

# Explore Curriculum



## Curriculum Overview

St Michael's Catholic Primary School

*At St Michael's, we are explorers of our own learning.*



**At St Michael's Catholic Primary School, our Explore Curriculum is built around the National Curriculum, enriched to reflect the children and community we teach in. As a Catholic school, our ethos and school values are at the heart of everything we do.**

**Our Mission Statement reflects this:**

*With Jesus we can Achieve what we Dream and Believe*

### *Curriculum Intent*

Our Explore Curriculum has been designed by St Michael's Catholic Primary School to provide an ambitious and exciting curriculum that is bespoke to the needs of our children. As a school, our curriculum sets the highest of expectations for every child. It equips learners with the knowledge and skills to achieve academic success, preparing them for future life and learning as both a member of our community and as a global citizen.

Every child is unique and important; they are at the centre of their learning. We provide an inclusive, quality education which celebrates the rich diversity of our school. Our Explore Curriculum is inspired by our multicultural community, allowing our children to feel represented and celebrated within their learning.

Our curriculum strives to support our learners to reach national standards and beyond whilst instilling a life-long love of learning. Reading is steeped throughout our Explore Curriculum as we maximise opportunities to delve into books across all subject areas, inspiring children to leave our school with a passion for books and a zest for reading. In pursuit of knowledge, our children acquire rich, aspirational vocabulary which allows them to explore new topics and articulate their learning.

In our quest for knowledge, our learners are encouraged to challenge themselves to conquer new learning. We use a wide variety of high-quality resources to assist us in delivering this bespoke curriculum including specialist teachers, visits and curriculum enhancement opportunities, developing our pupils' cultural capital whilst nurturing their individual talents.

In order to secure the best outcomes for our learners, our Explore Curriculum is focused on effective scope, progression and sequencing. The cumulative effect of being steeped in a knowledge-rich curriculum, which builds progressively year on year, ensures that our children know more and remember more.

The distinct core themes that underpin our Explore Curriculum are equality, diversity and aspirations. Children will learn about their right to equality, embrace diversity and be ignited to aspire and achieve what they dream and believe.

**At St Michael's, we are explorers of our own learning.**

## EXPLORE CURRICULUM 2022-23

At St Michael's our **Explore Curriculum** aims are achieved by:

We explore our curriculum through:



Knowledge



Skills



Reading



Vocabulary

### Catholic Values

Our curriculum is underpinned by

Aspire and Courage   Creativity and Democracy   Friendship and Nurturing   Integrity and Honesty

Joy and Happiness   Peace and Forgiveness   Tolerance and Respect

### EYFS Curriculum:

Communication and Language   Physical Development   Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Literacy   Mathematics   Understand the World   Expressive Arts and Design

### Core Curriculum:

English   Maths   Science   Come and See

### Foundation Curriculum:

History   Geography   Physical Education   Spanish   Art   Music   Design Technology   PSHE   Computing

### Curriculum Themes:

Equality   Diversity   Aspirations

Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural Development

British Values

Ultimately, as the family of St Michael's  
'With Jesus we can achieve what we dream and believe.'

### ***Our Catholic Values***

*The Social, Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development of pupils is important to us. Our policies, procedures and daily teaching are underpinned by these values as is rooted in the teaching of Christ, these Gospel values should constitute the targets and outcomes of the educational enterprise in every Catholic school, as they do here at St Michael's.*

At Michael's Catholic Primary School Community follows Jesus by living, loving, learning and working together. We value diversity, equality and aspiration – with Christ at the Centre. Staff and children in our school embrace gospel values working together to build our school community.

#### **Aspire and Courage:**

Personal drive and passion inspiring all.

#### **Creativity and Democracy:**

Innovative approaches used to enhance learning and real opportunities for pupil voice.

#### **Friendship and Nurturing:**

High expectations for all in learning and behaviour.

#### **Integrity and Honesty:**

Decisions and actions based on Christian values – 'Doing the right thing'.

#### **Joy and Happiness:**

Celebrating the gifts, skills and talents of all in our school community.

#### **Peace and Forgiveness:**

Always being willing to say sorry and rebuild a broken relationship.

#### **Tolerance and Respect:**

Relationships based on equality, trust and sincerity.



### **Curriculum Implementation**

#### ***What does the Explore Curriculum look like?***

- The Core Curriculum of English, Maths, Science and R.E are taught discreetly either daily or weekly (subject dependent).
- The Foundation Curriculum is taught as discrete subject disciplines.
- Art and D.T are taught as half-term blocks with spaced retrieval throughout.
- In some year groups, specialist P.E teachers team-teach alongside our staff, providing CPD for future teaching.
- Specialist teachers deliver MFL and music provision, alternating between year groups in half-term blocks.
- Work from lessons can take many formats in both individual books and whole class records. Evidence need not be onerous and may take one of the following forms:
  - Written tasks / activities in books.
  - Photographic evidence.
  - Electronically through the use of apps, Google Classroom and class Twitter pages.
  - Teacher reflections as part of our Marking & Feedback books, outlining next steps and QLAs where appropriate

### ***Implementation: Our rationale for sequencing and progression***

At St Michael's, the learning sequence for each year group, in each subject, has been carefully crafted by subject leads to ensure progression. When designing our curriculum, subject leads have identified intra-curricular links and themes which pupils will revisit through retrieval practice and build upon as they progress through the school.

The selection and organisation of knowledge, drawn from each subject, is central to our Explore curriculum planning.

At St. Michael's, we believe that knowledge is essential for learning. Our whole-school teaching and learning approach (based around Rosenshine's principles of effective instruction) is important for curriculum planning, supporting children to effectively acquire and organise knowledge.

