
St Nicholas- at-Wade Church of England Primary School

Curriculum Policy

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Curriculum intent

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and meets the requirements of the national curriculum. It has a project-based, thematic approach and provides children with a range of rich and memorable learning experiences.

Aims

- ▶ Engage children through interesting topics and hands-on activities.
- ▶ Make meaningful links between subjects.
- ▶ Develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of themes and concepts.
- ▶ Make effective connections to the real world.
- ▶ Help children to think creatively and solve problems.
- ▶ Develop children's capacities to work independently and collaboratively.
- ▶ Enable children to make choices about their learning.
- ▶ Take account of children's interests and fascinations.

Our approach:

- ▶ develops children to the best of their abilities
- ▶ helps children to find their passions and interests
- ▶ facilitates children's acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding
- ▶ helps children to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and morally
- ▶ assists children in becoming independent, responsible, useful, confident and considerate members of the community
- ▶ promotes a positive attitude towards learning, so children enjoy coming to school
- ▶ helps children to acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning
- ▶ creates and maintains an exciting and stimulating learning environment
- ▶ ensures that each child's education has continuity and progression
- ▶ enables children to contribute positively within a culturally diverse society

Structure

Our curriculum is built on The Four Cornerstones of Learning – Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. These are four distinct stages that actively promote children’s learning and thinking.

The Four Cornerstones of Learning link explicitly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. NB Appendix

The focus for teaching and planning in each Cornerstone is as follows.

Engage

- ▶ hook learners in with a memorable experience
- ▶ set the scene and provide the context
- ▶ ask questions to provoke thought and interest
- ▶ use interesting starting points to spark children’s curiosity

Develop

- ▶ teach knowledge to provide depth of understanding
- ▶ demonstrate new skills and allow time for consolidation
- ▶ provide creative opportunities for making and doing
- ▶ deliver reading, writing and talk across the curriculum

Innovate

- ▶ provide imaginative scenarios for creative thinking
- ▶ enable and assess the application of previously learned skills
- ▶ encourage enterprise and independent thinking
- ▶ work in groups and independently to solve problems

Express

- ▶ encourage reflective talk by asking questions
- ▶ provide opportunities for shared evaluation
- ▶ celebrate success
- ▶ identify next steps for learning

Memorable Experience

Each Imaginative Learning Project (ILP) begins with a memorable experience that stimulates children’s curiosity and prepares them for a new theme. A memorable experience often involves an educational visit out of school or a visitor coming into school to share their expertise with the children. These are shared each term on the class website.

Curriculum design for KS1 and KS2

Our curriculum design gives each year group the opportunity to cover a broad range of themes and subjects. Projects last either a half or full term depending on the amount of content and the children’s interests. In some cases, projects may be taught for a shorter period, for example during a science or art week.

Curriculum maps showing the coverage and structure for each year group can be found on the class pages of the school website.

Subject coverage

Below is a summary of how each curriculum subject is approached using the ILPs for more detailed information NB specific subject policies.

English

English is a core subject and is at the heart of our curriculum. Each project covers a range of reading and writing genres and is linked to the Power of Reading English scheme with a key text or texts chosen for each ILP.

Spoken language is promoted throughout the curriculum and across all subjects.

Spelling, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation are promoted throughout all writing opportunities.

Mathematics

Mathematics is also a core subject and is taught discretely. However, where relevant, mathematics is linked to ongoing project work.

Science

Science is fully covered throughout the curriculum. Some projects have a science focus, and others will have less of a scientific emphasis.

Foundation subjects

The foundation subjects – history, geography, design and technology, art and design are integrated into each project and provide enrichment across the curriculum.

Music A music specialist teaches each class music during class teachers PPA time. This ensures that all children are provided with high quality music opportunities.

PE is taught discretely where relevant it is linked in to topic work. Pupils learn games, gymnastics, athletics and dance across the year.

Religious education

RE is a statutory part of the curriculum and follows the locally agreed syllabus.

PHSE and citizenship

PHSE and citizenship are important aspects of our curriculum and are taught both discretely through the Heartsmart programme and within the projects.

