



**Good Shepherd Catholic
Primary & Nursery School**

**OUR CURRICULUM INTENT,
IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT**

Our Curriculum Intent

At Good Shepherd School, we base our learning on a broad and balanced curriculum and strive to deliver a wide and varied learning experience. We are fully committed to developing each child's unique potential within a secure and caring environment. We use a range of teaching and learning approaches to meet the needs of the curriculum and provide an exciting learning experience for our children. We believe that our children should not only reach their best academically, but also develop a thirst for knowledge, foster a love of learning, develop interpersonal skills, build resilience, become critical thinkers and develop independent learning skills. We hold Christian values at the heart of everything we do.

Our Mission Statement is embedded into all aspects of school life to promote positive attitudes to learning:

Learning together as part of God's family

Through this, we teach the children key skills such as respect, responsibility, determination, positivity and teamwork

Children leave Good Shepherd with a sense of belonging to a tightly knit community where they have the confidence and skills to make decisions, self-evaluate, make connections and become lifelong learners.

Our Curriculum Implementation

Our bespoke curriculum has been tailored to meet the needs of our children and is organised into topics for each subject in every year group. At Good Shepherd, learning is central to all we do and is our core purpose. Our curriculum is underpinned by the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and The National Curriculum with the shared belief that successful learners are those who are inspired and challenged. Our curriculum enables children to learn in exciting, enriching and creative ways. We believe the curriculum should be relevant to children's life experiences; should inspire and engage them in their learning, while enabling them to work collaboratively using their imaginations. The aim of our curriculum is for pupils to have requisite skills to be successful, independent and motivated learners, in readiness for their next stage of education. The chosen topics ensure continuity of learning and sustains children's interest and enthusiasm. We provide children with opportunities to apply their learning in a range of different contexts.

Our Curriculum Impact

All our children will have a confident set of skills, knowledge, attitudes and Christian values enabling them to be ready for their next stage in education and to succeed in life. We believe that every child leaves Good Shepherd ready for the next stage in their learning with the values of aspiration, resilience, respect, tolerance and empathy instilled in them which permeates through the whole curriculum they experience at our school.

Good Shepherd provides an education which develops our children's confidence and supports them in being articulate and enthusiastic learners. Our school celebrates the wonderful learning that happens in many ways through displays, books and assemblies.

We measure the impact of our curriculum by how effectively it helps our pupils develop into well-rounded individuals who embody our values and carry with them the knowledge, skills, Christian values and attitudes that will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens.

Art - We see art as a vehicle for creativity and individual expression, providing many opportunities for individual and collaborative work. Art is an important form of cultural and sensory expression and, therefore, has significance and meaning for all. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think, through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Children are taught various skills and techniques through our Plan Bee lessons and they are encouraged to critically evaluate their own work and that of others, culminating in displays of their work throughout the school.

Computing - Computers and other IT help pupils make accelerated progress by developing understanding of computing and preparing them for their future jobs. Our approach is to integrate computing skills and development in all cross-curricular work. In lessons, we follow the Teach Computing scheme of work by the National Centre for Computing Education to support teaching and learning across all years. Our children have explicit online safety lessons and know how to use technology safely. They are able to identify where and when to go for support when they have concerns.

Design and Technology - Our design and technology lessons encourage the designing and making of products to solve real and relevant problems. Our pupils learn to select and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics. Through the Plan Bee lessons, children make and then evaluate their products, they are given the opportunity to identify the positive aspects of their designs and recognise where improvements could have been made to the structure or aesthetics of their final piece. This process gives pupils ownership of their creativity and helps foster a positive attitude towards risk taking and learning from mistakes.

EYFS – In our Early Years, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. We believe that learning through play is an essential part of developing a child holistically. Through this, we ensure that all children develop skills from our experienced team and stimulating environment to ensure our children have the very best start on their journey through education. The EYFS framework promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's successful transition to Year 1 and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

English - Reading is fundamental to pupils' development as independent life-long learners. Children are exposed to high quality texts across the curriculum and reading skills are taught explicitly in all year groups. Alongside the skills of decoding and comprehension, discussion encourages children to think as a reader and discuss their preferences, likes and dislikes. Reading for pleasure is a cornerstone of our approach, with well-stocked libraries. Reading is central to our ability to understand, interpret and communicate with each other and the world around us. Success in reading has a direct effect upon progress in all areas of the curriculum. We use Read Write Inc phonics programme daily across EYFS and KS1 to learn letter sounds in a systematic way and develop their ability to read accurately and fluently whilst teaching handwriting and spellings

