

Curriculum Rationale

A Journey in Faith, Arriving with Hope.

St. Thomas' School vision:

To inspire all children through a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum enabling every child to succeed.

We create an ethos where everyone is an explorer and an active participant. Children are challenged and encouraged to thrive in all areas. Our aim is to nurture talent and ensure children are equipped to live life in all its fullness.

Children experience a wide range of high-quality lessons and enrichment activities daily. We recognise that children are naturally curious; therefore child-led learning is developed through their questions.

At St Thomas', the children are taught about the past, the present and how to be prepared for their future. Links are made to the local area and key events which impact on our pupils. Our curriculum design develops the children's understanding of British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. We believe in nurturing the whole child and guiding them to be respectful members of the community. Through our curriculum, we promote courageous advocacy and encourage children to ask questions.

Our curriculum is built around the principle of high levels of pupil involvement in their work and learning. It encourages and develops deep thinking. Opportunities for experiential learning are utilised across all subjects. Questions are used as a starting point for each topic. Topics are introduced with a "WOW" lesson which inspires the children to generate their own questions to explore. Subsequent lessons are then planned to enable the children to satisfy their curiosity, and ensure the children learn subject specific skills, whilst acquiring the knowledge and understanding set out in the National Curriculum. Learning challenges allow the children opportunities to transfer the skills learned and developed in a range of contexts, across the curriculum.

To achieve the depth of learning we strive for, we have split our curriculum into a two-yearly cycle within KS1, lower KS2 and upper KS2. This allows pupils more time to deepen their understanding of the foundation subjects and science – it also allows them more opportunities to utilise the skills they have been taught.

iPads play an important role in our curriculum delivery. From Years 1 – 6, each child has their own iPad to support their learning. The iPads are used to enhance collaboration, promote student's autonomy and increase engagement within our curriculum. iPads are used as a tool for learning, and we strive to use them in creative ways, whilst preparing our children for the ever-increasing digital world.