

# Low Trenchard C of E Primary School Curriculum Policy

## Vision and Curriculum Statement

At the heart of our curriculum is our Church school vision of Love, Equality and Wisdom, rooted in the teaching of Jesus and exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). This vision shapes the way we design, deliver, and evaluate learning across all subjects, ensuring that our children flourish both academically and personally.

- Love is reflected in a curriculum that nurtures compassion, respect, and care for others. We provide opportunities for pupils to explore diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives, encouraging them to serve their community and the wider world.
- Equality is promoted through high expectations for all, inclusive teaching, and a commitment to enabling every child to access the full richness of the curriculum. Inspired by the Samaritan who crossed social boundaries, we equip our pupils to challenge injustice and value the uniqueness of every individual.
- Wisdom is fostered by encouraging curiosity, reflection, and critical thinking. We want our pupils not only to gain knowledge but also to develop the discernment to use it wisely in making responsible choices for themselves and others.

In this way, the parable of the Good Samaritan threads through our curriculum as a living example of our vision in action. It calls our school community to respond with courage, compassion, and integrity in all areas of learning and life.

This document outlines our school curriculum and how we plan, teach and monitor it. It links with our Teaching and Learning policy which sets out our vision for our pupils as learners in our school.

- At LewTrenchard Church of England Primary School the curriculum aims to give our children the knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve to their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. This takes place in the context of a safe and nurturing school environment where each individual child is known and each individual child's learning journey is unique to them.
- We aim to give the children the necessary skills to prepare them for life in modern British society. As a truly inclusive primary school our curriculum reflects both the context of the school and the experiences of the children. This enables the children to be aspirational, to fulfil their potential and reach the highest of expectations that we have of them. We want all our pupils to truly reach their potential in everything they do,
- Our priority is to enable the children to succeed by providing a rich, relevant and exciting curriculum. In doing so the children will develop a lifelong love of learning. Reading for information and pleasure, writing for different purposes and being able to apply their maths skills to real life situations. Being able to explain, analyse and persuade is at the heart of what we do.
- Our approach to delivering a creative curriculum ensures that we fully implement the National Curriculum. We follow a theme-based approach to learning in the belief that children learn best when logical connections are made between different aspects of their work. We encourage project work and research based learning to encourage the children to have enquiring minds, to take ownership of their own learning, fostering independence and developing resilience.



- At Low Trenchard Church of England Primary School we believe that learning is an active collaboration between home and school. In addition to regular homework such as reading, spelling, handwriting and learning number facts (tables and number bonds) we encourage parents to become involved in project work and topics.
- The children are taught in 3 key stages – the Early Years Foundation stage, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2. In the Foundation Stage the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 the children follow the National Curriculum.
- Please see our reading/phonics policies for more information about how we teach early reading. This is available in our policies sections under the heading of 'teaching and learning'

### **Our School Curriculum**

The basis of our school curriculum is formed by the National Curriculum. However, we also include a range of learning that is relevant to our pupils and locality as well as teaching additional content that supports the pupils in being well- prepared for their futures.

#### *A thematic approach*

Teaching subject knowledge and skills as part of a wider concepts and theme-based curriculum allows pupils to make useful links between areas of learning as well as apply and consolidate skills. Children are also likely to be more engaged in their learning if it has a context and theme that runs through it. We believe that when children have a say in what they want to learn, this encourages and motivates them significantly.

At Low Trenchard's we have developed a concepts and thematic curriculum to deliver the National Curriculum (2014) and other aspects of the school curriculum, including PHSE and Religious Education.

Our Thematic curriculum has the following structure:

Each theme is led by a different curriculum area (but most subjects will be taught each half term). Within this, there will always be an element of pupil voice leading the ways that pupils want to learn about their topic.

The combination of themes planned over a year will teach the statutory programme of study for the new National Curriculum.

The curriculum framework consists of:

Whole School Schemes of learning for Foundation Subjects, English, Maths, Science, PE, PSHE and RE.



## **Championing Children**

Our thematic approach is supported by a creative curriculum approach measuring social and emotional capabilities which improve children's learning, value the development of the whole child and prepare children for the future.

### **Subjects**

As core subjects English and Maths will continue to be taught discretely although all teachers will plan opportunities for cross-curricular application and additional learning of maths and English skills.

