



# **Curriculum Policy and Statement of Intent**

**St. Margaret's CE Primary School**

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**Reviewed: September 2021**

**Review: July 2022**

**“Let your light shine before people that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.” – Matthew ch.5 v 16.**

We believe that every member of our school community should feel valued, respected and enabled to ‘...Let their light shine.’

This bible verse gives the focus which staff, pupils and parents of our school drive to achieve – an environment where each pupil finds and works to develop many talents for the benefit of themselves and others.

Much of our work in worship, lessons, extra- curricular activities and social interaction is designed to allow pupils to identify the Christian Values which allow them to shine.

As a church school, Christian faith is at the core of our work.

It sets the guidance for learning, activities and the atmosphere and ethos at St. Margaret’s.

## **Introduction**

This Curriculum Policy supports pupils in realising their full potential and in the use of their God-given talents and gifts.

At St. Margaret’s CE Primary School, our curriculum is based on the September 2014 National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 & 2 and the Early Years 2012 framework in Reception. Our carefully planned curriculum combined with high quality teaching ensures that children are supported to be well rounded, empathetic young people who have a genuine thirst for learning. Children develop a strong sense of moral purpose in addition to a respect for, and understanding of, people. Good mental health and wellbeing is vital for enabling our children to ‘let their light shine.’ To that end, our curriculum is underpinned by the support we offer pupils to live healthy and fulfilled lives.

The curriculum is all the planned activities that we as a school organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes, not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experiences of our children. It also includes the ‘hidden curriculum’, or what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave as a result of our strong Christian vision, associated values and nurturing ethos. We teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others, whilst developing knowledge, skills and attitudes to learning, in order that they achieve their true, God-given, potential.

## Vision and Values

At St. Margaret's CE Primary School we strive to make our children passionate for learning and make their learning as much fun and as meaningful and relevant as possible. To that end we make best use of our local context and the resources our community and local and regional area offers. We offer children an excellent education in a safe, calm, creative, inclusive and stimulating environment. Every child is valued as an individual, made in God's image and likeness; we aim to nurture well rounded, respectful and confident children who will develop skills for life-long learning. We nurture our children on their journey and encourage them to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We take our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain very seriously and ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of our school.

Our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community.

At St. Margaret's CE our Christian vision and values permeate all areas of school life.

Our vision is in line with the Church of England's wider *Vision for Education* and supports the four strands, namely:

**Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills:** enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

**Educating for hope and aspiration:** enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

**Educating for community and living well together:** a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

**Educating for dignity and respect:** the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

## Aims

At St Margaret's our community reflects the diversity of a university city. Our aim is to develop our children as global citizens who are confident, independent and resilient learners and creative critical thinkers. We do this by providing them with a relevant, engaging and

empowering curriculum. Learning and thinking is supported and challenged allowing all to demonstrate our school's core Christian values and 'Let their light shine'.

### **Organisation and Planning**

Our curriculum is delivered using a variety of approaches and resources depending on the nature of the subject being taught and the needs of the children. Learning is sequential and progressive. Teachers give careful attention to how the curriculum in each subject is planned to ensure that teaching build upon what pupils already known in order to support them to both know more and remember more. It is in this development of the long -term memory that we can be sure that learning has been successful.

The following National Curriculum subjects are taught:

English

Maths

Science

PE

Music

History

Geography

RE

Computing

MFL (French)

Art and Design

Design Technology

The Reception curriculum is planned around half termly themes so that children gain the knowledge and skills outlined in the EYFS Curriculum whilst providing the flexibility for children to follow their own interests and ideas.

In KS1 and KS2 our curriculum is all planned on a yearly cycle with an emphasis placed on rich and well-matched experiences, cross curricular links and learning supported by quality texts and other appropriate experiences available in the local and regional area.

