



# CURRICULUM POLICY

## Aims

- To develop the academic, personal and social potential of each child
- To provide a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all pupils, parents and visitors to the School
- To encourage and support all pupils to develop the confidence and resilience to become self-motivated, independent learners, creative and curious to take responsibility as young leaders
- To uphold British Values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs) and promote traditional standards of respect, courtesy and kindness

## Ethos

St David's Prep is a happy, safe, caring, supportive and inclusive small school in which academic success and personal development are the major outcomes of our educational experience. Our curriculum and co-curriculum are designed to motivate, engage and challenge, develop passions and interests and provide opportunities to work independently or collaboratively. They provide the means for communicating and making decisions, and pupils learn to become more self-disciplined, independent, adaptable learners, thinkers and leaders who know how to succeed, but also persevere in the face of setbacks. Academic rigour is key. Our pupils are known to be charming, polite, happy and confident. They generally secure their first choice of secondary school. The school is popular and thriving because we do what we say we do.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Curriculum

Success in this challenging and fast-moving century requires pupils to know how to keep well and safe as well as understand how to learn and access learning independently. Pupils must develop strong critical thinking, interpersonal and communication skills in order to develop the capacity to master knowledge and skills, whilst understanding by analysing, synthesising and evaluating information from a wide variety of subjects and sources. If they can recall, reflect, be resilient, resourceful and reciprocal, they will, according to Professor Guy Claxton, succeed in an increasingly fluid, interconnected and complex world.

Pupils build the learning power, language to express it and study skills they need to work towards articulating this learning, using flipped learning in Science for example to build independence and be in a position to bring knowledge to problem-solving as preparation prior to the lesson. Well-established planning and homework habits, working at the best pace for them, participating, presenting their work and behaving appropriately, proof-reading for accuracy, persevering, learning through feedback and responding to next steps marking take the pupils forward and build best work ethic.

Through a personal, social and health wellbeing programme as well as linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, economic and entrepreneurial, physical and aesthetic and creative education and cross-curricular initiatives such as STEM projects that bring aspects of the curriculum together, we are preparing children for the world they live in and will live in. They will have begun their preparation for the world of work and their responsibility as global citizens.

## **The Parents' Curriculum**

In order for parents to engage with enthusiasm and knowledge in their children's learning, we teach them about:

- being safe on and offline;
- wellbeing;
- reading methods;
- building learning power;
- how best to support their children's independence; and
- planning and preparing the next stage of their child's education

## **Organisation and planning**

We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each key stage. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review this long-term plan on an annual basis.

Through our medium-term plans we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies for each topic. We follow and build upon National Curriculum guidance.

Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis. We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.

## **The Curriculum and Inclusion**

The curriculum in our school is designed to be accessed by all children who attend the school. It is important to offer appropriate challenge commensurate with a child's capacity as they grow and develop. If we think it necessary to modify some children's access to the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do this only after their parents have been consulted.

In line with the SEND code of Practice, our aim is for all pupils to have equal access to a broad, balanced curriculum which is relevant to their needs and abilities, including those who have English as an additional language (EAL). We are committed to working in close partnership with parents to this end. In the light of our assessment process, teachers constantly plan how to adapt their core teaching and use of resources to suit the needs of their pupils. With pupils' needs at the centre of the planning process, teachers plan to provide and put in place high quality, well - targeted, differentiated and suitably challenging teaching for individuals in lessons.

In addition to this, Years 2 - 6 split into Maths groups on a weekly basis. The groups change regularly, according to need and are planned for on a weekly basis. This delivers relevant provision for all pupils, from those with additional needs to those who require extra challenge.

Targeted literacy support is provided to relevant pupils, according to need, on a small group basis by a specialist tutor. Rates of progress are monitored.

If a child is not making progress or are felt to have special needs or disabilities, we consult with parents and we involve the appropriate external agencies regarding the assessment of needs and recommendations for support. The child is added to the special needs register and an IEP outlines the nature of the special need and the SEND support to be put in place. This is reviewed on a regular basis.

We are fortunate at St David's in having built firm links with various external agencies who we can consult for advice. They deliver regular SEND training to support all staff to assist them with strategies to deliver effective support to pupils.

Some children are very able and need to be stretched with challenges that require them to research and question independently for example. Grouping by ability and 'could' challenges offer relevant provision. Unique feedback and follow-up tasks also stretches and challenges these children.

## **The role of the subject leaders**

The role of the subject leaders is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for each subject, including the use of target setting;
- support and advise colleagues on issues related to each subject;
- monitor pupils' progress and the provision in the appropriate subject area;
- provide efficient resource management for each subject
- Oversee long and medium term plans for their subject
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It is the role of each subject leader to keep up to date with developments in their subjects, at both national and local level. This is facilitated by individual teachers taking an overview of one or more subjects, according to expertise, training and interest. The subject leaders review the way subjects are taught in the school, observe relevant year groups, and plan for improvement. This development planning links to whole-school objectives. Each curriculum leader reviews curriculum plans, ensures that there is full coverage of the National Curriculum by working alongside class teachers, and sees that progression is planned into schemes of work. Where possible, non-contact time will be made available to fulfil these duties, as deemed necessary by the SLT. Each subject leader has the opportunity to lead CPD sessions for staff during regular 4.00 Monday staff training times.

