

**Christ Church CE School
Curriculum Policy
Autumn 2014**



Christ Church
CE Primary School
Regents Park
NW1 4BD

Christ Church C of E Primary School
Curriculum Policy

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Mission Statement

The Christian Faith is at the heart of our school community. At Christ Church we care for each other and learn together.

Christ Church is a small, caring school which is committed to a broad, balanced curriculum and to a continual raising of standards. We aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical needs of every individual.

We are a Church of England school, with a strong commitment to the teaching of Christianity whilst supporting a multi-faith approach to the curriculum. We recognise, value and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in our school.

The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in our positive, disciplined and calm atmosphere. We believe that effective learning takes place when children work in a purposeful and stimulating environment that supports a wide range of learning styles. Mutual respect between adults and children promotes excellent behaviour and well developed social skills. With this approach we seek to achieve high academic standards.

We aim to cater for each individual, taking particular account of any specific needs or abilities. We endeavour to ensure that all our children fulfil their potential and, within this context, we emphasise health and safety, enjoyment and achievement and the beginnings of responsibility for themselves and others. These skills will be carried forward to the next phase of education and throughout life.

The whole school community is committed to a collective responsibility for the implementation of the values inherent in this statement.

Our School Aims - Every Child Matters

The Ethos of the School

The school aims to provide a positive, disciplined, purposeful environment, within a Christian context. We aim to teach children to be caring, to exhibit good behaviour and appropriate social skills and to begin to take responsibility for themselves and others.

The Values of the School

The School aims to value every child and to contribute to the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Mental and Physical well being of our whole school community. We value the diversity of our community and we aim to promote the health and safety of everyone.

The Standards of the School

The School aims to teach a balanced Curriculum and to ensure that each child fulfils his or her potential. We aim to provide teaching and learning of a high standard. We believe that this is achieved when pupils are highly motivated, enjoy coming to school, and are appropriately challenged.

Christ Church C of E Primary School

Curriculum Policy

Date of policy: Autumn 2014

Review date: Policy to be updated regularly as changes in planning and content change

The National Curriculum

Christ Church Primary School is committed to meeting the requirements of the revised National Curriculum, which became statutory for all maintained schools from September 2014. We have reviewed our provision to reflect the content and challenge of the updated programmes of study and combine a rich, cross-curricular approach, with the discrete teaching of specific skills to enthuse and motivate our children.

Below is a summary of each subject that forms part of the National Curriculum and our aims for developing children's knowledge and understanding.

Key Stage 1 and 2 (Years 1 - 6)

English

A high quality education in English will teach children to speak, read and write fluently and enable them to participate fully as a member of society. At Christ Church, we strive to promote high standards of literacy, by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word and to develop their love of literature, through widespread reading for enjoyment.

We aim to ensure children:

- read fluently, with good understanding;
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information;
- acquire a wide vocabulary, understanding and knowledge of grammar;
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage;
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences;
- use discussion in order to learn and be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas;
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening and drama;
- are able to make formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

To support the curriculum, we are continuing to use the Primary Literacy units of work. These are being adapted to match each year group's curriculum requirements. We are also introducing new units of work, such as Shakespeare, for each year group.

Phonics and Reading

Reading in school starts with a phonic based approach to learning to read. Our reception children enjoy learning the corresponding sound (or phoneme) for each letter using the DFE's 'Letters and Sounds' document which uses rhymes, songs and actions to ensure the learning is fast and fun. We endeavour to ensure that children achieve mastery of all their sounds for reading in years 1 and 2.

Reading books are carefully graded at an appropriate level for the child's decoding skills. Reading comprehension also starts from the very beginning and guided reading sessions to explore understanding, from year 1.

Once children have learned to reliably decode print, guided group reading continues throughout Key stage 2 to explore skills of:

- skimming and scanning texts to find information;
- a deeper level of understanding using inference and deduction;
- an appreciation of themes and genres.

