

St. Thomas' C of E Academy

Our Curriculum – September 2023



Our curriculum intent

- Our curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum but is also unique to our school
- Our curriculum is ambitious, exciting, challenging, broad and balanced and enables each and every child to reach their full potential and access a range of enriching experiences
- We aim for our curriculum to enable our children to become creative thinkers and active learners
- Our curriculum enables our children to become avid readers, geographers, scientists, historians, musicians, artists, mathematicians or writers.
- Our school values and key concepts are woven through our curriculum to support our children to make links between subjects and to the modern world in which they live
- Our curriculum builds social and cultural capital so that our children have the self-belief, skills, knowledge and vocabulary to become life-long learners
- Throughout our curriculum, our children are exposed to rich, diverse, quality texts



Key principles underpinning our curriculum

- A clear progression of skills from Reception through to Year 6 underpins the long-term planning of each curriculum subject
- Long term plans for each subject are well sequenced so that learning within each year builds upon learning from previous classes
- Medium term plans for each term reflect prior learning and future learning within that subject, along with any connections to other subjects, so that children can make links and that any new learning is easier to make sense of and to recall
- The basis of our curriculum is the experience of being a child living within our local community of Wednesfield, Wolverhampton so that all learning begins local and then extends to both national and then global learning before returning to closer to home

Values

- Throughout our curriculum we explore opportunities to to our Christian values (Aspiration, Trust, Forgiveness and Honesty) so that is further understood
- Our curriculum also explores British values (Democracy, Rule of Law, Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty) through a range of children are supported to society



Our St. Thomas' Ds

- Our pedagogy for teaching and learning at St. Thomas' is underpinned by our 'Ds' - these support our intent children to be active in their learning and become thinkers. Each curriculum subject includes the
 - dive
 - delve
 - discover
 - discuss
 - design
 - demonstrate
 - draft
 - develop



Our St. Thomas' Ten

- As children progress through our school from Reception Year 6 we aspire for our children to become 'active learners' and 'creative thinkers' through the of ten key learning behaviours:
 - concentration
 - perseverance
 - collaboration
 - making links
 - enjoying learning
 - great thinking
 - always reflecting
 - being curious
 - being determined
 - being creative



Curriculum implementation

- At St. Thomas', maths and English are taught daily and R.E., science, P.E and French are taught each week.
- All other subjects are blocked each term and are taught discretely. We schedule subjects so that, for example, humanities subjects (history, geography) and expressive arts (music and art) are spaced out across each term.
- Throughout each sequence of subjects, children's learning is added to their classroom 'Learning Journey' display that enables children to retrieve learning and make links throughout the term. Children also participate in regular 'knowing more, remembering more' quizzing along with their own, personal learning journey reflections at the end of each half term.

Curriculum celebration

- Our inspiring school hall displays celebrate the range of learning opportunities that take place within our blocked subjects:
 - geography
 - history
 - D.T.
 - computing
 - art
 - music
- Reading is also celebrated within our hall, sharing all of the quality texts that children access through their English journey at our school.
- We also have dedicated P.E. and MFL displays that share learning in these subjects
- Within our classrooms, learning in English, maths, R.E. and science is shared
- Our school website celebrates learning in each curriculum subject through photographs, clips of lessons and videos of children talking about their learning



Curriculum enrichment

- In addition to enrichment opportunities throughout our curriculum, we also plan for specific weeks to further embrace a particular curriculum area.
- During the 2022/2023 academic year we have the following enrichment weeks planned:

Autumn term - Black history

Spring term - 'In our hands' – a PHSE focus week linked to climate change

Summer term - Mental health and well-being week supported by workshops delivered by #Be You



Beyond our curriculum

- At St. Thomas' we offer a range of roles and responsibilities for children across school including: gardeners, litter pickers, playground coaches, librarians, head boy, head girl, worship leaders and our pupil leadership team
- At St. Thomas' we aim to make a difference to our local community and beyond through fundraising events for national projects such as Children In Need and Comic Relief. We also provide donations to local charities including The Well, Wolverhampton
- At St. Thomas' we offer an exciting range of after school club enrichment opportunities including art, football, multi-sports, computing, reading, maths puzzles, choir and music club



Subject leadership at St. Thomas'

- Subject leaders at St. Thomas' receive weekly dedicated subject leadership time to support with the development of each of our subject areas
- Each half term, three of our staff meetings have a subject specific focus aimed at developing the subject knowledge and expertise of our teaching staff
- Our subject leaders regularly collaborate with other subject leads across our nine MAT schools to share best practice and to support each other to develop a world-class curriculum



Other curriculum documentation

The following documentation for each subject are currently being finalised by our subject leaders and will be added to our website soon:

- One page subject intent and implementation statements for each subject
- Progression of skills for each subject from Reception to Year 6
- Subject long term plan overviews
- Medium term plans
- Vocabulary progression
- Year group curriculum maps

