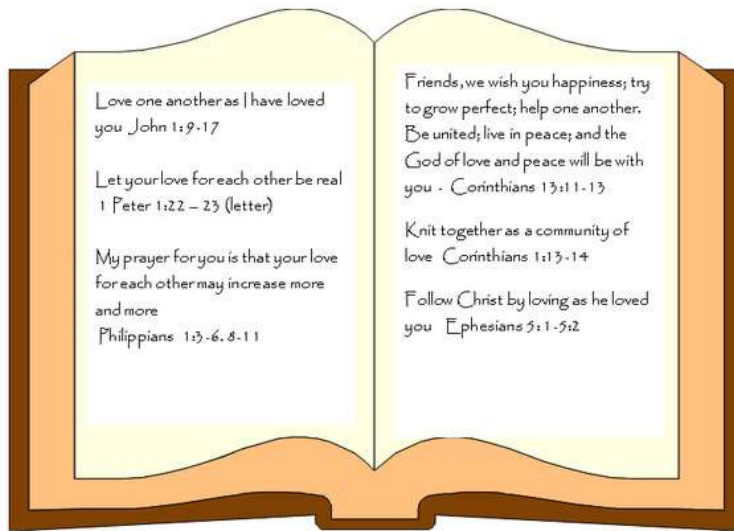




18. Curriculum Policy

Policy Valid until Autumn 2026
Policy owned by Head teacher

Grow in Love



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

For and on behalf of the Board of Governors

.....

Headteacher

.....

Date:

.....

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Policy status

This policy is reviewed on a Tri-annual basis.

Consultation

This policy was established and reviewed by all school staff in consultation with the governing body.

Purpose

- We aim to provide the pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum set within a framework that expects and seeks to attain high achievement from all pupils- through the values which we endeavour to uphold and live by:
 - the promotion of their full spiritual, academic, personal, social and physical development;
 - helping pupils to make decisions in line with our Mission Statement – Grow in Love
 - showing tolerance and respect for others;
 - the ability to work well with others, showing social skills of co-operation and leadership;
 - motivation and the ability to build on experience and to learn from mistakes;
 - the encouragement of independence in work and judgement;
 - the ability to identify and solve problems independently

- More specifically we aim to
 - embed Religious Education in all aspects of their learning experiences
 - teach and apply developmentally appropriate literacy, numeracy and digital skills across a rich, broad and balanced curriculum
 - acknowledge that every child is unique, each with their own talents and interests. By providing a broad curriculum we hope to ensure that every child is engaged and stimulated so they enjoy the school experience and have the opportunity to succeed thereby developing their self-esteem.
 - actively promote our Welsh culture, language and heritage across the curriculum.

- Our curriculum is designed to promote the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.
 - Ambitious, capable learners: Ready to learn throughout their lives, equipped with the essential cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy, and digital competence.
 - Enterprising, creative contributors: Ready to play a full part in life and work, think creatively to solve problems, and connect knowledge to create new ideas.
 - Ethical, informed citizens: Ready to take part in Wales and the world, respecting diversity, understanding human rights, and committing to the sustainability of the planet.
 - Healthy, confident individuals: Ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society, with the resilience, empathy, and knowledge to manage their mental and physical well-being.

Areas of Learning

Religious Education

Through Religious Education children will be encouraged to be curious, demonstrate wonder and awe, and find out for themselves. They will be given opportunities to explore their own experiences, questions and priorities and those of other people, reflect on the value of life and be encouraged to act responsibly towards living things. The range as exemplified in the People, Beliefs and Questions section of the Religious Education framework lends itself to our holistic approach to curriculum development. Links are made with all other Areas of Learning

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Children will learn about religion and have knowledge and understanding of

- beliefs, teachings and sources,
- celebration and ritual
- social and moral practices and way of life

Children will learn from Religion: reflection on meaning

- engagement with own and others beliefs and values
- engagement with questions of meaning and purpose

Language, Literacy and Communication

We are committed to equipping learners with the ability to use Welsh and English.

There is a large focus on developing oracy skills, as these skills are essential to development and learning as they touch every aspect of the curriculum.

We inspire our children to develop skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing. We help them to express themselves imaginatively and communicate effectively. We encourage them to become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction and media texts. They are taught specific literacy skills and then given opportunities to apply them in other Areas of Learning.

