

## **Mugginton Church of England Primary School**

### **The Curriculum**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

“Achieving the highest possible academic standards within a happy, caring community where learning and enjoyment are totally compatible.”

This sums up the philosophy in which the curriculum is taught at Mugginton.

We are here to help all children become the best they can be. By the time they leave us, it is our aim for them to:

- have a love of learning and high expectations of themselves;
- have received a high quality of education that meets their individual needs and enables them to develop to their potential and helps them prepare for life beyond school;
- have self-esteem and to treat everyone with respect and kindness;
- value their community, their Christian faith (or respective faiths), the richness of other cultures and the world around them.

#### **2. CURRICULUM AIMS**

The broad curriculum aims of the school are to:

- provide a happy, stimulating and ordered environment in which children can develop emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually and grow in confidence as they move from home to school and the wider community.
- build on each child’s unique background of experience and develop a positive attitude to school as a place of learning and pleasure.
- develop each child’s capacity for self-respect, social awareness, respect and tolerance towards others and to enable them to leave the school with a high standard of integrity, a sense of moral values and an idea of service to others.

Within this framework we are helping the children to:

- learn to read and write as clearly and accurately as possible and to achieve high standards of spelling, grammar, punctuation and language use.
- develop mathematical skills through the application and understanding of mathematical ideas and concepts in a wide variety of contexts.
- understand the basis of scientific investigation through analysis, problem solving and interpreting evidence.
- use technological apparatus confidently and to recognise the increasingly vital role technology plays within modern society.
- listen attentively and to learn how to acquire and record information from various sources.
- develop an understanding of the local environment in geographical, historical and social terms, while also building a sympathetic awareness of other times, places and cultures.
- develop the confidence and abilities to use music, drama and various forms of arts and crafts as effective means of creative self-expression.
- develop physical co-ordination and agility through carefully structured physical activity and to gain an appreciation of various sports.
- prepare children to become valuable citizens in the world in which they live.

### 3. CORE VALUES

Our core values are to:

- develop confidence and self-esteem in all children and for them to have enjoyment in all aspects of school life.
- encourage an enquiring mind and a love of learning that will stay with them for life.
- have care and consideration for all and show mutual respect to all.
- develop a Christian ethos and also an understanding and respect for all faiths.

### 4. OUR SCHOOL MOTTO

We believe that the whole ethos of our school can be summed up by our school motto:

**“Living, laughing, learning together”**

### 5. CURRICULUM POLICY

In drawing up our curriculum policy, we are required to ensure that it is a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in modern Britain. We must also ensure that it meets the requirements of the National Curriculum.

The 11 National Curriculum subjects taught throughout the school are:

English	History
Mathematics	Geography
Science	Art
Religious Education	Music
Computing	Physical Education
Design and technology	

Additional subjects taught are:

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education	Sex and Relationships Education
French in KS1	Spanish in KS2

Our small class sizes and greater opportunity for individual attention to each child’s specific needs offer a highly positive learning environment for successfully completing these tests.

However, our most important goal is to ensure that all children, irrespective of ability, achieve their potential maximum and benefit from their time in school. Our multi age classes ensure that children are working at their own ability level in all subjects and not at their age level.

A brief overview of English, Mathematics, Science, RE and computing is attached. Please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher should you have any queries or require further information. A copy of the curriculum policy is also available from school.

Policies on all these areas of the curriculum are available in school for parents to see at any time.

A brief overview of curriculum subjects follows:

**a) English**

The development of effective language skills is probably the most important task within the primary school curriculum. Language is the vital tool children need to think creatively and to understand mathematical, scientific, technological and environmental concepts.

Great emphasis is therefore placed on delivering a well-balanced English curriculum. We encourage the children to communicate information through discussion, constructive argument, attentive listening and creative writing across a wide range of subjects. A conscious effort is made to extend each child's oral and written vocabulary, to encourage clear and concise speaking and the expression of thought in stories, poetry, plays or factual writing.

Pupils follow a structured reading system guided by the class teacher and they are presented with a wide range of reading and writing opportunities throughout the year in their daily work. Children are encouraged to take reading books home and read every day at home, as we believe parental involvement is a great strength in the development and progress of reading.

The resources used to achieve these objectives are regularly reviewed and updated, and our syllabus is designed to meet the requirements of the new Primary National Curriculum 2014 in an interesting and stimulating learning environment.

**b) Mathematics**

Mathematics affects virtually every area of our lives. It is therefore essential that children become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics and are able to develop an ability to reason and solve problems.

As defined by the mathematics programme of study in the Primary National Curriculum 2014, we teach up to six main mathematical areas of number (including place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions), ration/proportion, algebra, measurement, geometry and statistics.

Mathematics is very much a cross-curricular subject, entering most other areas of study. Our aim is to teach the pupils to recognise and use particular mathematical skills in a practical and interesting way right across the curriculum.

