

Our Curriculum

At Clifton All Saints Academy we have adopted the New National Curriculum as the basis for our own exciting, engaging and inspiring curriculum across the school.

Maths

The Maths session is carefully structured so that a mixture of teacher presentation, practical and written tasks, and oral work is provided, providing a creative and highly interconnected discipline, essential to everyday life.

We use Hamilton Trust and Chris Crispus-Jones planning to assist with the planning and delivery of lessons. The children learn about numbers and number patterns, work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and measure length, weight, time and capacity. They explore shape, pattern and sequences and collect and interpret data in graphs and charts. This work is then incorporated into other parts of the day to ensure the smooth transfer of skills across the curriculum.

English

Language development is promoted across the curriculum as well as in timetabled sessions. We encourage the children to express themselves imaginatively and factually and respond appropriately to others. Reading is given very high profile. As well as weekly or twice weekly group reading sessions, the children have individual reading books which are teacher directed. We use several different schemes as a basis for our reading, and a range of high quality fiction and non-fiction texts. Parents are encouraged to read daily with their children and record progress in the child's reading record.

We aim to get the children writing independently as early as possible. They begin with emergent writing, where they express themselves with marks on paper, and progress to writing words and then sentences as their skills improve. We teach Phonics and spellings from the start of Year R and in KS1 the children have weekly spellings to learn based on the Phonics they are learning. In KS2, Phonics are taught where needed and the children have a stronger focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar together. We use Letters and Sounds to teach Phonics.

Science & Technology

We aim to develop the curiosity of the children and encourage them to question and explore their environment. We help them to solve problems and communicate their findings in a variety of ways. A different area is studied each half term and the children are able to build on knowledge and skills already acquired.

Information & Communications Technology

We have a computer suite with 16 PC's and internet capability in all areas of the school. We also have 30 Acer android tablets for use throughout the school, 2 mini-Ipads for recording, evaluating and assessing physical and oral work, with Apple TV facility in the Hall for presenting this immediately. The computers are used to support and enrich all curriculum areas. Pupils learn to present and

communicate information, to control models, to word process and to search for information. The new Curriculum also requires them to be able to edit and write simple programs, teaching coding from Year 1.

History & Geography

In History and Geography we aim to draw upon the child's experience of his or her environment. We begin from their experience and then gradually widen their knowledge to include elements from the past, from different cultures and different parts of the world. This is then developed through knowledge about the local area and people, and links in closely with special occasions, festivals and events.

Physical Education

Physical Education includes gymnastics, dance, games, outdoor education and health education. We use Premier Sport to teach throughout the school to ensure quality teaching and also an after-school multi-sports club. We also buy into the School Sports Partnership at Redbourne to support competitive sport through Inter-school and Intra-school competitions and activities. We stress the importance of exercise in keeping fit and healthy and encourage children to participate in all of the above areas. Children have an opportunity to play team games and games they have invented themselves. During the year we have several after-school and before-school clubs including football, hockey, tri-golf, netball and tag rugby as well as external providers for Karate, Jujitsu and Gymnastics.

Art & Craft

Children work with a wide variety of materials to create representations of what they see and feel. A range of skills and techniques for drawing, painting, working with clay and collage are explored. This is all closely linked with the topics they study each half term to promote the transfer of skills across the curriculum.

Music

The children sing and experience practical music making. They explore rhythm and pitch and listen to a variety of different styles of music. Many children are able to learn to play the recorder. A member of staff provides an additional opportunity to learn the trumpet and we are fortunate to have visiting teachers, who provide tuition in violin and guitar for a limited number of children, paid for by parents.

P.S.H.C.E.

We believe that much of what takes place in school contributes to the personal and social development of the children. P.S.H.C.E. permeates the whole curriculum and explores the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils and prepares them for the opportunities and responsibilities of family life. Each class has a time set aside every week when a topic from the P.S.H.C.E. programme is discussed during a circle time.

Sex Education

We do not have specific lessons of sex education but if children ask us questions we answer as honestly as we can. This is a subject that is possibly best dealt with within the security of the home and we would advise parents to buy one of the many very sensitive explanatory books available from booksellers.

Religious Education

As a Church of England Academy we aim to provide a Christian Education based upon biblical and historical examples. We attempt to make the children aware of their own feelings as well as those of others. Our teaching follows the guidance issued by St Albans Diocesan Education Authority, "Christianity in Church Schools". We compare and explore other major religions, their festivals and customs.

Under Section 9 of the Education Reform Act 1988, parents may exercise their right to withdraw their child from religious education or instruction.

There is a daily act of collective worship.

Values education

In all areas of the curriculum and in assemblies we promote Christian values. Each month we focus on a different value and use it as the basis for our assemblies. We try to incorporate the value into Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health lessons and into circle time. In the hall we have a values display which reinforces all of our values. Each week, we celebrate childrens achievement in living the values with special Compliment Slips and a Values Award is presented to a child at the end of each month.

Creativity in the curriculum

Planning incorporates lots of opportunities for the children to be independent and creative in their learning. We have adopted a more topic based approach when teaching History, Geography, Science, Art and DT. Cross curricular links are utilised throughout the school to allow topics to be studied in depth, for example by using something the children have covered in history or geography, or a particular painting or sculpture to stimulate drama or writing. In order to give purpose to writing, we try to use learning in the topic lessons to support writing in English.