

Our leaders and teachers have designed our curriculum so there are opportunities to acquire deep and meaningful knowledge and explore a broad range of skills to apply this knowledge. The knowledge and concepts children acquire through our curriculum are powerful and planned in a systematic way. Teachers constantly question the purpose and value of what they are teaching and how learning is structured and reinforced through the accumulation of related concepts. The more children know, the more they can build on this foundation with future learning. Our curriculum recognises that children learn best when they are actively engaged, can make links in their learning and are given opportunities to talk about and apply their learning in different contexts. In addition to meeting all statutory requirements and challenge, our curriculum is contextualised and learning is enriched through the arts and visits to places of interest.

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Our curriculum is designed to develop children's character and shape how they see and interact with the world. Through exposure to diversity and cultures from around the world, children learn the importance of inclusivity, diversity and respect for all.

St Ethelbert's Curriculum Implementation

We have designed our curriculum to meet the needs and the interests of the children and families who are part of our community. The curriculum is fluid and is reshaped when necessary to include, value and educate the community we serve. Our curriculum supports children to be happy in their learning and helps them strive to achieve the challenging targets we set for them. It is broad and balanced and inspires children to question and investigate the world around them. It allows them to deepen their knowledge and interests across the range of subjects that we study.

We provide an inclusive environment where all learners will enjoy their education and make good progress. Pupils at all levels are helped and encouraged to achieve their potential. We plan our curriculum to provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident, successful learners with high aspirations. The curriculum is delivered in partnership with parents and families. There is a clear approach to learning at home, which focuses on developing reading fluency and understanding. A flexible approach to home-learning also reinforces learning in phonics, spelling and multiplication tables.

Our children are taught the correct technical vocabulary, allowing them to know more and remember more. At St Ethelbert's, we plan language and key terms within each subject, which is shown on the curriculum maps; key vocabulary will be pre-taught, revisited and extended as children progress through the year groups. The ability to read fluently and understand a range of texts is essential for all future learning. Therefore, an emphasis on reading for both pleasure and information underpins the whole curriculum. We develop our curriculum to ensure thorough coverage, progression and depth of understanding. We aim to provide pupils with memorable experiences, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. A primary focus of our curriculum is to develop in children a lifelong love of learning, raise their aspirations and encourage a sense of pride in achievement.

In order to support progression and assessment, we teach discrete subjects. We are drawing upon and responding to the traditions of individual academic disciplines. We use carefully selected published schemes and programmes in some subjects such as Design Technology and Computing. However, in other subjects we have designed our own bespoke plans e.g. Music is led by a teacher who has a degree in music, French is led by a member of staff who speaks and writes fluent French. We want to enable creativity amongst our teachers so they can plan their lessons, which best suit their children as opposed to following a scheme of work. This structure ensures fidelity, consistency in provision and delivery across the school and helps to ensure that children work through a progressive sequence of learning within and across year groups. The key schemes and programmes that we buy into and deliver across the school are: Times tables Rock Stars, Spelling Shed, Little Wandle Letter and Sounds, White Rose and Accelerated Reader.

In order to meet pupils' individual needs, teachers use assessment to inform planning and raise pupils' awareness of their next steps in learning in all subjects. We complete summative data in all subjects, three times a year. We also formatively assess using live-marking and feedback during lessons, which allows the opportunity for quick intervention to address errors or misconceptions. We also complete cold and hot mind maps in each subject, each term to record children's baseline knowledge compared to their outcomes.

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St Ethelbert's Curriculum Impact

As children reach the end of Key Stage 2 at St Ethelbert's School, children will be confident within each academic subject because they will have developed knowledge, skills and understanding within a coherent structure. They will have been exposed to subject-specific technical vocabulary at key times in a planned, coherent and organised way. Explicit teaching and repetition of key vocabulary and concepts will provide a structure for future learning, ensuring that pupils are ready for learning in the next stage of their education. This confidence will extend across a broad range of subjects, allowing for flexible learning in the future. Children will develop curiosity and a desire to acquire knowledge and experience the world around them, understanding that learning enriches their lives beyond the classroom.

Enrichment Activities

At St Ethelbert's we want to expose children to live events beyond the classroom to prepare them for life and a whole citizen beyond the school. We want our children to make a positive contribution to society and can see them in the world of work. In order to provide children with a broad range of experiences, we have created an Enrichment List of activities, through which children will participate in activities that support their personal development. The enrichment list has been created for every year group with the aim being that the children would have experienced all the additional enrichment activities by the time they leave St Ethelbert's. Please see the documents below for further information.

British/World Wide Values

Fundamental British Values are taught throughout the year within lessons and assemblies and may also be taught as part of a theme day or week across school. For example, Children's Mental Health Week and Internet Safety Week are planned for the whole school.

Each of our eight classes is named after a country. Each country is chosen to represent children and their families from our local community e.g. Japan, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Italy, India etc. It is important to learn and celebrate different cultures and diversities. This makes St Ethelbert's a wonderful place to learn and grow. One example is the school celebrating 'Around the World Day' where the children take part in a range of activities about their class country e.g. art, music, cooking, geography, history, monarchy, politics etc.

