

Our Curriculum Intent

At Good Shepherd School, we base our learning on a broad and balanced curriculum and strive to deliver a wide and varied learning experience. We are fully committed to developing each child's unique potential within a secure and caring environment. We use a range of teaching and learning approaches to meet the needs of the curriculum and provide an exciting learning experience for our children. We believe that our children should not only reach their best academically, but also develop a thirst for knowledge, foster a love of learning, develop interpersonal skills, build resilience, become critical thinkers and develop independent learning skills.

Our five values are embedded in everything we do to promote positive attitudes to learning:

Respect
Responsibility
Determination
Positivity
Teamwork

Children leave Good Shepherd with a sense of belonging to a tightly knit community where they have the confidence and skills to make decisions, self-evaluate, make connections and become lifelong learners.

Religious Education - Religious Education at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School is based on the Come and See syllabus from which children learn about religion and from religion. We promote the love of God and the teachings of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Children are taught Christian values and how to show respect and love for themselves and others around them, appreciating and celebrating diversity. During the year, each year group covers 11 topics. Nine of these topics are based on Christianity and 2 topics on other faiths. Opportunities are given to the children to enable them to learn and succeed through a broad, exciting and creative curriculum. These include assemblies, visiting places of interests, discussions, role-play, art, spontaneous prayer during lessons, child-led presentations, prayer sessions and celebrating festivals relating to the faiths studied. We aim to inspire all children to achieve their full potential and instil a life-long love for themselves and their neighbour.

English - At our school, we have many opportunities for reading exciting books to enable our children to become excellent readers. Years 1 to 6 complete at least one written reading comprehension task each week. Whole class reading takes place in English lessons through the use of class texts or chosen extracts. At story time, teachers will read to the class as often as possible during the week to help nurture in the pupils a love of reading. We use Read Write Inc phonics daily across EYFS and KS1. Our writing skills are developed so that our pupils have the stamina and ability to write at the expected standard. We have a wide range of wonderful opportunities to inspire pupils, which makes sure they enjoy writing, and excellent teaching and support to ensure children make excellent progress. In EYFS, children learn how to hold a pencil properly and begin to form letters, words and sentences. We explicitly teach cursive handwriting from year 2 and awards pen licences when children can prove they can write with fluent, cursive handwriting. We link our writing context to our curriculum topics, finding real life reasons for children's writing to enthuse them with purpose.

Maths - Mathematics at Good Shepherd equips our young people with the wider skills, capabilities and understanding that they will need for today, tomorrow and beyond. Our teachers deliver an exciting, innovative mathematics curriculum that enables and empowers children's sound understanding of Maths, equipping them with the skills of calculation, reasoning and problem solving in a real-life context via the White Rose Maths Scheme of Work. In each lesson the short and simple mental maths session, followed by interactive, challenging lessons, builds on skills and their understanding in a step by step progressive way ensuring good progress. With the use of ongoing assessment, each child's needs are met via bespoke teaching styles, incorporating differentiation to maximise impact.

Science - Science is all around us and we fundamentally believe children should access all areas of the curriculum through their senses. Since raising the profile of Science to stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity. We encourage all our pupils to read widely in order to satisfy their curiosity with knowledge and engage learners at many levels. Scientific method is about developing and evaluating explanations through experimental evidence and modelling. Pupils learn to question and discuss science-based issues that may affect their own lives, the direction of society and the future of the world.

Computing - Computers and other IT help pupils make accelerated progress by developing understanding of computing and preparing them for their future jobs. Our approach is to integrate computing skills and development in all cross-curricular work. We use subject specific software such as Scratch, Code Club and Espresso coding. In lessons, we follow the Rising Stars scheme of work to support teaching and learning across all years. Our children have explicit online safety lessons and know how to use technology safely. They are able to identify where and when to go for support when they have concerns.