ICT and computing

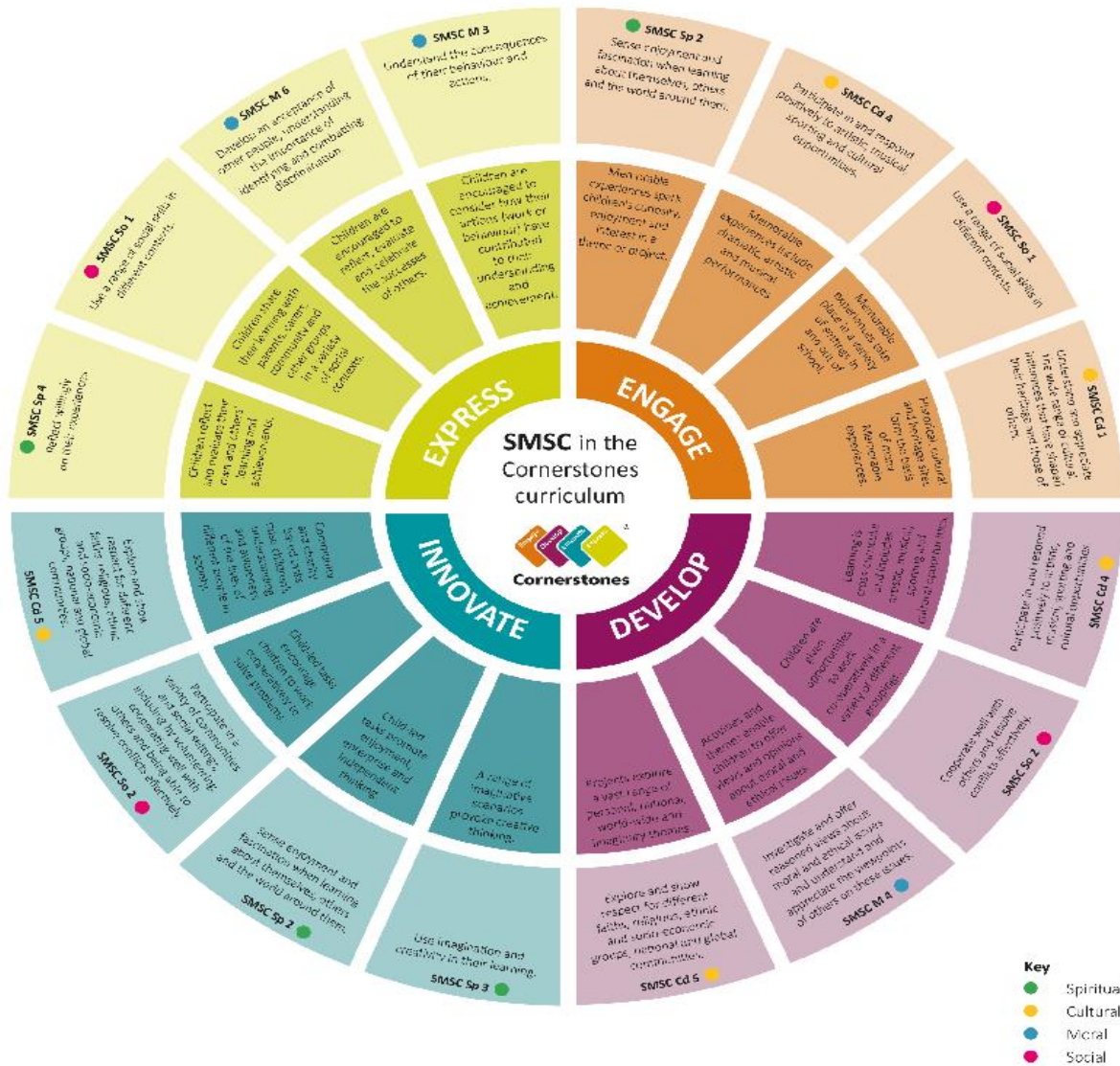
The core skills of ICT are taught as a discrete programme across school. However, other elements of the computing curriculum are integrated into the curriculum as part of project work. These include e-safety, digital publication and presentation, research, data handling and the use of digital media.

Timetables

Each year group has a set of non-negotiable allocations for various aspects of the curriculum, including English, mathematics and PE. Teachers are free to arrange their afternoon timetable to make the most of cross-curricular opportunities and the needs of pupils. Sometimes subjects and activities might be 'blocked' or run over successive afternoons.

Cornerstones pedagogy

How the Cornerstones pedagogy and curriculum puts spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) education at the heart of your school



Notes are Cornerstones SMSC skills based on Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook 2016.

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