

St Bede C of E Primary Academy



Curriculum Policy

The policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of the Key Stages 1 and 2 curriculum at St Bede C of E Primary Academy.

Rationale

A well planned, vibrant curriculum enables children to relish learning independently and co-operatively. We aim to offer a primary curriculum not only to inspire learning but to develop skills, knowledge and understanding to equip children for later life.

Planning and delivery

- For both Key Stages, the National Curriculum programmes of study are used to provide learning objectives;
- for RE and PSHE (social skills) our school curriculum has been agreed by the governors;
- lessons are planned through long term and medium term plans to ensure thorough covering of skills;
- objectives are delivered through discrete cross curricular lessons (learning links lessons) and through cross curricular coverage, in line with statutory guidance;
- planning is stored electronically on P:drive;
- all children are given equal access to the curriculum.

Teaching and learning

- We aim to encourage every pupil to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow pupils to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school.
- The most successful teaching will take place when the teacher provides opportunities for discussion, during a well-paced lesson where the pupils' contributions are encouraged and valued. The teacher should have a clear understanding of the objectives being taught and have high expectations of success from the children (see also our teaching and learning policy).
- The children's safety is of paramount importance at all times. Parental consent forms are completed annually for local visits. Both staff and children should be aware of the need for safe practice when undertaking educational visits, with the child to staff ratio being followed at all times. Teachers should complete risk assessments and carry out pre-visits where appropriate (see educational trips policy).

Learning Links

To ensure that the curriculum is vibrant and creative, teachers plan to teach key skills from different subjects through a common theme which helps to put the children's learning into a context. Learning Links teaching follows the guidelines below:

- Learning Links medium term planning is based on the objectives from the foundation subjects and includes aspects of literacy, numeracy, science and computing basic skills;
- Learning Links teaching is often child led. If children want to look into answering questions that they may have about a particular theme, teachers will plan for this to be covered within a lesson;
- links between different subjects should never be forced. Subjects should only be linked if there is a common theme. Some subjects need to be covered separately if there is no common theme;
- no more than two Learning Link themes are to be covered in a half term;
- teachers aim to involve parents and the local community by incorporating a community cohesion event into Learning Links planning;
- trips should be incorporated into a Learning Link theme if this will help to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of a particular theme;
- assessment opportunities should be planned to ensure that the children are covering and achieving the National Curriculum objectives;

Role of the co-ordinator groups

- To create, carry out and evaluate an action plan for their curriculum area;
- to hold regular meetings to discuss the progress that has been made to meet the curriculum target;
- to monitor and evaluate areas of the curriculum throughout the school;
- to seek to support staff in the planning, delivery and assessment of the curriculum;
- to keep up to date with current developments through attending courses and disseminating this information to staff through staff meetings or unit meetings where appropriate;
- to manage and develop resources;
- to ensure health & safety is paramount throughout teaching and learning (see health & safety policy).

Computing

Whenever computing can be used to enrich the curriculum, pupils will be given the opportunity to develop and apply their computing skills.

Assessment and evaluation

The assessment of all areas of the curriculum is integral to their teaching. It allows teachers to identify what has been learned, to monitor pupil's progress and inform future planning. Assessment for learning takes places throughout the curriculum. (See also our assessment policy).