#### *English*

Where possible theme links will be made with literacy genres, fiction and non-fiction books, guided reading books, and poetry as this has been shown to develop the thematic approach, and deepen learning and engagement. We follow Babcock Literacy Teaching Sequences to teach our main English lessons and the Read Write Inc Programme and Grammarsaurus programmes to teach phonics, spelling and grammar.

#### *Maths*

We make every effort to link areas of maths to other subjects, for example: data handling and measures to science, computing or DT where appropriate for pupils and to support Maths learning. At St Catherine's we follow the White Rose Maths Hub Scheme of learning as well as using Times Table Rock Stars with our pupils.

#### *Science*

Science will be fully embedded in the themes. Some themes each year have a science focus and others will have less of a scientific emphasis. Science will still be taught regularly in these times however. We have a clear progressions and skills map for science that ensures each year group follows the appropriate content, at the appropriate level of challenge. More time will be allocated over a half term to teaching science as it is still a core subject.

#### *Religious Education*

RE is a statutory part of the curriculum. The school will follow the Devon Agreed Syllabus for RE. Where possible topics from this syllabus have been matched to thematic topics across a year. In school, we use the 'Understanding Christianity' resource to support our teaching of RE.

#### *PE*

PE is taught discretely, following the separate PE scheme of work. Some of our PE is taught by external PE specialist coaches. Please see PE policy for details.



### *Foundation Subjects*

The Foundation subjects of History, Geography, Design Technology, Art will be integrated into the theme and will form the basis of much of the cross-curricular links. Music and French will be taught following the school's schemes of learning.

### *PHSE and Spirituality*

While not statutory, PHSE and Spirituality are important aspects of our curriculum, and will be taught either discreetly or within a topic depending on the needs of the pupils in each key stage. Please see the separate PHSE and Spirituality Curriculum Policies for more details.

### *Computing*

Computing covers the computer science aspects alongside the ICT curriculum. There is a programme of study for each year group to follow. Computing will generally be taught discreetly. Other elements of the wider ICT curriculum will be taught alongside other curriculum areas, as a part of topic work. This will include Digital Publication and Presentation, Digital Research, Data Handling and the use of Digital Media.

## **Timetables**

The school has a timetable with non-negotiable allocations for various aspects of the curriculum, including English, Maths, and Basic skills etc. English and Maths will be the focus of the morning sessions with time allocated for English lessons, Spelling, Phonics, Grammar and Guided Reading, maths lessons, Maths Fluency Sessions and Times table/number work practice.

Some subjects will be taught discreetly in weekly sessions eg PE, PHSE, RE etc. Teachers are free to arrange their afternoon timetables to make the most of cross-curricular opportunities and the needs of pupils. Sometimes subjects and activities might be 'blocked' or run over successive afternoons, to support pupils to keep focussed on concepts or to consolidate skills and to allow practical work to flow. Other areas might be dependent on hall/room bookings and happen at a regular time each week.



## Planning

New planning formats have been introduced as part of the new curriculum development Planning for each topic should comprise of the following documents:

- *Themes Overview*
- *Year Group Subjects S Planning* – following the full range of schemes of learning – what each year group must cover.
- *English and Maths Unit S Plans* - outline of the way activities and lessons are organised over the unit, to maximise cross—curricular links and support progression through a subject. This plan is where the learning intentions will be developed alongside activities and lessons. It will also include differentiation/challenge, use of other adults, ICT opportunities and links to English and maths and expected pupil outcomes. This planning will also show clearly assessment opportunities for teachers to ensure pupils are making expected progress.
- *Knowledge Organiser/Vocabulary MAT/Quiz* – clear concept led planning

All planning is uploaded to the school-shared drive to allow for subject leader and SLT monitoring.

## Launching the theme

A new theme will be introduced with a planned 'hook' or launch activity to engage the pupil's interest. This might include a series of stimulating images, an artwork, some music or a video clip. There will be classroom/door/book corner displays to set the scene. After the introduction the children will create a knowledge organiser to collect ideas, prior knowledge, current understanding, vocabulary, questions and general discussion about the theme. The class teacher will then share with the pupils what has been planned for the different subjects over the coming weeks, and how they relate back to the topic.

At the end of the theme pupils will revisit the initial knowledge organiser and review their learning over the theme. They will complete a short Theme quiz to show what they have retained.