**c) Science**

Our overall aim here is to educate the children right from the outset into thinking scientifically to prepare for a world where science plays an increasingly important role. A carefully planned group of topics is studied through observation, investigation, prediction, experimentation and recording in order to cover the requirements of the Primary National Curriculum 2014 in an interesting and challenging way

Children are encouraged to find things out for themselves, with an important role assigned to the development of original thought, experimentation and discovery as well as learning essential scientific facts.

Educational visits to places of scientific interest also play their part in introducing the children to the role of science within the world at large and help meet their natural and insatiable curiosity about the various scientific phenomena in the world around them.

We don't have all the answers of course, but the fact that children want to discover more and more is the living evidence that our aim of getting the children to view things in a scientific framing is working effectively!

#### **d) Religious Education**

We are a Church of England voluntary controlled church school and have close links with the parish. The Derby Diocesan Agreed Syllabus is taught throughout the school through a planned scheme of work and our objective is to develop the children's knowledge of Christianity, whilst also helping them to learn and respect the beliefs of others through the study of their religions and cultures.

Daily collective worship held in school and each half-term the children plan and perform a community service which takes place in the parish church. Parents may, if they wish, withdraw their children on the occasions when religious instruction or worship is taking place. Alternative supervision will be provided by the school.

#### **e) Computing**

We have a range of modern technology (including Wi-Fi net books, lap tops, i-pads, cameras programmable toys and desk top computers) to enable children to develop skills and techniques which will enable them to create programs, store and retrieve digital content and use technology safely and respectfully. Children are taught the skills which are then used widely throughout the curriculum. Older pupils use the internet for research to aid their learning and enable them to answer focussed questions. They enjoy using a range of exciting new programmes in their work.

#### **f) Design and technology**

Through a variety of creative and practical activities children are taught the skills to build structures and use mechanisms in their products. From an early age children design, make and evaluate their work. Older pupils will use research to develop and design a product that is fit for purpose using a wide range of tools and materials.

All children are taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating, thus learning a crucial life skill.

#### **g) History**

Children in our school learn their history through a 3-year programme (infants) and 4-year programme (juniors). The infants learn about events and changes in living memory as well as significant national and international global events linked into their themed termly topic. Juniors will learn about early changes in Britain from the Stone Age, the impact of the Roman Empire, the Anglo Saxons and Vikings and our local history.

#### **h) Geography**

Our infant children will learn to name and locate the continents and oceans as well as the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and the seas which surround it using geographical vocabulary. They will learn about their local area using a range of resources. Junior children will build on this knowledge and will learn the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features using a range of resources including ICT.

#### **i) Art & Design**

Children are taught to use a range of materials creatively to design and make their products. We develop a wide range of techniques for drawing, painting and sculpture to enable them to share their ideas, experiences and imagination. Children learn about a range of artists, craft makers and designers and develop their own techniques and increasing awareness of different kinds of arts and crafts as they progress through the school.

### **j) Music**

Through a combination of composing, listening, performing and appraising we aim to build self-confidence, inspire creativity and encourage our pupils to develop a love of music. We organise our music curriculum on a four-year cycle to link with topic work wherever possible. Our topics will include 'Exploring Rhythm and Pulse', 'Melodies and Scales' and 'Performing Together.' The juniors are taking part in the BBC 'Ten Pieces' project which aims to '...inspire a generation to get creative with classical music.'

### **k) Physical Education**

We put great emphasis on high quality sport and use our Sports Premium for highly qualified sports coaches in a variety of exciting activities e.g. tag rugby, athletics, hockey, kwik cricket, gymnastics, netball, Zumba, Boxercise, Bikeability and tennis. All junior children attend Ashbourne Leisure Centre for a 10-week course in swimming every year. We also enjoy taking part in a variety of tournaments and sporting events with other schools in the Ecclesbourne cluster and Amber Valley.

### **l) Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. At Mugginton CE Primary School we use our PSHE programme to equip pupils with a sound understanding of risk and with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions. We help our children to be safe by teaching them about drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.

### **m) British Values:**

In November 2014, the DfE advised schools that they also must promote fundamental British Values. Children are taught about how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries. Through such times as team time and the school council all pupils have their democratic voice heard in our own community. Throughout the curriculum children learn how to question and argue, defending their points of view and developing a respect for others' points of view.

We learn about other religions and cultures through many aspects of our curriculum and are proud owners of the International Schools Award.

### **n) Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)**

Sex and relationships education is taught as part of our PSHE and science curriculum. We show sensitivity towards the needs of individuals and each class. Older children are withdrawn for appropriate teaching during term 6. THE SRE policy is available for parents to view at any time. We also provide appropriate books for Y5 and Y6 pupils to share with parents. If parents wish to uphold their legal right to withdraw their child from this area of education they should inform the Headteacher in writing.

### **o) Languages**

Children in the infants enjoy learning French through games and songs each week with Mme Charvin.

The juniors learn Spanish with Senora Jones using a variety of resources, games and songs.

As the children progress their spoken language becomes more confident and fluent and they develop a greater understanding of other cultures.