St. Michael's 'Explore' curriculum is broken down into subjects, consisting of specific knowledge and skills, within their own unique subject domains.

Our Explore curriculum is built for progression and sequenced coherently.

*How do we show progression?*

1. Curriculum content domains
2. Subject-specific skills
3. Themes / Key concepts

#### **Curriculum Content Domains**

This is our coverage of the 2014 National Curriculum, which progresses year-on-year. It outlines the essential knowledge that pupils will be taught in each subject throughout their journey at St. Michael's.

#### **Subject-specific Skills**

In order to access different subjects within our curriculum, specific skills are taught and revisited throughout, providing children with the '*I know how*' methods and processes required to explore a subject.

#### **Themes**

Subject leads have identified themes which are woven throughout their subject from EYFS to Year 6. These themes will be explored and revisited throughout the school, providing the 'mental velcro' (Hirsch) onto which new knowledge and insights can be pinned.

### ***Teaching and Learning in the Explore Curriculum***

We deliver our Explore curriculum through quality first teaching. Our bespoke whole-school teaching and learning approach is rooted around Rosenshine's Principles of Effective Instruction. This offers pupils a consistent, research-informed style of teaching to secure meaningful learning, age-related outcomes and beyond. Our leadership team recognises the importance of high-quality CPD with a proven track record for success that will directly address our school improvement journey. All staff have been provided with an extensive professional development programme, with a particular focus on our teaching and learning approach, with the ultimate aim of improving pupil outcomes. All subject leads take an active role in driving their subject forwards successfully, developing a strong subject knowledge to become experts in their curriculum area.

We firmly believe that assessment is a driver for effective teaching. Staff regularly use diagnostic, formative assessment and feedback to inform future planning and identify pupils who require additional precision teaching to move their learning on. Summative assessments capture pupils' attainment and progress at key points throughout the year.

Through regular retrieval practice, we ensure that pupils know more and remember more. Lessons build in regular opportunities to recall previously learnt information, allowing pupils to create stronger memory traces. This not only ensures that information will be transferred to their long-term memory, but also provides a stronger foundation for future learning. Retrieval practice at St. Michael's ensures that pupils not only revisit content from the previous lesson's learning, but also have the opportunity to revisit the core concepts taught in previous units of work, or in previous year groups (spaced retrieval). Staff use the outcomes of retrieval practice to adapt their future teaching, planning to address misconceptions and further embed pupils' learning.

Retrieval practice takes many different forms, such as:

Low-stakes quizzing

Talk like an expert

Knowledge dump

Quiz of the week (Kahoot)



### ***EYFS***

Our Explore Curriculum begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage, with the delivery of the seven areas of learning and development. Children are given the tools to begin their journey in St Michael's as explorers of their own learning. We ensure that clear and careful planning enables the organisation of learning for the development of the whole child. Following the Development Matters guidance, our EYFS team ensure effective teaching and learning through: **playing and exploring, active learning and creating & thinking critically.**

Our EYFS Explore Curriculum ensures:

- A high-quality early education, ensuring the best for every child.
- The child's experience is central to the thinking of every practitioner.
- An ambitious curriculum; adapting to interests of our learners and focused around the development of language.
- Effective pedagogy through a mix of play, modelling, observation and guided learning.
- A well-planned learning environment, utilising both indoor and outdoor exploration.
- Accurate assessment; showing an understanding of child development.
- An understanding of the development of self-regulation and executive function.
- A positive partnership with parents, providing support and guidance to extend learning beyond the classroom.

## How do we know that our curriculum is having the desired impact?

Teachers		Children	Children’s work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Secure subject knowledge</li><li>● Increased confidence in delivering all curriculum areas</li><li>● Offer ongoing feedback to LT/SLs about what is going well/areas for improvement</li><li>● Use assessment purposefully</li><li>● Underpin every lesson with our whole-school teaching and learning pedagogy</li><li>● Teach consistently high-quality lessons</li><li>● Plan coherent sequences of lesson which build progressively</li><li>● Seek support where needed</li><li>● Utilise support staff effectively</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Can talk with confidence about what they have learned, using correct terminology.</li><li>● Are excited by and interested in a wide range of curriculum areas</li><li>● Can talk about the specific characteristics of subjects and the disciplines associated with them</li><li>● Can articulate their learning and explain the ‘why’ behind their work</li><li>● Demonstrate excellent behaviours for learning in all lessons</li><li>● Can explain how their learning in a subject builds on previous learning</li><li>● Can make meaningful intra-curricular and cross-curricular links</li><li>● Can all access the Explore curriculum and make good progress, regardless of their starting points or any additional needs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Demonstrates that they take take pride in every piece that they produce, showing the same effort in all subjects</li><li>● Illustrates their increased understanding of key concepts and knowledge within each subject</li><li>● Shows that lessons have been coherently sequenced within each unit of work, building progressively over time</li><li>● Shows that assessment has been used to inform the content of future lessons</li><li>● Shows that high-quality vocabulary is key component of every curriculum area</li><li>● Demonstrates that through regular retrieval practice and quality-first teaching, children know more and remember more</li></ul>
Visitors and Governors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Give positive feedback about pupils’ behaviour and engagement in lessons</li><li>● Comment on the high-quality teaching and learning in school</li><li>● Recognise that subject leaders have a clear vision, recognising subject strengths and areas for development</li></ul>	Parents and Carers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Give positive feedback about their child’s attitude to school</li><li>● Articulate examples of when their child has been enthused by our Explore curriculum - talking at home, newsletter school twitter etc.</li><li>● Work in partnership with the school to secure the best outcomes for their child</li></ul>

## EXPLORE CURRICULUM 2022-23

