



St. Francis Xavier's RC Primary School

Our Curriculum

Our vision for our curriculum has been based upon our mission as a Catholic school:

Share God's love with one another

Follow your dreams

Excel in citizenship

We have structured our curriculum with the *intent, implementation and impact* clearly in mind.

Our INTENT is that every child will leave St. Francis Xavier's R.C. Primary School, at the end of Year 6, equipped with our SFX mission, to enable him/her to have the confidence and ability to continue to grow and develop as a whole person, as they progress onto the next stage of their educational and spiritual journey.

The IMPLEMENTATION of our curriculum has been carefully considered and is delivered through five unique 'lenses'. Each year, the teaching and learning of the National Curriculum and its delivery, has a particular focus. Spirituality is always at the centre, just as Christ is at the centre of our school. He is the ever-present teacher in our classrooms and the model for all adults and pupils alike. As we are reminded in scripture, we try to live out his words "Love one another as I have loved you."



The structure and content of the curriculum is mapped out in our unit plans, long term plans for each subject demonstrating careful sequencing and medium-term planning documents. As a useful document for subject leads and class teachers, a unit plan maps out the knowledge and skills, lists the key tier two and tier three vocabulary to be explicitly taught and utilized, as well as prior learning so that learners can build upon foundational knowledge and expand their schemata.

SFX Curriculum Design: 'ROCKS':

Remembering Our Curriculum Knowledge and Skills

As well as providing the children with knowledge organizers to assist the expansion of their long-term memory and develop their vocabulary, the children regularly have access to ROCKS cards.

The ROCKS cards outline the key knowledge in each topic in History, Geography, Science and R.E. They are regularly reviewed with children giving them the opportunity to articulate their understanding of what they have learned and practice using key vocabulary in spoken as well as written form. They may be used at the start of a lesson to review prior learning and may even include ROCKS from prior year groups. We are always seeking to build the children's schemata and refer to prior learning. Skills cards illustrate which skills the children are practicing in more practical subject such as Computing or Design and Technology. Through the use of skills cards the children can understand that they are working to develop mastery in key skills through deliberate practice.

Children begin their journey with the EYFS profile. The 'Read Write Inc' scheme is followed in KS1 to establish a solid foundation in phonics and is carried into KS2 as a useful phonics tool for all children. Having completed the RWI scheme, children progress onto the 'Write Stuff' as a teaching method for writing. In mathematics, we have adopted a mastery approach, with a focus on high aspirations for all, leading the children through the curriculum in small structured steps, whilst providing opportunity to develop fluency, problem-solving and reasoning skills.

We follow a two-week timetable, which provides time for in-depth study of a topic within the foundation subjects. **Intentional task design** ensures that the children have regular opportunities to showcase their understanding and knowledge which requires children to recall key facts and expand initial thoughts and apply deep concepts to more challenging tasks. This further enhances pupils' learning and memory. Based upon educational research on how the brain works, we understand that it is vital that children have regular opportunities to recall and demonstrate their understanding of recently acquired knowledge. High quality talk with targeted and aspirational feedback ensures that all children make excellent progress. Our teaching staff use Rosenshine's principles as a framework when planning a sequence of lessons and understand how to implement cognitive load theory recommendations.

Following Archdiocesan guidance, Religious Education forms 10% of our teaching timetable and delivers the RED 'To know you more clearly.' We make use of Dr Margaret Carswell's resource 'Kip and Friends' at KS2 and 'Lighting the Path' (also co-written by Dr Margaret Carswell) at KS1.

The Catholic Life of our school is at the heart of our vision. We celebrate Mass regularly, provide opportunity for prayer and meditation, celebrate the Sacraments and gather regularly, including the wider community. 'A Fertile Heart', for years 4-6, and the 'TenTen' PSHE scheme, which have many cross-curricular links, project faith into the children's lives. The whole school focuses on 'The St. Francis Xavier's Pupil Profile' both in our collective worship and in our daily interactions with one another, which embeds fundamental Catholic virtues to enable all children to thrive.

We have high expectations for the **IMPACT** of our curriculum. Children will have the knowledge and skills, as a firm foundation, for the rest of their educational journey. A Y6 SFX child, will be eloquent, have high aspirations for the future and will be an enquiring

independent learner, who is resilient to change or failure. During their journey through our school, we will have provided the children with rich curriculum opportunities, to enable them to continue to **F**ollow their dreams, **eX**cel in citizenship and **S**hare God's love with others.

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