All teachers are responsible for planning, evaluating and teaching in their classes. The National Curriculum stipulates the expectations which form the long-term plan from which the teachers craft medium term plans to achieve balance and coverage over a term or half term. The more detailed weekly/ half-termly short term planning will focus on the teaching process. A planning proforma is used throughout the whole school to focus learning expectations and for teachers to map the sequence of learning clearly showing differentiation, teaching assistant direction, assessment opportunities and expected outcomes and resources required. Teachers have autonomy in terms of timetabling across a half term whilst ensuring full curriculum coverage. Class teachers meet regularly to ensure continuity of provision and moderation in terms of expectations and outcomes across the year groups.

## **EYFS**

### **Intent**

At St Margaret's, our Early Years Curriculum strives to offer our children a well-balanced, exciting and broad curriculum that provides excellent opportunities and experiences to help them on their journey to becoming a lifelong learner. We aim to develop emotionally literate children who can understand and articulate their feelings. We recognise that a language-rich environment, alongside thoughtful adult interactions, is crucial for young children to develop their communication and language skills, including expanding their vocabulary. We believe that our children are capable of great achievements and we develop this through having high expectations and through promoting a strong sense of independence. With this in mind, we begin each new academic year by looking at the individual needs of our children, liaising with the preschool providers and taking into account the children's different starting points. We then carefully develop a flexible EYFS curriculum which enables children to follow the path of their learning journey, at a point, that is suitable for their unique needs and stage of development.

Our Christian values underpin all aspects of our teaching and learning. The high aspirations and expectations the EYFS team have for the children ensure that every child is given the opportunity to 'let their light shine'.

### **Implementation**

Our Curriculum is based on the new EYFS Framework. 'Development Matters' is used alongside in the planning and delivery of the curriculum.

The EYFS Framework specifies the requirement for learning and development in the Early Years and provides the prime and specific areas of learning and the characteristics of effective learning we must cover in our curriculum. These areas are:

## Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language development

## Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout all of these areas of learning and at the heart of the EYFS curriculum are the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. We strive to develop the key characteristics of 'Playing and Learning', 'Active Learning' and 'Thinking Critically' in order to give the children the skills that they will continue to draw upon throughout their development and time at our school.

Our Early Years Curriculum develops children's knowledge, skills and understanding through a combination of both play-based learning and more focused teacher led sessions. Pupils learn to share, work independently and play with others. A vital aspect in the development of essential knowledge and skills is the use of continuous provision. This means that children are using and developing taught skills throughout the year on a daily basis and supports children to develop key life skills such as independence; innovation; creativity, enquiry; analysis and problem solving.

## Impact

Children demonstrate high levels of engagement in activities, developing their speaking and listening skills, enabling them to access more areas of the learning and communicate to both adults and children. Children develop skills across all areas of the curriculum including literacy, mathematics and physical development using these in different ways.

Children have developed a wider sense of the world around them and can draw on these experiences during interactions with others and link this to new learning.

Children develop their characteristics of learning and are able to apply their knowledge to a range of situations making links and explaining their ideas and understanding. Children are confident to take risks and discuss their successes and failures with adults drawing on their experiences to improve or adjust what they are doing.

Children leave our EYFS as well-rounded individuals who embody our values and carry with them the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens.

## **English**

*We aim to provide a creative, exciting, enjoyable and purposeful English curriculum which engages the wide range of learners within our school community. We want to share with the children a wide range of high quality, stimulating texts that have a rich vocabulary and will help them develop a love for reading which will continue throughout their learning journey and adult lives.*

*We aim to ensure that ALL the children within our school are equipped with the necessary literacy skills to enable them to achieve their aspirations and have the confidence to use and apply them in all aspects of everyday life.*

## **Maths**

*At St. Margaret's we embrace the mastery approach to the teaching and learning of Mathematics where children are taught to become competent and independent mathematicians. Mastering maths means acquiring a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject. We build on skills and understanding in a step by step and progressive way and continue to develop children's understanding of place value, the four number operations and the understanding of fractional parts throughout the year.*

*We are confident our Maths curriculum allows for greater opportunity to deepen pupils understanding around concepts and aspects of mathematics. Significant time is spent developing deep knowledge of the key ideas that are needed to underpin future learning. The structure and connections within the mathematics are emphasised, so that pupils develop deep learning that can be sustained.*

