



Curriculum Policy

Required Review Frequency	FGB to determine – every three years
Next Review Due:	December 2021
Committee Responsible:	Curriculum and Standards Committee
Document Location	School

Version	Approved By	Date of Approval	Key Changes
1.0	FGB	05/12/2018	New Policy

Ethos Statement

It is the aim of the Governing Body of St Helen's Primary School to support the implementation of policies and procedures that develop the skills our children need to achieve our vision of: "Flying High; soar on wings like eagles".

The four key principles underpinning what 'Flying High' means are:

- **Ambition and Adventure:** Aiming for excellence, exploring new things
- **Fun and Freedom:** 'living life in all its fullness'
- **Everyone's different, but everyone's important:** made in God's image, but soaring together as one
- **Cultivating amazement:** getting a bird's eye view and perspective on the world

We seek to develop these, as well as our 'Flying High' values throughout the curriculum.

Aims and objectives

Curriculum Aims

"To offer a broad, balanced & inclusive curriculum which empowers children to achieve their full potential and make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives."

- Our Curriculum is broad: so that it provides a wide range of knowledge, skills and experiences
- Our Curriculum is balanced: so that each element is given sufficient time to contribute effectively to learning
- Our Curriculum is inclusive: so that it provides opportunities for all pupils regardless of any differences which might exist

Furthermore, in order to meet the aim outlined:

- Our Curriculum is relevant: so that it is directly related to the learner's experience
- Our Curriculum is coherent: so that each element is linked where possible to make the learning experience more meaningful
- Our Curriculum is progressive: so that teaching builds upon what has gone before, to develop skills, knowledge and concepts in a systematic way
- Our Curriculum is differentiated: so that that learning is scaffolded to meet a wide range of needs presented by learners

Curriculum Objectives

All children have a right to a broad, balanced and relevant education that provides continuity and progression and considers individual differences. The curriculum at St Helen's Primary School is based upon three core objectives:

- To develop the child as a responsible and confident citizen who is prepared to live in an ever-changing and diverse world.
- To develop the child as an individual who embraces challenge and makes the most of every opportunity to learn.
- To develop the child as a life-long learner who has a range of skills which ensure a high level of achievement.

Core Skills

Interweaved in the curriculum are core skills, skills for 'Learning and Life'. These are skills which we want our children to develop during their time at St Helen's. These are discretely taught in a weekly 'Learning and Life Skills' lesson but then are applied right across the curriculum. The skills are grouped into 6 key areas:

- Speaking & Listening
- Developing a sense of self-worth & understanding of self and others
- Thinking skills
- Learning with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Developing independence and responsibility

Our Curriculum:

To achieve these aims & objectives, as well as develop the core learning skills outlined, we will deliver an exciting and varied curriculum across the school. We adopt a curriculum model which covers all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum. Whilst this is cross-curricular, it is broadly delivered across the following key areas of learning:

Language & Literacy	Numeracy & Mathematics	Science	Art & Design	Computing	Physical Education
History	Geography	Design & Technology	Languages	Religious Education	Music

Our curriculum is then enriched through:

- Learning outdoors
- Clubs and enrichment opportunities
- Visitors and school visits and trips
- Collective worship
- Theme weeks
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Our Curriculum Model

St Helen's Primary School has adopted a cross-curricular, theme-led model which is used throughout the entire school. This means each year group works through chosen topics which ensure coverage of the necessary knowledge and skills to meet Early Years Foundation Stage or National Curriculum expectations. This means that it ensures coverage and progression within and across year groups but also allows practitioners to include discrete elements of teaching.

In particular, at St Helen's, our curriculum makes use of the following discrete elements:

- Big Maths and a 'teaching for mastery' approach to Maths teaching
- Letters and Sounds and 'Jolly Phonics'
- South Glos. Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE)

Information about all aspects of our curriculum and curriculum maps are available on our website:

www.sthelensprimary.org.uk

PSHE, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) & Behaviour

The school curriculum supports the development of the following twelve school values which underpin our Behaviour Policy across the school:

Courage	Trust	Justice	Forgiveness	Truthfulness	Thankfulness
Compassion	Friendship	Generosity	Respect	Service	Perseverance

These values are woven into all we do and are strongly supported by our PSHE curriculum, SMSC development (including Collective Worship) and our Positive Behaviour Policy.

Further details of these aspects of the curriculum are outlined on our website.

Assessment

The school assessment systems are closely aligned with our curriculum to ensure that it is purposeful, meaningful and helps us identify children's progress towards nationally agreed Age Related Expectations (ARE) at the end of each key stage.

To ensure that assessment for learning is embedded into our curriculum, we ask our staff to consider the following aspects when planning a lesson or sequence of lessons:

- Success Criteria
- Clear learning objectives
- Pupil led learning
- Peer and self assessment
- Learning evaluation
- Celebrating learning with others
- Our curriculum progression grids

We have developed a standardised format for reporting assessments across the wider curriculum (excluding English and Maths). These are completed at the end of each term and shared with the curriculum teams.

Enjoyment & Engagement

We want our children to enjoy and be engaged by the curriculum we offer. We know that this will help 'hook them on learning' and foster the qualities required for them to be a life-long learner. To support this, we try to ensure that learning experiences are:

- Investigative
- Cross curricular
- Relevant & enjoyable
- Media rich
- Integrated
- Active & hands on
- Based on choice (developing application of learning)
- Challenging and engaging
- Developed in a supportive environment
- Culturally diverse
- Positive reinforcements of learning
- Personalised to support all learning styles
- Rooted in enquiry-based learning (making the child ask questions as well as answer them)
- Reflective

Curriculum Aim

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Objectives

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To develop the child as an individual who embraces challenge and makes the most of every opportunity to learn.

To develop the child as a life-long learner who has a range of skills which ensure a high level of achievement.

Learning and Life Skills

Speaking & Listening

Developing a sense of self-worth & understanding of self and others

Thinking skills

Learning with others

Improving own learning and performance

Developing independence and responsibility

Key Areas of Learning

English

Maths

Science

Art and Design

Computing

PE

History

Geography

DT

French

RE

Music

Curriculum Enrichment

Learning outdoors

Clubs and enrichment opportunities

Visitors and school visits and trips

Collective worship

Theme weeks

PSHE

Core Values

Courage

Trust

Justice

Forgiveness

Truthfulness

Thankfulness

Compassion

Friendship

Generosity

Respect

Service

Perseverance