

# OULTON C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

## CURRICULUM INTENT

At Oulton First School, our curriculum has been designed to:

- provide quality first teaching through rich and varied cross-curricular topics
- progressively build on skills year on year through curriculum mapping
- inspire pupils through a wide range of experiences both in and out of school
- ensure that children have the skills and knowledge to make them successful, resilient and creative learners
- encourage children to think critically, to wonder and to be inquisitive to deepen their understanding
- to help children understand that learning is for life and to help them prepare for their future studies and beyond
- to foster ambition
- to create memories they can treasure for the rest of their lives

As a church school, we strive to uphold our Christian values in everything we do. Pupils are nurtured and supported throughout their time at Oulton. As we have mixed year groups in all classes, we follow a two-year rolling programme of study. Our long-term plans ensure there is complete coverage of the curriculum for all year groups. Mixed year groups also give pupils an excellent opportunity to learn from their peers and access challenging and exciting activities in all subject areas. We want our pupils to foster a love of learning that enables them to flourish and become courageous advocates throughout their lives.

We give all pupils access to high quality learning outside the classroom through our Forest School curriculum. This not only teaches valuable life skills but also teaches them to take risks safely and think about their own wellbeing. We feel that this area of our curriculum is essential as it enhances pupils' wellbeing and encourages them to adopt healthier lifestyles, making full use of the outdoors. We also complement this with a residential experience for pupils in Year 4 where they have the opportunity to participate in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities.

Through the promotion of "Growth Mindsets", we teach our pupils that mistakes are an important part of the learning process and that by persevering through challenging tasks, they develop essential life skills of resilience and the ability to problem solve. This, in turn, enables our children to take responsibility for their learning.

Through all teaching and learning, we reinforce our Christian Values of trust, thankfulness, forgiveness, friendship and koinonia, which help us, create a harmonious, nurturing, thoughtful and purposeful learning environment.

# CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

By the time pupils leave Oulton First School, we want them to be thoughtful, caring, resourceful and resilient learners. We want them to have high expectations and aspirations, believing that they will always have the ability to succeed regardless of their background or ability. Our motto “Hand in hand, learning together” underpins our commitment to support children to be the very best versions of themselves.

As we teach in mixed year groups, our curriculum runs on a two-year rolling programme to ensure that there is no duplication of topics in any class. We believe that this will give pupils opportunities to acquire knowledge and deepen understanding of the topics set out in the National Curriculum. Each unit focuses on the knowledge, skills and key vocabulary for that area of work.

Clear progression mapping ensures that skills are built on year-by-year and teachers have high expectations of their learners.

English is a key feature of every unit of work. Carefully selected texts weave interest and a love of reading through each topic taught. There are prescribed assessment pieces – both fiction and non-fiction.

Maths, RE, RSE, PE, French, computing and music are taught discretely.

Maths follows the mastery approach using the White Rose scheme of work in all year groups (YR to Y4.)

RE teaching follows the Understanding Christianity scheme in all year groups (YR-Y4) This is supported by additional schemes of work from Lichfield Diocese Board of Education to cover other religions.

RSE follows the Entrust Scheme of work, in line with statutory guidelines. We do not teach sex education in the First School curriculum.

French is taught by a subject specialist in Key Stage 2 and follows National Curriculum guidelines.

Phonics and reading are taught through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme. Teachers ensure that early readers have access to books that are matched to their phonic stage to support the development of skills whilst more confident readers can select books from their classroom. Children are also take a ‘sharing’ book home to promote a love of reading with parents. Pupils are encouraged to read daily at home and this is monitored in school. We have a well stocked library which pupils use to take further books home.

The whole school teaching of reading covers a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts which are often linked to topic areas.

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Spiritual development is demonstrated by:

- pupils' ability to reflect on their own beliefs and how these shape their views of the world as well as their interest in and respect for different people's faith, values and feelings
- their curiosity and desire to learn about themselves, others and the world around them
- their creativity and use of imagination in their learning
- the way in which pupils reflect on their experiences
- how they express their understanding of the school's Christian Values

Moral Development is demonstrated by:

- pupils' understanding and recognition of what is right and wrong and using this knowledge in their own lives and by doing so, respecting civil and criminal law in England
- their understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- showing that they value and understand other people's views on moral and ethical issues

Social development is demonstrated by:

- pupils' ability to use a range of social skills to engage with others in different contexts
- their ability to work and play with pupils from different backgrounds, whether that be religious, ethnic or socio-economic
- their willingness to help and support other members of the school community
- pupils' ability to disagree nicely and resolve conflicts calmly and amicably
- pupils' acceptance that everyone is different and that some people have additional needs and that some disabilities may not be visible
- engagement with the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs
- displaying attributes that will enable them to contribute fully to life in modern Britain
- participating in a range of important national and religious celebrations

Cultural development is demonstrated by:

- pupils' understanding and appreciation that our heritage has been shaped by a wide range of cultural influences
- their appreciation of the diversity of cultures within our school, our local community and further afield as an essential part of preparation for life in modern Britain
- pupils' understanding of how Britain is governed and how this has shaped our history, our values and how it shapes our country today
- participating in artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- developing and showing interest in and respect for different faiths and cultural diversity
- Pupils' understanding, acceptance, celebration and respect for diversity through tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups

## Curriculum Enrichment

We believe that our pupils benefit from as a broad a range of educational opportunities as possible, both inside and outside the classroom. For this reason, we try to make use of our wonderful grounds and local area to provide outdoor learning opportunities for our children. This experience may be a school trip, Forest School or an artistic experience to name but a few.