*It is our intention to ensure that all children are fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics. Procedural fluency and conceptual understanding are developed in tandem because we recognise that each supports the development of the other. Through mathematical talk, children will develop the ability to articulate, discuss and explain their thinking. Children are*

*encouraged to spot patterns, make connections and use mathematical language to justify their views. We will provide the children with the necessary resources to allow all children to access the curriculum and encourage them to use this where appropriate to explain their thinking and reasoning.*

*We have a Mastery Specialist on our staff who works with the Archimedes Maths Hub and ensures we are always up to date with current practice, continually adapting new approaches to fit our school context.*

### **Religious Education**

*In RE our curriculum is designed to encourage harmony, respect for all and multi-faith cohesion.*

*The units covered have been specifically chosen to provide a curriculum which builds upon prior knowledge and reflects our diverse school community. RE at St. Margaret's encourages multi-faith harmony, respect for all and community cohesion.*

*Children are encouraged to think critically by using reason to analyse, evaluate and give opinions.*

*Opportunities are given within RE lessons for personal reflection and SMSC Development.*

### **Science**

*Curriculum intent for Science*

*Children will have opportunities to explore and investigate the world around them through engaging, fun and multisensory practical activities. Children will develop a good knowledge and understanding of biology, chemistry and physics and be able to link these to real life disciplines and STEM careers. Children will be confident in these areas and be able to use scientific vocabulary and skills effectively.*

### **History**

*We aim to provide a high quality curriculum that inspires children to have a curiosity about the subject and have aspirations for the future. We want to teach our children about Britain's past and the wider world and how it has influenced us today. We recognise the importance of our local history influencing our topics to make them relevant to our school community. We want children to enjoy and love learning about History by gaining this knowledge and skills, not just through experiences in the classroom, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits within our local area.*

### **Geography**

*We aim to inspire pupils with a fascination about the world around them and the people in it. We recognise our diverse community, where some children have lived across the globe and where appropriate we use their first hand experiences to enhance our curriculum. Our intention is that our curriculum provides children with both knowledge of diverse places, people, natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. We want our children to develop geographical skills that are progressive through our school including collecting and analysing data, using maps, atlases, globes and aerial photos. Where possible we use our grounds and local area to enhance our curriculum, showing children geography is all around us.*

### **Computing**

At St. Margaret's we understand the importance of a secure understanding of computing skills. Through our teaching of the three areas of computing (computer science, information technology and digital literacy), we intend that our children will become confident, independent and creative learners, well-equipped for continued education and future employment. We will provide children with the tools to engage with technology in a responsible and safe manner, in preparation for a life as citizens of an increasingly connected world.

### **Physical Education**

At St. Margaret's we encourage all pupils to develop a healthy lifestyle through a wide range of sporting opportunities. Our developmental curriculum is supported and enhanced through close relationships with local clubs and experts to allow our children to grow a long term personal love and passion for activity which can shape their future lives.

### **Art and Design**

*In Art our curriculum is used as a vehicle for creativity, exploration and personal expression. We deliver a progressive, varied and high-quality art and design skills-based programme. In doing this we equip our children with the knowledge and experience to experiment, invent and produce their own works of art, craft and design and thus develop their arts capital through the enjoyment of art.*

### **Design Technology**

At St. Margaret's, we encourage children to be independent, using their creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems according to their own and other's wants and needs, within a variety of contexts. Our children will become problem solvers both as individuals and as part of a team which will help them to deal with tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Our children are given opportunities to reflect upon and evaluate past and present design technology, its uses and effectiveness. By doing this they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world.

## **Music**

*We provide a music education that gives individuals the confidence to partake in music, promotes self-confidence and gives all pupils a sense of achievement. We do this through providing opportunities for appreciation, composition and singing alongside new opportunities and chances to showcase talents within and beyond our school community. We are committed to inspiring children to develop an interest and appreciation of music, develop creativity, imagination and fostering talents.*