History - Our teaching ensures that all children gain a rich knowledge and understanding of British and world history, igniting their curiosity to find out more about the past. We bring history to life through trips to significant places and visits from experts. Children are encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh up the evidence, sift arguments, and develop their perspective and judgement. With our encouragement, children learn to apply their knowledge of the past to the challenges of the future.

Geography - Through our topics at Good Shepherd, we ensure that all children can ask and answer questions about the world around them, including places, people, cultures, environments and resources. We make sure that they know how to investigate and solve problems using geographical information and resources. It is essential that children understand their local area and how it has changed over time, confidently communicating geographical information in a range of exciting ways.

Music - In music lessons, pupils use their voices creatively by singing songs including hymns and speaking chants and rhymes. They are taught a range of genres, sounds and songs. Assemblies provide an opportunity to sing. In Key Stage 1, pupils experiment with percussion. By Year 3, children learn recorders and how to write music. In Year 4, the Sound Start Program allows pupils to learn the trombone, trumpet and clarinet. By Year 5 and 6, children are given the choice to continue instruments in and out of school; and are taught the steel pans.

Physical Education - Physical Education (P.E.) is led by specialist coaches in dance, gymnastic and invasion games. It introduces children to physical activities that promote healthy lifestyles. P.E. sessions focus on mastering basic movements such as running and jumping, balance, agility and co-ordination. Sessions promote teamwork and introduce rules that encourage fair play and good sportsmanship. All children in Years 3-5 swim each week. After school clubs and school tournaments offer further opportunities for children to engage in physical activity.

Art - We see art as a vehicle for creativity and individual expression, providing many opportunities for individual and collaborative work. Art is an important form of cultural and sensory expression and, therefore, has significance and meaning for all. Children are taught various skills and techniques and are encouraged to critically evaluate their own work and that of others, culminating in displays of their work throughout the school.

Design and Technology - Our design and technology lessons encourage the designing and making of products to solve real and relevant problems. Our pupils learn to select and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics. Our annual whole-school Enterprise project brings DT to life, where each class designs, creates and sells a product.

Spanish - Learning a foreign language is a valued part of our curriculum. We provide weekly Spanish lessons from Reception through to Year 6 as we believe it is important to start learning a language at an early age because children pick up new sounds quickly. We make the lessons fun by teaching through songs, actions and role play which helps children to learn basic vocabulary and simple sentences.

Personal, Social, Health Education - Good Shepherd School use a planned programme of learning through which children obtain the knowledge, understanding and skills to support them in their current and future life. Teachers use an online, whole-school approach to children's health, wellbeing and achievements called SCARF. (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship)

SCARF uses themes, lesson plans and overviews for each age group.

As well as SCARF, being a Catholic School we also follow a scheme called "Journey in Love" which is a programme of study for Catholic schools for Sex and Relationship Education.

EYFS – In our Early Years, we follow the EYFS framework. We believe that learning through play is an essential part of developing a child holistically. Through this, we ensure that all children develop skills from our experienced team and stimulating environment to ensure our children have the very best start on their journey through education.

Our Curriculum Implementation

Our bespoke curriculum has been tailored to meet the needs of our children and is organised into six topic areas for each year group, one for each half-term. Each topic covers different areas of learning from the National Curriculum Programme of Study for each subject area. These topics are documented on our curriculum map. Where relevant, our English and Maths teaching and learning also link into these topics. This cross-curricular approach ensures continuity of learning and sustains children's interest and enthusiasm. We provide children with opportunities to apply their learning in a range of different contexts.

Our Curriculum Impact

We measure the impact of our curriculum by:

- Statutory assessment procedures which allow us to measure outcomes against all schools nationally (EYFS Profile, KS1 SATS, KS2 SATS, Y1 Phonics Check, Y4 Multiplication Times Tables Check).
- Analysing our termly internal assessments and adjusting the support in place where appropriate.
- How effectively it helps our pupils develop into well-rounded individuals who embody our values and carry with them the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens.