

Our Curriculum Vision

Our aim is for our curriculum to offer a broad range of experiences, knowledge and skills that are explored through a range of contexts, themes and activities. We support learners to engage in their learning with increasing depth over a period of time.

We assist learners to apply their learning in increasingly challenging contexts, allowing them time to for thinking, discussion and reflection.

We have aimed to ensure that our curriculum is suitable for learners of differing ages, abilities and aptitudes.



St Mary's CIW VA

Our Curriculum Summary

Our Vision

St. Mary's Church in Wales Primary—Our Vision



"Learning and growing with God by our side."

Our Vision

Learning together at St. Mary's to motivate and inspire our children to become the best they can be and to enable them to become lifelong learners.

We will provide challenge and enjoyment through excellent learning experiences, using a variety of pedagogical approaches, informed by pupil voice.

Our Christian values underpin our curriculum. Our curriculum is relevant, using authentic contexts, enabling a sense of belonging and a pride in our Welsh heritage.

Healthy, confident individuals

Our Values

Compassion
Honesty
Friendship
Thankfulness
Forgiveness



Ethical, informed citizens

Our qualities

At St. Mary's we are nurturing and supportive. Our key drivers are providing our pupils with a caring and safe environment in which to learn and grow happily. We are an inclusive school and we value all of our pupils equally, celebrating that each of us is different and special in our own, unique way. We are motivated and aim to innovate and inspire, encouraging our pupils to use their own voices to help inform their learning journeys.

We have high expectations and a strong Christian ethos that permeates throughout everything that we do.

Ambitious, capable learners

Curriculum Design

Across our whole school, we mostly take a multi-disciplinary approach to curriculum design and planning although where more appropriate, we do still adopt a disciplinary approach, in Mathematics for example. A combination of approaches to curriculum design is used at St Mary's according to learner age and learning context.

We are accustomed to planning "topics," making connections across Areas of Learning and Experience. As a church school, we have always considered mandatory elements such as RVE and so have ensured that this continues under the new curriculum.

Across all Areas of Learning, the application of Numeracy, Literacy, Digital Competency, Welsh, Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is robustly planned for. Our school's RSE follows the code set out by Welsh Government, as well as guidance provided by Church in Wales.

Pedagogy

We realise the importance of considering **how** our pupils learn, as well as **what** it is that they are learning. We refer to the '12 Pedagogical Principles,' in order to enhance the quality of teaching in every classroom.

Create authentic contexts for learning	Encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning	Support social and emotional development & positive relationships	Encourage collaboration
Sustained pupil effort to reach high but achievable targets	Employing a broad repertoire of teaching approaches	Promote problem-solving, creative & critical thinking	Build on previous knowledge & experience to engage interest
Focus on the 4 Purposes	Use assessment for learning to accelerate progress	Make connections within & across Areas of Learning & Experience	Embed Core Outcomes: Responsibility, Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Competence

Feedback and assessment

As a school, our aim is to track the progress of individual pupils, offering extra challenge or interventions as necessary for each individual.

Where possible, staff aim to 'live' mark pupil work, as this appears to have the most impact.

Marking is done in purple pen. Pupils are encouraged to correct errors such as spelling, punctuation and grammar, using their growing green pens.

Work is marked against success criteria, with staff highlighting criteria achieved in pink and using green to show next steps/areas to develop. Pupils have the opportunity to improve their work, according to suggestions in Teacher feedback.

'Always Success Criteria' are displayed in all classes from Year 1-6 for pupils to refer to.

Assessment for Learning



Learning intentions are shared with all pupils so that they have an understanding of what they are learning to do.

Pupils use 'tickled' pink and 'growing' green pens to assess their work in LLC, against a set of success criteria. Success criteria is sometimes set by the pupils themselves, but is always set prior to the task being completed. Pupils are encouraged to refer to the SC whilst completing tasks.

Planning

We endeavour to plan engaging learning activities that will enable pupils of all abilities to make progress. We make use of Medium Term and Weekly planning formats across the school, which helps to ensure consistency from class to class. We use the Descriptions of Learning for each What Matters Statement to assess and plan for learners' progress. These broadly correspond to expectations for ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 and offer guidance on how learners should demonstrate progress within each statement. Our planning cross-references the Four Core Purposes, What Matters Statements and the Integral and Cross-curricular skills of the Curriculum for Wales.

As practitioners, we aim to reflect on and review our planning on a regular basis. We realise the importance of the process of reflecting, evaluating and amending.



Pupil Power



All new topics begin with a 'launch day.' This is a day off-timetable where pupils take part in various activities, immersing them in their new topic. Activities such as meeting a character, taking part in workshops or break out challenges, going on scavenger hunts...these are just some of the activities that pupils have enjoyed so far. Engaging pupils in these ways helps to fuel their imagination and excitement for their new topic. 'Pupil Power' also takes place on launch days, allowing pupils across the whole school to make suggestions for learning activities and experience linked to the new topic. Pupils use sticky notes, large pieces of paper, jamboard and padlet in order to collaborate and share ideas. Older pupils also link their ideas to the six areas of learning and experience.

These pupil suggestions then inform planning, showing pupils that their voices are heard and valued, and giving them a sense of ownership of their learning.

Teaching and Learning at St Mary's

Excellent teaching is essential if we are to realise the four purposes, our school's vision and all of the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales. Offering a high-quality, inviting and stimulating learning environment is very important to us. Consistency of ethos from class to class is of equal importance. Our learning environments, whether inside or outdoors, invite our learners to take risks, realising that mistakes mean that we are learning, and also foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation for everyone's efforts.

For more information on our 'Curriculum Journey,' please scan here:

