



## **St Bede's RC Primary School Curriculum Statement**

*'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.'* (Article 29, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

### **INTENT-What are our aims for all of our pupils?**

Our school motto is, 'To work is to pray.' At St Bede's we aim to provide children with a rich, supportive and engaging environment in which each child entrusted to our care can reach their full potential.

St Bede's RC Primary School follows the September 2014 National Curriculum. We ensure that our new curriculum is broad and balanced. It is specifically tailored towards the needs and interests of our children and in line with guidance from the Local Authority.

Through the curriculum, we aim to prepare pupils for the opportunities, experiences and responsibilities of adult life and to lay a firm foundation for future learning. We seek to provide a broad, balanced differentiated curriculum and offer a wide range of exciting, challenging activities and experiences to all pupils irrespective of ability, background, religion, ethnic origin or gender.

### **IMPLEMENTATION-How will we do it?**

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we understand the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that suit them. Opportunities are planned to cater for a range of different learning styles to ensure that all children can access the curriculum and learn in a way that is best for them.

St Bede's RC Primary's curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of all our children. We enhance and enrich the curriculum through a variety of activities including educational visits, school performances, visitors to school, after school clubs and links with other schools. Many topics are brought together, where possible, and taught in a cross-curricular way, to maximise the use of time but also to make experiences more meaningful and provide children with a real context for learning. The purchase of new computing equipment and software also means ICT is an integral part of many teaching and learning experiences.

### **RE Curriculum**

At St Bede's RC Primary we believe that Religious Education is 'the core of the core curriculum.' Jesus is present in all that we do and our ethos permeates all areas of school life. 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education.

Religious Education is taught using the 'Come and See' programme through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation and the response in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

In the Foundation Stage, a variety of structured play and practical activities are planned to help children develop in the following three prime areas of learning:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

The framework can be found here [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) – Schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-and-range-of-education-and-childcare-from-birth-to-5-years/supporting-pages/early-years-foundation-stage)(<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-and-range-of-education-and-childcare-from-birth-to-5-years/supporting-pages/early-years-foundation-stage>). We teach this framework through topics that excite the children; we gather their ideas through mind-mapping and plan according to their needs and interests.

## **Key Stages 1 and 2**

At Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, children have daily English and mathematics lessons.

As a school, we recognise the importance of reading for all children and therefore, have a comprehensive and thorough approach to the teaching of reading across the school including daily phonics lessons in KS1. School follows the *Read Write Inc* scheme of work for phonics, together with a range of appropriate resources.

Writing is taught through a text and topic based approach, as much as possible, in order to provide purpose and audience for the children. Grammatical accuracy is embedded in the teaching of writing but also as a discrete element of the English curriculum.

Our mathematics curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils become fluent in the fundamental skills of mathematics including the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately. Children at St Bede's RC Primary are taught to reason mathematically, solve problems and apply their mathematical skills in a variety of real life contexts.

## **Foundation Subjects**

In addition to English, maths and RE, children are taught to develop their skills, understanding and creativity in science, computing, history, geography, design technology, music, art, PE and PSHCE. Additionally, French is taught from Year 3 onwards. Guitar, ukelele and violin tuition is also available for all children. All subjects are taught through termly topics and are assessed each term.

## **Subject Days**

In order to inspire and enthuse children and to fully allow children to explore a subject, we hold termly whole school 'Subject Days' for humanities and music. We also hold half termly 'Science Enquiry Days' in which children carry out investigations. During these days different objectives relating to the topic will be covered and this is evidenced in books.

## **PSHCE**

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) forms an integral part of the curriculum at St Bede's RC Primary and is taught every week. It helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens, whilst promoting British values. All members of staff are committed to encouraging in our children a knowledge of right and wrong. We support this by using restorative approaches across school to resolve conflict. We are also a Rights Respecting School, which ensures all children learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and how to respect the rights of others.

## **PE**

We aim to develop children's enjoyment, confidence and skill in physical activity and introduce them to the pleasures of sport to help develop active children who benefit from a healthy lifestyle. Through a multi-skills approach, children develop their skills in a range of games, gymnastics, dance, swimming and outdoor adventurous activities. They also develop fundamental movement skills and use running, jumping, throwing and catching both in isolation and in combination. Competitive sports are played such as netball, rugby, hockey and football and children learn how to play as part of a team.

We are committed to ensuring that all children are active for at least 30 minutes per day. Children attend a variety of sporting festivals and events and take part in 'Active maths' lessons once a week. A Sports Leader works alongside playground leaders at lunch times to provide a range of games and all children take part in 'St Bede's Sprint' every lunch time.

## **Community and the Environment**

Children are taught about the community and world in which they live and are encouraged to work in co-operation with other members of the school and local community. Supporting charities, both local and further afield, is encouraged e.g. St Cuthbert's Hospice, CAFOD. All children are expected to undertake appropriate responsibilities within the class and school, e.g. caring for the classroom environment, participating in class assemblies and participating in out of school activities. In Year 5, children take part in the 'Junior Education'

programme, which involves a variety of local agencies teaching about aspects of being part of a wider community. Children are also encouraged to care for their environment and we are proactive in our efforts to do this. For example, we are a 'Plastic Free School' and an 'Eco-School.'

Children are encouraged to become an active member of St Bede's by leading a number of groups which help to make important decisions about our school and curriculum. Some examples of the groups are: Rights Respecting School Council, Eco-Warriors, E-cadets, Mini Vinnies, Junior Road Safety Officers, Mini-police and School Nutrition Action Group.

### **Outdoor Playing and Learning (OPAL)**

At St Bede's we believe that play is a vital part of our children's learning. We recognise that good play opportunities are a child's right, essential for children's well-being and balanced development regardless of age, sex, ability or background. We are informed by the children and work with the children to create a space that is exciting, engaging and enthuses pupils, where they feel safe to take risks and explore their world. We have a 'loose parts' shed children can access and a range of 'zones' for the children to access at play times.

### **Assemblies**

We build in opportunities to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our pupils, especially through our daily acts of Collective Worship and our Religious Education scheme of work. Children are encouraged to develop their own beliefs. Through our assemblies, we celebrate children's achievements and also hold a range of assemblies which promote British Values, a healthy lifestyle, staying safe, caring for our environment and being good citizens etc.

### **Homework**

Home learning is used to extend school learning and also encourages children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own. It provides opportunities for parents and pupils to work together and to enjoy learning experiences.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities and Educational Visits**

We are very proud of the wide range of extra-curricular clubs we are able to offer at St Bede's RC Primary. These are held after school and at breakfast times and are all well attended. Many clubs are run by our dedicated teachers and teaching assistants but we also have some clubs run by external coaches, for which there is sometimes a small fee.

Clubs which have been available in the last year have included: choir, relax kids, football, Spanish, multi-ball skills, gymnastics, maths, choir and tri-golf.

Educational visits and visitors to the school help to bring learning to life. These link to the cross curricular topics covered. Some examples of visits that have taken place are: Cragside, SAFC Academy, Centre for Life, Beamish, Gala theatre, Eden Camp, Gibside. Visitors such as 'Chinatalk', 'The Punctuation Show', author Adam Bushnell and Durham university help to engage the children in the curriculum.

### **Home-School Links**

We firmly believe that the education of the children is a partnership between children, staff and parents. Support from home is vital in maximising children's chances of fulfilling their potential. In order to facilitate this partnership, we offer an open-door policy where parents are welcome to visit school to discuss their children's progress with staff at a mutually convenient time. Each class has two parents' meetings per year and reports are sent home at the end of each term reporting on all aspects of the curriculum.

### **IMPACT-What do we hope will be the impact and how can we measure this?**

We intend for all of our pupils to leave St Bede's as confident, happy and well rounded individuals, having achieved their full potential in all subjects, ready for the next stage in their learning and their lives. We measure attainment carefully using a range of formative and summative assessment measures and against age related expectations.

We hope the impact of this will be that our pupils will develop independence, resilience and a sense of self worth. As a Catholic school, we aim for every pupil to leave our school knowing that they are made in the image and likeness of God and are loved unconditionally by Him, with unique strengths and talents that they feel confident to share with others.

For more information about our curriculum and what is taught in each year group, please see our website.