

Developing Our Lady's Curriculum

Please find below our curriculum vision, school continues to work hard to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of our children. This academic year we are reviewing our curriculum so this page will be regularly updated.

Last year we began to review our whole school curriculum and its vision as a school development; this continues to be a priority for 2019-2020.

Intent

Curriculum Intent - What are we trying to achieve?

A successful curriculum is the key to any child's accelerated learning and progress. In addition, it enhances the children's enjoyment and valuing of education. It leads to the child's independent ability as a life-long learner and encourages participation in further and higher education.

At Our Lady's our curriculum is designed to build upon prior learning, improve communication skills, promote creativity, broaden knowledge and prepare pupils for life beyond school. We embrace our diversity as individuals and celebrate our unity as a caring, Christian community.

With this in mind, we strive to provide a curriculum that motivates and challenges every pupil to achieve their best learning. We aim to provide a curriculum through which children look forward to coming to school every day and go home, telling of their experiences and learning.

We believe that the curriculum should inspire and challenge all children and prepare them to be lifelong learners; we believe that the curriculum is a powerful tool that promotes equality of opportunity, develops aspirations, encourages a willingness to explore, take risks and develops a love of learning. Every child is encouraged to succeed through our broad, balanced and enriching curriculum, based upon strongly held Christian values preparing children for life in modern Britain. The Catholic ethos is central to all that we do in school and our vision for 'loving, learning and reaching out to all' is paramount to all that we do.

We are focusing on our belief that the curriculum underpins all of our provision as a school, and that through it the children should receive outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural guidance and, as a result, make excellent progress socially and academically, equipping them for adult life. We strive to ensure that there is a broad range of enrichment opportunities including extra-curricular activities which promote learning, personal growth and development.

The 2014 National Curriculum encourages a deeper learning, the mastery of fewer objectives and through high quality teaching, children will learn and remember securely, the knowledge, understanding and skills across all curriculum areas that will equip them for the future workplace. It fosters embedded learning and allows children to demonstrate what they know, can do and understand by practising fluency, reasoning and problem solving independent from direct teaching.

Our focus is to tailor the curriculum specifically for our children, to suit the needs of the learners. We work hard to continue to create and develop a curriculum that harnesses all of the statutory objectives creating school schemes of work and topics, which are relevant and stimulating to children in the locality they live and teaches them about the wider world, breaking down cultural and physical barriers.

Through self-evaluation, we realised that there are additional opportunities that we could offer to enhance and improve our curriculum; the focus is on moving towards developing a knowledge rich curriculum, utilising the local area's strengths to their maximum potential (the building of the new Shakespeare Theatre in 2022), Knowlsey Safari Park and Knowsley Hall and the rich culture of Prescot and Liverpool.

We understand the need to keep up to date with national developments and educational research, offering our staff training opportunities to inform our curriculum planning and further refinement.

We will continue to closely review and refine our curriculum during 2019-2020 to ensure coverage of the programmes of study in the best possible way as we move to a new national inspection framework in 2019. During this transitional period, there is a clear action plan to support this area for development.

This is a long term whole school area of development and will form a major part of the school development plan in 2019-2020.

Our action plan will focus on:

- As a team we will work with subject leaders to clearly identify the end of year expectations for each year group.
- To develop knowledge planners to show previous knowledge and what we would like the children to know. Subject leaders will then be tasked with identifying the elements of the programmes of study that teachers will be assessing at the end of a topic through means of a big question. Children will demonstrate how much they have learnt and remembered of the knowledge and skills taught.
- We will ensure planning is firmly focused on delivery and content to best teach the unit of work. With a focus on further developing teaching sequences to include opportunities for formative assessment to ensure key knowledge, skills and understanding are embedded.
- To further enrich our curriculum we will be mapping out all enrichment opportunities to support the topics being taught e.g. visitors / trips etc.

- With the current development of Prescott linked to the Shakespeare Theatre, we will continue to provide as many opportunities as possible for the children to expand their knowledge of our local area.

Ongoing priorities:

- Continue to ensure that our children are given the best quality learning opportunities.
- To ensure that the curriculum model meets the requirement of the national curriculum.
- Subject leaders further develop their own subject visions in line with the whole school vision.
- Re-addressing the mapping out of the topics and themes with the progression of knowledge, skills and understanding and identifying the vocabulary and key concepts taught by each year group.
- Focusing on the use of questioning especially the 'big question' at the start of the topic to focus the learning.
- At the end of the topic/theme ensuring all the concepts taught are assessed.