We encourage a love of reading through the reading of stories regularly in class as well as quiet, individual or shared reading time. Children are able to select a wide variety of books from our well-stocked classroom reading corners.

Mathematics

Confidence in numeracy and other mathematical skills is a precondition of success across the National Curriculum. At Christ Church, we understand that a high-quality mathematics education provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the wonder of mathematics and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

We aim to ensure children:

- become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, through varied and frequent practise, with increasingly complex problems over time;
- develop an ability to recall knowledge and apply arithmetic rapidly and accurately;
- reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, identifying relationships and using mathematical language to explain;
- solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems, including breaking down more complex problems into a series of simpler steps.

We use the established mathematics curriculum published by the Hamilton Trust to support our teaching. We feel this scheme complements the new curriculum in an engaging and exciting way.

Science

Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. At Christ Church, we teach children the essential knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science and encourage them to develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena.

We aim to ensure children:

- develop scientific knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics;
- gain an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of enquiries;
- are confident in asking and answering scientific questions about the world around them;
- understand the uses and implications of science today and for the future.

To teach science at Christ Church, we use existing QCA units of work and reference the Hamilton Trust for new specific topics. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum content.

Computing

A high-quality computing education equips children to use computational thinking and creativity to understand, challenge and change the world. At Christ Church, we ensure that pupils become digitally literate and are able to express themselves as active participants in a technologically advanced world.

We aim to ensure children:

- can understand and apply the fundamental principles of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation;
- can analyse problems in computational terms and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs;
- can evaluate and apply information technology to solve problems;
- are competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology;
- are responsible for themselves and others' safety when using all forms of technology.

We are following a scheme of work called the 'Primary Computing Curriculum' from <http://nohandsup.co.uk/> (Author: Steve Rafferty, Deputy Head in Wiltshire, 2014). We have chosen to use this scheme as we feel the units are challenging and interesting for the children, it also has a strong focus on programming and e-safety.

Art and design

Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. At Christ Church, we are dedicated to equipping children with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art. They also learn how art contributes to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation.

We aim to ensure children:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences;
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques;
- evaluate and appreciate creative works using the language of art, craft and design;

- know about great artists, craft makers and designers and understand the historical and culture development of their art forms.

To support the children's learning, we combine existing QCA units of work, with each class' topic. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum.

Design and Technology

High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation. At Christ Church, the children are given opportunities to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems. They learn how to take risks and become resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens.

We aim to ensure children:

- develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks and to participate successfully in an increasing technological world;
- build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make products;
- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products;
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

To support our design and technology teaching, we combine existing QCA units of work, with each class' topic. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum.

Geography

A high-quality geography education inspires in children a curiosity and fascination about the world, that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. At Christ Church, we enable children to develop a rich knowledge of places, people, resources and environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

We aim to ensure children:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places, including their defining physical and human characteristics;
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world;
- are competent in the skills needed to: collect, analyse and communicate with a range of geographical data, interpret a range of sources of geographical information, communicate geographical information in a variety of ways.

Our Geography planning is informed by QCA units of work and using the Hamilton Trust. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum.

History

History learning is vital in enabling children to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. At Christ Church, we are dedicated to inspiring children's curiosity to know more about the past and provide

opportunities for them to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective.

We aim to ensure children:

- know the history of Britain and how it has influenced and been influenced by the wider world;
- understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world;
- gain an understanding of abstract historical terms;
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance;
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used;
- gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts.

When teaching History at Christ Church, it is informed by QCA units of work and the Hamilton Trust. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum.

Languages (KS2)

Learning a foreign language is liberating and provides an opening to other cultures. At Christ Church, we teach French and provide an appropriate balance of spoken and written language, enabling children to communicate for practical purposes, understand and respond to its speakers and express ideas.

We aim to ensure children:

- appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the French language;
- speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures;
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand them;
- describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing;
- engage in conversations, ask and answer questions, express opinions and respond to others;
- understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied.

Camden Primary Languages provide us with a French scheme of work.

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Christ Church, we are dedicated to inspiring children to develop a love of music and grow as musicians, increasing their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. We have a wide variety of multi-cultural instruments in school. Children develop their singing skills and a love of singing through weekly hymn practice, religious assemblies and class assemblies. Children also participate in weekly lessons, playing a variety of instruments. We also offer after school provision and wider opportunities in music.

We aim to ensure children:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of periods, genres, styles and traditions;
- learn to sing and use their voices to create and compose music;
- have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument;
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

Our activities are based on the scheme of work 'Music Express'. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum.

Physical Education

A high-quality physical education curriculum inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. At Christ Church, we are committed to providing opportunities for children to become physically confident and compete in sport and activities which build character and embed values such as fairness and respect.

We support children in learning to swim from years 3-5 with guided swimming lessons. We are providing further enrichment and exercise opportunities through Camden's Physical Development Team, who visit the school twice a week, to enhance the learning of exercise and games.

We aim to ensure children:

- develop confidence to excel in a broad range of physical activities;
- are physically active for sustained periods of time;
- engage in competitive sports and team activities;
- lead healthy, active lives.

Our PE curriculum is based on the LCP scheme of work. We ensure that existing units are aligned to the new curriculum.

Religious Education

As a Church Of England School we are guided by Christian principles and by the conviction that we are all children of God. Through the teaching of religious education we hope to give children a sound basis of Christian knowledge. In years 4, 5 and 6, some children prepare for confirmation through a series of after class lessons.

We also teach children about a range of world religions, including Islam, Hinduism and Judaism. We teach children about the effect religion can have upon people's lives, and our aim is that children learn to respect people of all faiths. It promotes community cohesion and helps children to appreciate the rich cultural diversity in Britain today.

The children also attend an assembly and an act of worship four mornings a week, with a special awards assembly taking place every Friday afternoon. Our parish priest leads one worship assembly per week and once a term we have a communion service.

We aim to ensure children:

- consider challenging questions;
- explore their own beliefs;
- build their sense of identity and belonging;
- develop respect for others;
- reflect on their responsibilities.

At Christ Church, we follow an agreed curriculum provided by the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

Personal, Social and Health Education

PSHE provides a foundation for children's learning and development in all other areas. At Christ Church, we value the importance of PSHE in preparing children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

We aim to ensure children:

- value themselves and others;
- form positive relationships;
- make sensible choices;
- communicate effectively with others;
- take an active role in the community;
- become healthy and fulfilled individuals.

We follow the Camden Programme of Study for PSHE and Citizenship, using Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL.)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)

At Christ Church, we believe that every child deserves the best possible start to life and that high quality early learning provides the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

Our greatest consideration is the children's individual needs, interests and stage of development and we use this to plan challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child in all areas of learning and development. Our children have rich opportunities to play and explore, actively learn, create and think critically.

Overarching Principles

The following principles guide and shape practice in our Nursery and Reception classes:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning;
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments;
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

Our curriculum in our Nursery and Reception meets the requirements set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014). There are seven areas of learning and development, each important and interconnected.

Prime Areas:

The three prime areas of learning and development are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. All other learning is based upon the prime areas.

Communication and Language

We are committed to giving our youngest children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development

We provide opportunities for the children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. They are helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We are dedicated to helping our children develop a positive sense of themselves and to form constructive relationships. They learn how to manage their feelings and to understand appropriate behaviour.

Specific Areas:

The four specific areas follow on from the prime areas:

Literacy

At Christ Church, the children are encouraged to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. They are given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.

Mathematics

We provide opportunities for children to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and describing shapes, spaces and measures.

Understanding the World

We guide children to make sense of their world through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

We encourage children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. They have many opportunities to express themselves through art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

We hope this provides you with enough information about the curriculum at our school.
If you need any further information, please contact us.