

## **The Aims of the School Curriculum**

The curriculum in St Gildas' School has been developed to ensure that the requirements of the National Curriculum are met and to encompass the Literacy and Numeracy strategies. The aim is to provide a broad, balanced, differentiated curriculum for all pupils and to achieve progression and continuity of learning.

The curriculum comprises much more than the formal programme of lessons. It promotes values which contribute to the school's ethos and identity such as the quality of relationships, the concern for equality of opportunity, commitment to the personal development of pupils and the Catholic principles exemplified in the daily life of the school. Development in all these areas of learning reinforce each other and are inter-dependent.

The school aims to provide the opportunity for all pupils to grow in understanding and the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes and to develop a commitment to learning to enable them to achieve their highest potential.

In a Catholic, Christian context, the curriculum aims to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to pass on enduring values which will lead them to be responsible and caring members of their school and wider community.

Equal opportunities principles are fundamental to education provision and will, therefore, permeate the school curriculum.

The curriculum aims to develop pupils' self-esteem and confidence in their capacity to learn and work independently and collaboratively. It aims to promote emotional well-being, helping pupils to form relationships based on respect for themselves and others and to work for the common good.

The educational objectives are:

- to create a positive work-centred environment with high expectations of all pupils, the emphasis being on praise and encouragement to achieve the best possible progress and the highest attainment;
- to ensure that the school provides a rich balanced curriculum for pupils to acquire, develop and apply a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to develop their gifts and talents to the full;
- to provide learning tasks which will build on pupils' strengths, interests and experiences and develop confidence in their capacity to learn and achieve; to provide the level of challenge which will ensure that pupils achieve their full potential;
- to equip pupils with the essential learning skills of literacy and numeracy to enable them to access fully the broad range of learning experiences provided;
- to develop creativity, sensitivity and practical responses to a wide range of experiences;
- to motivate pupils to find enjoyment and fulfilment in sports and leisure activities, to develop their physical skills and team spirit and encourage them
- to recognise the importance of a healthy lifestyle;
- to prepare pupils for the next stage of education and for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## **The Curriculum Framework**

The National Curriculum is made up of the following subjects:

English  
Mathematics

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)  
Science  
History  
Geography  
Art  
Design and Technology  
Physical Education  
Music  
Religious Education  
Personal Social Health Education (PSHE)  
Modern Foreign Language: Italian

Extra-Curricular Activities - the following activities are provided:

Football  
Netball  
Sports Skills  
Athletics  
Tennis  
Speech & Drama Club  
Ping Pong Club  
Chess Club  
Gardening Club  
Street Dance Club  
Photography Club  
Homework Club  
ICT Club

### **School Journey**

Applications are made annually for places for the Year 6 classes to spend one week at Pendarren Outdoor Education Centre in Wales. The Centre has excellent facilities and provides the opportunity for a wide range of physical activities and environmental projects.

### **The National Curriculum**

For each subject in the National Curriculum, programmes of study set out what pupils should be taught and attainment targets set out the expected targets of pupils' performance.

As English, Maths and Science have been identified as core subjects, they are allocated a greater proportion of teaching and learning time. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is also given higher priority. The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies are implemented within the English and Mathematics curriculum.

The National Curriculum identifies six key skills, which help pupils to improve their learning and performance. They are embedded in the subjects of the National Curriculum and are essential to effective learning. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on what and how they learn, and how these skills can be applied to different subjects, difficult problems and real-life situations.

1. **Communication**  
Skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing.
2. **Application of Number**  
Including a range of mental calculation skills and the ability to apply these, problem solving, reasoning and data processing.
3. **Information Technology**  
Opportunities for developing this key skill are provided explicitly through ICT teaching and through pupils' use of ICT across the curriculum.
4. **Working with Others**  
Contributing to discussion, co-operating and working effectively with others.

5. **Improving Own Learning and Performance**

Pupils evaluate their work and identify ways to improve their performance.

6. **Problem Solving**

All subjects provide opportunities for developing strategies for problem solving. The following Thinking Skills complement the Key Skills and are embedded in the National Curriculum, information processing, reasoning, enquiry, creative thinking and evaluation skills.

In all areas of the curriculum resources are used to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. Children benefit from the well-stocked library and class visits to Hornsey Public Library are arranged on alternate weeks. Educational visits and workshops are organised, specialist expertise is valued and community and industry links are fostered to enrich and extend the learning experiences of the children across the age range. In St. Gildas' School we aim to involve parents as active participants in the education process, to encourage and support their children in making the greatest possible progress and in attaining the highest standards.