



# St Mary's Church of England V.A. Primary School Curriculum Policy



Date policy ratified by Governors: June 2012

Governors responsible for Curriculum Policy: Curriculum Committee

School Curriculum Co-ordinator: Jane Rushton, Deputy Head Teacher

*“The touchstone of an excellent curriculum is that it instils in children a love of learning for its own sake.” Sir Jim Rose*



## Introduction

This policy has been developed by the Curriculum Co-ordinator in consultation with staff, Governors, parents and pupils of St Mary's CE VA Primary School.

It has been written to promote the 5 outcomes of 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children', 2003:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The policy takes account of the school's setting and intake, as detailed in the SEF.

## Policy Development



Who?	Method of consultation
SLT – Jane Rushton	Via Curriculum Committee
Governors	Curriculum Committee
Teachers	Professional Development Meetings
Non-teaching staff	Representative on Governing Body
Pupils	Via School Council
Parents/carers	Questionnaires/ meetings

### **Policy Aim**

This policy is an agreed statement of the aims and principles of the curriculum at St Mary's CE VA Primary School. It underpins how the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum, as well as non-statutory learning opportunities, are delivered.

### **Definition**

By 'the curriculum', we refer to all learning and other experiences that are planned for our pupils, including their statutory entitlement to the National Curriculum.

### **Rationale**

In line with our school mission statement, 'Respect - Together, Achieve, Learn, Enjoy', at St Mary's CE VA Primary School we believe that a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum should: ensure that pupils develop from an early age the essential literacy and numeracy skills they need to learn; provide pupils with a guaranteed, full and rounded entitlement to learning; foster pupils' creativity; and give teachers discretion to find the best ways to inspire in their pupils a joy and commitment to learning that will last a lifetime.



### **Aims**

At St Mary's CE VA Primary School, we believe that every child has an innate capacity for learning which should be nurtured, cared for, stimulated, harnessed, promoted and developed through the provision of an exciting, creative, relevant and challenging curriculum. Our curriculum is planned to ensure that every child has the opportunity to develop:

- Socially, emotionally, intellectually, physically, spiritually, morally and culturally
- Positive attitudes, healthy relationships, and essential life and work skills
- The ability to make informed choices, gaining experiences and developing responsibilities for their future

We aim to provide a curriculum for all pupils which:

- Meets current statutory legislation (National Curriculum) and promotes Every Child Matters
- Promotes high standards, particularly in English and Mathematics, and quality first learning
- Provides continued entitlement from the early years to a coherent, broad and balanced curriculum
- Enables teaching staff to provide appropriate challenge or support to enable pupils to maximise their potential
- Instils in children a positive disposition and commitment to learning
- Is meaningful and purposeful to children and which prepares them for the next phase of their education, and for their future
- Widens horizons and raises aspirations

- Makes children more aware of, and engaged with, their local, national and international communities
- Is outward looking, making full use of outdoor learning, external visits and visitors
- Helps children recognise that personal development is essential to well-being and success
- Is monitored, reviewed and evaluated regularly to ensure that:
  - Highest standards and quality of learning are achieved
  - It reflects and responds to the children's needs and context
  - It continues to match and support the school's organisation, purpose and direction

## Content and Organisation

In reception, the Early Years Foundation Stage document (EYFS) shapes curriculum content. From Year 1 to Year 6, the curriculum is planned around a two-year cycle of themes. Each phase has a curriculum map, which details coverage of the National Curriculum or EYFS, as well as the Gloucestershire Agreed RE Syllabus and PSHCE (including SEAL and SRE).

Medium term planning details objectives and a flexible progression of activities to achieve learning outcomes. Activities may be blocked or taught weekly, as appropriate to the needs of the children.

Short term planning in English and maths details objectives, success criteria, differentiation, vocabulary and resources.

Statutory Assessment Recording and Reporting Arrangements are followed.

Assessment is integral to effective teaching and learning. Assessments and target setting, in line with school procedures, ensure learning is personalised and facilitates children with the support, challenge and opportunities required to achieve their individual targets.

St Mary's CE VA Primary School will provide equality of opportunity across the curriculum for all children, in accordance with the Gloucestershire County Inclusion Policy.

## Pupil Voice

The content of the curriculum reflects the aims and views identified by members of our School Council, consulted in March 2012.

*'The topics need to reflect the interests of the class.'*

*'Lessons need to be interesting and fun.'*

*'In group discussions we can get ideas from other people.'*

*'School trips are interesting. For example, going to a museum you get to look at artefacts, the real thing.'*

*'We need to do tasks on our own.'*

*'We need to use our outside area.'*

*'We like practical learning and games.'*

## Partnership with Parents

Parents are kept informed about the curriculum through:

- Annual Curriculum meeting
- 'Learning Together' open events and workshops
- Regular newsletters and invitations into school
- Policies and documentation



## Monitoring and Evaluation

The purpose of monitoring the curriculum is to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the school's curriculum provision and to ensure statutory requirements are being met
- Raise pupil attainment and progress

- Evaluate pupil participation, engagement, behaviour and attitude
- Ensure the promotion of the school's vision and Christian ethos
- Ensure inclusion and accessibility
- Ensure manageability and inform professional development of staff
- Identify areas for development to further enhance the quality of learning provision

Monitoring and evaluation activities include work and planning scrutiny, pupil conferencing, lesson observations, learning walks and parent and pupil questionnaires.

### **Role of The Governing Body and Head Teacher**

The governing body has responsibility for establishing this policy in consultation with the head teacher and staff of the school.

The head teacher has overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy through:

- Liaison with parents, Governing Body, the LA and appropriate outside agencies
- Appointment of co-ordinators who have day to day responsibility for the implementation of specific subject policies

St Mary's CE VA Primary School recognises that it is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that the policy is fully implemented.

### **Subject Co-ordinators**

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum in meeting the needs of all pupils
- Evaluate practice
- Identify priorities for development and write subsequent development plans
- Assess outcomes in terms of pupil achievement
- Provide feedback to staff, the head teacher and governors

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of this Policy**

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored annually by the Curriculum Co-ordinator and the Headteacher, reporting to the full Governing Body. The Governing Body will review the policy annually, unless there are significant changes in national legislation.

### **Conclusion**

This policy should be read in conjunction with: SEN policy; Teaching and Learning Policy; Behaviour policy; Health and Safety policy; Child Protection policy, Equal Opportunities policy; Disability Equality Scheme.

**Date of Policy: Summer 2012**

**Date of next review: Summer 2013**