Although very few of our children come from homes where Welsh is the first language, we nurture a positive attitude towards Welsh as a second language. We use bi-lingual signage and displays and reward the use of incidental Welsh within the school. The development of the Welsh language continues to be a priority in our school. We have a thriving 'Ciw Cymraeg'

Mathematics and Numeracy

Numeracy is a proficiency which involves confidence and competence with numbers and measures. Our approach helps our children to problem solve and think in abstract ways. From their early years children develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematics through practical activity, exploration and discussion. As they move through the school, children experience an increasing range of mathematical situations in different contexts. They are taught skills which they are then asked to apply in other Areas of Learning.

Humanities

History fires our children's interest about the past. They see how it has influenced the present, learning within a chronological framework of significant events and people. It includes the social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity of the societies studied and children gain a better understanding of themselves, both as individuals and as members of society. Use is made of local places of historical interest.

Geography encourages children to find out about the natural and human worlds. They develop knowledge of people, places and environments in different and contrasting locations locally, nationally and abroad. Through their studies, our children develop an understanding of maps and a range of investigative and problem solving skills.

This encourages them to think about their own place in the world and their responsibilities to other people and environments.

Expressive Arts

Art and design stimulate creativity and imagination providing visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world. Our children explore the work of artists, craftspeople and designers, learning about the roles and functions of art, craft and design in contemporary life and in different times and cultures.

They learn to make informed judgements about works of art and their own artwork.

Music and song are a powerful and unique form of communication that change the way we feel, speak and act. Children are given opportunities to gain delight, enjoyment and satisfaction from music. Our teaching promotes pupils' ability to listen to and appreciate a wide variety of music, as well as to make judgements about musical quality.

Science and Technology

Science extends and develop the pupils' understanding of the world around them. We involve them actively in a scientific approach to learning which develops the processes of observation, data collecting, experimentation, classification, interpretation and recording. We also teach children about how technology works and how to use technology to solve problems.

Digital Competency

We have interactive whiteboards and pupils can access a wide variety of iPads and Chromebooks within and outside of their classrooms. In an ever changing world of technology we want to give our pupils the best start possible.

Health and Wellbeing

We aim for our children to be healthy and confident individuals who enjoy taking part in sporting activities.

Our children take part in a wide range of activities, including dance, gymnastics, games, athletics and swimming. Such activities promote skilfulness, physical development and knowledge of the body in action.

They also provide opportunities for our pupils to be creative, competitive and to face up to different challenges as individuals, in groups and as a member of a team.

The majority of our children have the opportunity to take turns to go swimming from Year 2 onwards.

Classroom Organisation

Pupils are taught in mixed ability, single age classes for the majority of curriculum time.

Roles and responsibilities of Area of Learning Teams

- To take the lead in their Area of Learning to ensure progression and continuity throughout the school.
- Support colleagues in the development of plans and implementation of the Area Of Learning
- Monitor progress in the Area of Learning and advise SLT and governors on action needed.
- Form links with Area of Learning governors and prepare reports for Governors' meetings as required

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of necessary resources
- Keep up to date with developments in the Area of Learning and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate
- Participate in planned cluster working with colleagues in the Area of Learning

Roles and responsibilities of other staff

- Class teachers are responsible for embedding the four purposes through carefully planned teaching in Religious Education, Areas of Learning and Skills
- They will plan effectively to develop skills within and across all curriculum areas
- They will monitor and assess the progress of skills and report to parents in line with school procedures.

Roles and responsibilities of the Governing Body

- The governing body is responsible for monitoring this policy
- A member of the governing body will be designated to liaise with each of the Area of Learning Teams to monitor and report on learning and teaching

Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

The curriculum will be differentiated appropriately to meet the diverse needs of all children. All children have the right to be included in the life of the school on a social, locational and functional basis. (See Strategic Equality Plan)

Additional Learning Needs

Pupils recognised as having additional learning needs will be closely monitored. In the teaching and learning of more able and talented children, staff will support and guide the pupils to extend, challenge and enrich their thinking, understanding, skills and knowledge through differentiated tasks.

Assessment

The aim of assessment is to ensure learners, parents/carers and staff know what a child can do and what steps they need to develop next.

- We make effective use of the following...
 - Day to day teacher assessment and learner feedback
 - WG Personalised Assessments in Reading, Procedural Maths and Reasoning tests (Years 2-6)
 - Internal Reading Tests (Accelerated Reader)
 - Standardised spelling test – Young's Parallel Spelling (October and May)
- Children's progress is monitored using internal tracking systems

This policy is available on the school website, and in translation, on request.