Each year group will have at least one school trip per year, examples include: Chester Zoo, Lichfield Cathedral, RAF Cosford and Churnet Valley Railway. Pupils in Year 4 have a three day residential in the summer term to an Outdoor Education Centre whilst pupils in Y3 access outdoor pursuits at nearby Kibblestone International Scout Camp.

The school also runs a range of extra-curricular activities such as sport, dance, gardening, art/craft, cookery and choir. The school choir is extremely popular and is invited to perform at numerous events in the local community throughout the school year.

Strong links with our partner schools also ensure we have a range of opportunities to enhance our provision. These include:

- Science taster days
- Computing taster days
- Art activity days
- Sports events and fixtures
- Maths master classes for the most able
- Opportunities for the choir to perform in local events.

We are also a Clay School and have excellent links with the Art department at our partner middle school. We have regular sessions where we produce wonderful pottery creations which have been displayed at the Ceramics Biennial in Stoke.

## Character Education

As a church school, we promote our Christian values in everything we do. We have three simple school rules that are encompassed in the words ready, respect and safe. This strengthens the pupils' understanding of courtesy, personal safety and respectfulness. Through sharing these rules and discussing their meaning, we foster a collective responsibility and this allows pupils to take pride in their contribution to the school and its ethos.

We take our responsibility to look after children's mental health and wellbeing very seriously. We understand that at this young age, it is essential that we promote good mental health and take action at the earliest possible opportunity when a child shows sign of distress. This is supported by our school's "listening ear", at the outset and the use of outside agencies, should this be required. We do not consider financial implications when dealing with a child's wellbeing.

### **Behaviour**

We have very high expectations for behaviour in school. Through our three simple rules, all pupils understand that we expect them to be respectful to all members of our school community, ready to listen and learn and that they need to keep themselves safe, whether that be at school, at home or online. Our Christian values support us in our conversations with children about how we want them to behave. Through promoting these values on a daily basis, we give pupils a moral code to live by throughout their lives, thus promoting positive character traits.

### **Developing resilience and confidence**

There are many opportunities within the school and throughout the academic year for pupils to develop confidence and resilience. We strive to promote Growth Mindsets within school with a view to pupils understanding that mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. We develop this to help them grasp that a small setback is something we can overcome and that through the struggle, we learn. To support children with this, we ensure that our curriculum is developed in a logical and sequential way over 2 years. This enables pupils to learn incrementally and take pride in the journey they take through each topic, without repetition.

### **Co-curriculum**

We have a wide range of opportunities for all pupils. These happen throughout the school year and we try to ensure that as many pupils as possible have the opportunity to participate both during and after the school day. They may be included in worship/family worship, through celebration days, performances in and out of school, sporting fixtures, school trips, visitors, charity events or extra-curricular activities.

We offer the following to our pupils:

- School council
- Eco committee
- Playground leaders
- Worship leaders

### **Service to others**

Our vision inspires the whole Oulton community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in our local, national and global communities.

All of our co-curricular activities require a long-term commitment and involve service to the school community.

We have always sought to support a wide range of charitable organisations both locally, nationally and internationally. We aim to instill the values of compassion and hope for others among our pupils and, accordingly, organise fundraising events to benefit a whole range of causes.

Examples include:

- Stone Food Bank
- Children in Need
- Wear it Yellow for Young Minds
- Red Nose Day
- The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- Advent window in collaboration with the church

**YOUNGMINDS**

To ensure that pupils from all backgrounds are included and valued, we do these activities as a whole school or as classes. This way all children are included and collectively contribute to these causes, which supports their self-esteem and develops their sense of belonging and community.

## CURRICULUM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring the curriculum and its delivery takes place through a number of approaches:

- Long-term planning for each year group, including coverage of themes
- Medium term planning that is regularly reviewed by subject leads and SLT
- School self evaluation
- Subject action plans
- Lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutiny
- Pupil outcomes (internal and external)
- Link governor visits
- Parents' consultation evenings
- Progress meetings

At Oulton, we believe the role of the middle leader is essential. This is why we endeavour to provide time to subject leaders to carry out their own monitoring, meet with link governors and report back to the Local Governing Committee.