## Subject Areas

Pupils will be encouraged to make links between subject areas, and sometimes be working on more than one subject at the same time. Staff will make the subject links clear at the start of each lesson, and pupils should write the main subject that they are working on at the top of each new piece of work. This will enable subject and phase leaders to monitor a subject area and see the progression as well as look at the cross-curricular outcomes.



## **Inclusion**

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including:

- More able pupils
- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEND
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Teachers plan lessons so that pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can study every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

Teachers also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils' access in all subjects

## **Learning Intentions**

Teachers will make learning intentions and success criteria clear during each session or lesson, and refer back to them as necessary. These may be stuck into pupils books for pupils to self- assess.

## **Marking**

Every piece of work is expected to be marked against the learning intention and success criteria. Please refer to the marking policy.

## **Assessment**

Pupils work will be assessed using a range of tools including teacher assessment strategies, 1/2 termly gaps analysis tests and termly standardised tests.

## **Evaluating learning in a theme**

Pupils should revisit the initial topic knowledge organiser at the end of the theme, and add new learning and understanding in. They can also correct any misconceptions. This will allow pupils to reflect on their learning and learning processes. Teachers might also encourage more detailed feedback on the theme, and what went well and what was less successful as well as discussing with the pupils what they might like to learn next.



## **Use of ICT**

Although some of the ICT curriculum is now covered in the Computing curriculum, there are many digital tools, media and resources that can be used by staff and pupils to support cross- curricular work. These include:

- Digital publishing and presentation tools – Microsoft Office, 2Simple software.
- Digital Media tools – film editing and photo manipulation software, painting applications.
- Digital Sound recorders – can record pupil reflection, evaluation, problem solving steps etc
- Digital cameras – the school have i-pads can also be used for this purpose
- The school has a scheme of learning which directs teachers to appropriate resources for teaching each Computing curriculum area

## **Resources**

- The school orders in topic boxes with other resources, artefacts, objects, books, posters, photos etc. for topic teaching.
- The school subscribes to a range of online resources such as Twinkl, Grammarsaurus, SPAG.com, Times Table Rockstars.
- Library topic collections can be ordered from Devon Library Service.
- Subject Leaders will be responsible for updating and organising subject-based resources as well as monitoring consumables and other subject-related resources.

## **Exercise Books**

The school has a policy to use set books over the year.

- Each book must be labelled with child's first name, class and subject.
- Books go up with children to their next class and re-labelled when necessary.
- Each child has a homework book and home reading book - other books should not be taken home for homework or to finish work.
- Children should begin to use pen as early as possible and all by the end of year 4. The class teachers decide when a child is ready to start using a pen.
- Teachers use pink and green pens for marking.
- All work must be dated and have a learning intention and where appropriate a success- criteria.



- The use of rubbers should be limited to encourage children to show their workings
- In maths books, pupils must write 1 digit per square.
- Spellings should be checked in all subjects. Pupils are expected to self-correct any age appropriate spellings.
- Teachers should have high expectations of pupils' presentations in books.

## **Home Learning**

We believe that home learning:

- Provides a home/school link and promotes liaison
- Increases parental knowledge and understanding of the curriculum
- Actively involves parents in the learning process
- Generates discussion at home amongst family members
- Encourages a positive attitude and approach to learning
- Encourages self-motivation and the development of organisational skills
- Fosters independent learning
- Should be targeted at each child's level
- Develops research skills
- Encourages pupils to become more familiar with out of school resources, eg. Local library
- Reinforces the teaching of the National Curriculum
- Encourages constructive use of spare time
- Improves pupil achievement
- Assists language development
- Does not have to be written
- Work sent home should be linked to learning in school

We encourage pupils to read at least 3 times a week at home and support those who don't achieve this through reading in school. We have a scheme, to broaden pupils learning beyond the purely academic, called '50 things to do whilst at Lew Trenchard which is a set of activities we aim to ensure every pupil experiences during their primary school years. We hope that this encourages them to try new things outside of school. To support this, we provide a range of extra-curricular clubs at school. Please see our home learning policy for more details.

## **Relevant linked documents**

Policy documents linked to this policy can be found on the school website. Planning documents and schemes of learning can be found on the school-shared drive.



## **Evaluating and updating the Curriculum**

We will be evaluate the curriculum half- termly to see how staff and pupils are responding. This monitoring will be carried out in the following ways by the SLT and subject leaders:

- Planning scrutiny
- Book scrutiny
- Pupil voice
- Staff feedback