## **Wellbeing**

Feeling safe, well and happy is central to successful learning. Excellent pastoral care systems, the Personal, Social and Health aspects of the PSHE Education, whole school approaches such as keeping safe, anti-bullying and partnership with parents and guardians and taking opportunities to listen to children are key to pupil wellbeing. PE and sport, understanding of diet and nutrition, daily mealtimes and snacks, drinking healthily with a focus on water intake develop physical health. Acquiring emotional intelligence through a focus on building self-knowledge through experience and learning and providing support with mental health strategies such as mindfulness build emotional resilience. Ensuring a culture of reward and encouragement within a framework of working together helps to establish self-esteem and confidence. Pupils come to understand the importance of a balanced lifestyle as a key fundament to their academic success and personal development.

## **Leadership**

All pupils are taught to take responsibility for themselves, their belongings and to care about others. They are encouraged to do their best, understand that everyone is different and appreciate that difference, and learn that they will keep growing and changing. As they master this responsibility and gather this increasing self-knowledge, they will have opportunities to lead others and make a difference in the wider world through service opportunities and enterprise.

## **Curriculum subjects**

All subjects are supported by schemes of work and planning to ensure their differentiated delivery to the pupil. The needs of each pupil are supported through teaching to a variety of learning styles, namely visual, auditory and kinaesthetic. The curriculum and planning is adapted to the needs of each individual child, including those with special needs, those with EHC plans, the most able and those who have English as a second language.

The timetable demonstrates the hours of curriculum provision per subject per week.

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage ("Early Years")**

In the Early Years we follow the principles embodied in our Early Years Policy. Throughout the Early Years we aim to cover and extend the experience of the children beyond the Early Years Foundation Curriculum.

### **The prime areas of learning:**

- communication and language;
- physical development; and
- personal, social and emotional development.

### **The specific areas of learning:**

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and
- expressive arts and design.

### **Characteristics of effective learning:**

- playing and exploring;
- active learning; and
- creating and thinking critically.

### **Core subjects**

**English and Drama:** Our high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. Pupils develop competence in communication/literacy (speaking, listening, reading and writing), and learn to apply these skills to other areas of learning. Drama focuses particularly on developing listening, speaking and performing skills.

The two subject leaders provide key support and monitor the provision across all year groups. Constant assessment and screening, where necessary, of individual pupils, ensures the correct groupings and strategies are put in place for each child. Extra small support groups are in place and these are frequently adjusted by the specialist phonics practitioner who liaises with class teachers and parents. Pupils in KS2 take ownership of their targets to enable their progress in the must/should/could culture.

**Mathematics:** Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. Our high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject. Pupils develop competence in mathematics/numeracy, and learn to apply these skills, particularly involving number, space, shape and data handling to other areas of learning.

A synchronised system of timetabling Mathematics across the year groups has allowed the flexibility to make groups of similar ages and abilities which has led to a marked improvement in the overall standard of learning in this subject. Many other opportunities are taken to ensure that any gaps in knowledge are plugged, gaps that are missing for a variety of reasons.

**Science:** Science is vital to the world's future prosperity and continues to change lives. All pupils are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science and we seek to inspire them through a number of opportunities beyond the curriculum such as Astronomy Day, Science Day or through visits from a local scientist. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils are encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They are encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, investigate, predict how things will behave and analyse causes. They are encouraged to consider how they might make a difference and solve some of the world's greatest challenges one day by using their knowledge, creativity and thinking skills to think outside the box. They are invited to see themselves as game changers in various projects and maybe one day they will be!

## **The Technologies**

**Computer Science, Design and Technology, Engineering and cross-curricular Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects:** Our high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with mathematics, science, and design and technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems.

The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – preparing them for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world. Pupils develop competence in Information and Communication Technology and learn to apply these skills across other areas of learning.

Our use of electronic resources, including hand-held devices, interactive whiteboards, tablets and personal computers allows us to develop the technologically literate generation of both pupils and staff. An e blended learning environment combining e-learning and traditional methods leads to more self-paced and differentiated learning. Pupils and teachers can engage in audio and video conferencing with children in other classrooms and around the world. The use of paper is minimised and multi-sensory learning and differentiation, not to mention curiosity and creativity are maximised. Opportunities for leadership in this area are in place and a club to develop further interest and passion is offered in KS2.

## **Making sense of the world**

As global citizens, our pupils will develop a sense of themselves by participating in cosmopolitan democracy and discovering how they can contribute to building a better world. They are encouraged to have a say in the life of the school and to contribute to wider society, developing a sense of agency and of their own rights and responsibilities.

