

Christchurch Primary School



Curriculum Policy

Date to be ratified by Governors:	Autumn Term 2022 Dec 18th Meeting
Date to be reviewed:	

CHRIST CHURCH (Church in Wales V.A.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

The School Curriculum

At Christ Church School we believe that the primary purpose of education is to improve the quality of life and enable the individual to make choices. We are aware of the legal obligation of schools to deliver the National Curriculum, but we view the National Curriculum as only a part, albeit important, of a much larger curriculum that our pupils should experience. Our curriculum is concerned not only with high standards of academic and intellectual achievement, but also with the emotional, spiritual, social, moral, aesthetic, creative, and physical growth and development of our pupils. We express this as educating the whole child. And we are committed to providing the entirety of each child with a curriculum of the highest quality.

We strive to make our school a haven for our pupils, where the individual is valued and celebrated. A place where care, consideration and respect for self and others abounds and where the love for learning is fostered and flourishes.

We aim to provide a rich, broad, balanced relevant and differentiated curriculum in its widest context, which ensures that our children learn and acquire to the best of their abilities, the appropriate attitudes, knowledge, skills, understanding and concepts.

In order for an individual's potential to be truly maximised, it is important to take account of all factors that influence learning. We therefore consider it essential to devise and develop policies and practices that relate to all aspects of the curriculum, relevant and appropriate to primary school aged children.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN – A Curriculum Rationale:

The Primary school Curriculum is fundamentally about primary aged children. Children must be at the centre of the educational process. We may deal with some issues in an apparently detached manner, but a school is not a business, dealing with inanimate commodities, but a place that is concerned with the lives of young children. Within that over-riding principle, we cannot divide up parts of the child and deliver the curriculum in simplistic, quantitative, arithmetic terms. Instead, we must educate the whole child. This requires that the curriculum appreciate the complexity of the emotional being, sensitive to age, maturity, background and experience. Our curriculum must be in harmony with equipping children for life- taking control of their own learning and lives, living peacefully with other people, creating a better society, not simply teaching them subjects.

CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL:

While all Primary schools have common features and goals, Christ Church School also considers its own uniqueness. Our pupils' experience of a primary school will always be Christ Church School. Their life at Christ Church is a part of their whole life. Some of our school's uniqueness is already determined by its Christian foundation, its geography and the community it serves. But some of our uniqueness is for us to create, as individuals, as members of a team, bringing to the school our personal values and ambitions.

PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE:

Christ Church School has a clear and 'shared vision'. From our vision we have determined our aims. From the nobility of our philosophy, we must translate our aims into sound practicality. The crux of our success is the ability to turn our vision into reality by determination, effort, management, strategy and practice.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT:

Contained within the School Development Plan (SDP), is the mission Statement for the school. The Mission statement is then translated into the aims of the school, which are broken down into smaller objectives and specific targets for our development. The SDP is a dynamic document, involving all school staff and Governors; it is annually evaluated, reviewed and revised. The SDP is the blueprint for success in all aspects of the school's life, function and responsibilities.

THE WHOLE CURRICULUM – CONTENT:

Purposes of the curriculum

1. **Ambitious capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives**
2. **Enterprising creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work**
3. **Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world; and**
4. **Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society**

Christchurch School is a Pioneer School for the all new 'Curriculum for Wales'. Children are taught through six areas of learning;

Language, Literacy and Communication

Mathematics and Numeracy

Expressive Arts

Health and Well-Being

Science and Technology

Humanities

The children in Key Stage 2 are taught in the following zones;

Numeracy Zone

Literacy Zone

Digital Zone

The National Curriculum is delivered through a cross curricular topic based approach which is more relevant to pupils. To this end regular visits are arranged, this highlights their topic work.

A variety of teaching methods are used including whole class teaching, group and individual work.

The progress of each individual child is carefully assessed and recorded. We believe that children learn best when they are having fun.

Welsh Language

At Christchurch School children are taught through the medium of English. All pupils receive Welsh lessons, in line with National Curriculum Guidelines. A specialist teacher visits the school fortnightly to work with both pupils and teachers.

Children are encouraged to use Welsh incidentally in class, and the “Cwricwlwm Cymreig” underpins many aspects of the activities undertaken at school.

Religious Education

Although Religious Education is compulsory in all schools, in Christchurch School it forms the basis of our school lives. It aims to help pupils to understand the Christian teachings of the Bible, and develop a caring and loving attitude to their fellow pupils and world wide families. Pupils actively contribute to the Morning Assembly, and their attendance at the major festivals of the Christian year at Christchurch, is marked with singing and drama and other musical activities. Pupils, parents and teachers join together in these acts of worship. Pupils and parents are encouraged to attend the first Sunday in the month Family Eucharist; with children taking an active part in this worship.

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

RSE is not taught as a subject in isolation but is dealt with in a sensitive manner as and when it is considered to be appropriate to the needs of the individual child. This will be taught in accordance with the City and County of Swansea RSE Policy Statement as accepted by the Governing Body of the school. A copy of this document is available on request from the Head teacher. The head teacher also implements a Health Education (including Sex Education) Programme in Year 6. Parents who wish their child/ren to participate in the programme must give their written consent.

OUR NURSERY CURRICULUM

At Christchurch the early years curriculum is about your CHILD.

We are concerned not only with the content, but also with the context of the learning. The process is as important as the outcome.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

We provide well structured and purposeful play activities to enhance and extend your child's learning. Play is fundamental to the way children learn, it is also critical to the way children become self aware and the way in which they learn the rules of social behaviour.

At Christchurch we are here to help your children, to guide their play, to offer choices and to challenge them with care and sensitivity, to encourage them and move their learning along.

LANGUAGE LITERACY & COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Competent use of language is the most fundamental of human skills. It is a deciding factor in mastery of other areas of learning. At Christchurch we provide a wide range of language opportunities for our children to establish a good foundation for future learning.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our children are at an age where they will be learning about themselves. At Christchurch they will learn about relationships with other children and with adults. They will learn about the world outside the family, about how people live and work, about the past and about people and places outside their direct experience. They will learn about standards of good behaviour and develop appropriate attitudes.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

At Christchurch nursery our children are introduced to mathematical processes in a meaningful way. Mathematics will be visual, concrete and practical.

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Our children have experiences of other cultures, of past events and of the work people do, of the use of money, of the environment, of animals and other living things.

To establish a foundation of confidence and enjoyment in science and technology our children are encouraged to experiment, test, build and generally find out how things work.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Our children have access to a range of safe and stimulating outdoor play. We teach them the concepts of hygiene and safety. Both indoors and out our children are provided with opportunities to develop their physical control, mobility, awareness of space and a range of manipulative skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

We continually provide opportunities for our children to develop their imagination and creativity in a variety of ways, e.g. through music, art, I.T. dance and drama.

At Christchurch school we also seek to provide a wider curriculum through use of the locality, community links and a range of after school activities.

MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEWING THE CURRICULUM:

Christchurch School has a policy for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the curriculum. Briefly however, we monitor and evaluate the curriculum and indeed all experiences given to our pupils with a focus of ensuring which class they move from or to, they are able to experience equality, continuity and progression across the whole curriculum. This is because we have a desire to provide for the children in our care, a quality of childhood education that is to the best of our ability.

We live in a world of constant change and we will therefore never be able to say that we have produced the perfect experience. Rather we are a 'thinking' staff who regularly monitor, evaluate and review our practices.