## **Social, moral, spiritual and cultural education:**

Social education can only be partly pinned down to the social teaching in PSHE Education; it is in every day and in all encounters as well as understanding how people interact with one another through a myriad of subjects. A spiritual experience or response can come through many subjects of experiences as can opportunities to discuss what is right or wrong, the rule of law, school rules and responsibility for behaviour as well as the challenge of individual liberty and choice. Religious Studies teaches different religions, traditions and cultures and promotes respect, sensitivity and tolerance for them. In addition, every relevant opportunity to discuss and understand the implications of what living alongside different religions and cultures is promoted in any discipline.

## **Community, Democracy and Inclusion:**

Our school plays an important part in fostering a stronger community spirit in the locality. We also want our pupils to understand that they are part of the national and global communities. We encourage them to think globally and act locally, embracing, valuing, respecting and celebrating difference.

## **Modern Foreign Languages:**

As part of our mission for all to be conscientious and informed citizens, they will study at least one foreign language. The knowledge of another's language and culture is the most important way to begin to know a country and people. The study of a foreign language:

- sensitizes students to world cultures, simultaneously making them aware of their own culture within that context;
- introduces pupils to the differences in structures, grammar, and syntax that distinguishes two languages, and to the intimate links between language and cultural meaning; and
- contributes to the development of pupils' critical, analytical and writing skills.

French and its culture are currently taught in Years 1 – 6.

## **The Humanities:**

Understanding how people, their actions and the environment have influenced and continue to influence society is the basis of the Humanities curriculum. Gaining a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world, history should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Through studying History, pupils should learn to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

The study of Geography should equip pupils with a fascination for and knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

The curriculum extends to such initiatives as Forest School, using our extensive wooded and grassed grounds where children can explore, be imaginative and get messy in a safe and controlled environment and in all weathers. It also includes trips to museums, theatres, local areas of relevance, Year 2 Victorian Day, a celebration of Chinese New Year, plays on historical themes, visits and assemblies from the local vicar, messy church sessions for the Pre-Prep and more.

## **Entrepreneurial and economic literacy:**

Through a variety of means, pupils will be given an opportunity to understand economic difference in the world. Research, debate and discussion of world events allow pupils to reason, hypothesise and synthesise information, thinking about such issues as sustainability, poverty, hunger and more. Their charity work allows them to make links and seek opportunity for enterprise, seeing this as a chance to work together and make money, consider who to give it to, explore difference and prepare for the world of work. Through a variety of experiences, pupils resolve difference, learn to adapt to change, work together, solve problems, learn through failure, persevere and become resilient.

Enrichment and the Co-Curriculum: Learning outside the classroom and beyond the timetable is indispensable for developing the whole person. We provide our children with a wide range of experiences, including a range of indoor academic and leisure pursuits, outdoor education, a variety of fitness and sporting activities to enable them to enjoy and value healthy living and activities to promote expression, confidence and creativity.

## **Expressive and Creative Arts**

The Expressive and Creative Arts are central to our curriculum and there is a rich and established tradition of them at St David's. By engaging in experiences within the expressive arts, pupils learn to recognise and show feelings and emotions, both their own and those of others. By providing aesthetic and creative education, pupils are able to develop their own creativity and empathy through a huge range of experiences in any discipline. They have many opportunities for performance on stage, in choirs, in ensembles and in dance to practise and perform. Performing and expressive arts help develop their sense of identity at all levels, personal, social and cultural. Pupils experience and learn to value local, national and global culture. Display projects are key to this.

By learning to express themselves and through experiencing these aspects of the curriculum, pupils are helped to gain confidence, reduce stress and take pride in their achievements. They also learn and celebrate collaboration, discipline and creativity.

## **Preparing for the World of Work**

Pupils learn to adapt to each next stage of their education as they progress from the Early Years, through KS1 and KS2, succeeding in key progress markers and/or exams. They are prepared for examinations for entry into a wide range of senior schools. They learn how to work for goals, manage and even thrive under pressure. Children are tested regularly in academic lessons and strive to succeed. They are encouraged to understand that learning results from getting things wrong and this builds resilient learners who are willing to have a go

at most tasks. Learners are encouraged to ask for help and guidance, taking on board the 'power of YET...I can't do it YET'.

Work education is part of their experience, introducing them to the world of work and allowing them some experience thereof. School council, Head Boy and Girl, House Captains, Sports Captains Prefects and other responsibility roles build leadership skills. Pupils are invited to take advantage of leadership, enterprise and service opportunities and grow in experience and character as a result.

### **Monitoring and Review:**

The Head and team are responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is delivered. This is reported on by the subject leaders. This is overseen by the Wishford Executive through the Director of Strategy and Education.

The Director of Strategy and Education oversees the quality of literacy, numeracy and ICT and liaises with the respective subject leaders, monitoring closely the way these subjects are taught. The Director of Strategy and Education also liaises with the SEND coordinator, and monitors the ways in which special needs are addressed. The Head is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum. The Head has oversight of the weekly lesson plans for all teachers, ensuring that all classes are taught the full requirements of the Curriculum, and that all lessons have appropriate learning objectives.

The Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders monitor the way subjects are taught throughout the school. They examine long-term and medium-term planning, and ensure that appropriate teaching strategies are used. Subject leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are used and managed and advise on what is needed.

This policy is monitored by the senior leadership of the Wishford Schools group and will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.