In writing, we use the Literacy Tree to encourage our children to write through carefully selected books as a starting point. Our writing skills are developed so that our pupils have the stamina and ability to write at the expected standard. We have a wide range of wonderful opportunities to inspire pupils, which makes sure they enjoy writing, and excellent teaching and support to ensure children make excellent progress. In EYFS, children learn how to hold a pencil properly and begin to form letters, words and sentences. We explicitly teach cursive handwriting from year 2 and award pen licences when children can prove they can write with fluent, cursive handwriting. We link our writing context to our curriculum topics, finding real life reasons for children's writing to enthuse them with purpose.

Geography - Through our Plan Bee topics at Good Shepherd, we instil a sense of awe and wonder about the world around us, both locally and globally. We aim to develop a sense of curiosity and fascination within all of our children, to encourage them to think for themselves, to take initiative, to ask questions and investigate our world, including places, people, cultures, environments and resources. We make sure that they know how to investigate and solve problems using geographical information and resources.

History - Our teaching ensures that all children gain a rich knowledge and understanding of British and world history, igniting their curiosity to find out more about the past. We bring history to life through trips to significant places and visits from experts and through our lessons using Plan Bee. Children are encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh up the evidence, sift arguments,

and develop their perspective and judgement. With our encouragement, children learn to apply their knowledge of the past to the challenges of the future.

Maths - Mathematics at Good Shepherd equips our young people with the wider skills, capabilities and understanding that they will need for today, tomorrow and beyond. We enthuse children with engaging lessons to develop inspired mathematicians, ready to apply their knowledge and skills to real life contexts. We equip children with mathematical fluency including confidence in understanding and using a rich mathematical vocabulary. Our teachers deliver an exciting mathematics curriculum that enables and empowers children's secure understanding of Maths, equipping them with the skills of calculation, reasoning and problem solving in a real-life context via the White Rose Maths Scheme of Work. In each lesson, there is a short mental maths session, followed by interactive lessons which build on skills and children's understanding in a progressive way. With the use of ongoing assessment, each child's needs are met via bespoke teaching styles, incorporating differentiation to maximise impact. The curriculum sequencing prepares pupils for transitions between key stages and phases.

Music - In music lessons, pupils develop their creativity, self-confidence and imagination. They are taught a range of musical skills through our lessons using the Kapow scheme of work. Music lessons throughout the school involve singing, games, listening to music and playing instruments. Children learn about pitch, phrasing, rhythm and pulse, tempo and dynamics through listening, composing and performing. Assemblies provide another opportunity to sing and the children at Good Shepherd really enjoy singing.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) – Our PSHE programme enables the children at Good Shepherd to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to live confident, healthy, independent lives. We use Coram Life Education's SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship) programme which provides a comprehensive and developmental programme. Alongside SCARF, we also follow a scheme called "Journey in Love" which is a programme of study for Catholic schools to teach Relationship and Sex Education. Each week, classes also have a topical discussion based on the Picture News resource.

Physical Education - Physical Education (P.E.) is led by a combination of specialist coaches and teachers in dance, gymnastic and invasion games. It introduces children to physical activities that promote healthy lifestyles. P.E. sessions focus on mastering basic movements such as running and jumping, balance, agility and co-ordination using Get Set 4 PE. Sessions promote teamwork and introduce rules that encourage fair play and good sportsmanship. All children in Years 3-5 swim during the year. After school clubs and school tournaments offer further opportunities for children to engage in physical activity.

Religious Education - Religious Education at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School is based on the Come and See syllabus. We promote the love of God and the teachings of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Children are taught Christian values and how to show respect and love for themselves and others around them, appreciating and celebrating diversity. Opportunities are given to the

children to enable them to learn and succeed through a broad, exciting and creative curriculum. These include assemblies, visiting places of worship, discussions, role-play, art, spontaneous prayer during lessons, child-led presentations, prayer sessions and celebrating festivals relating to the faiths studied. During the year, each year group covers 11 topics. Nine of these topics are based on Christianity and 2 topics on other faiths.

Science - Science is all around us and we fundamentally believe children should access all areas of the curriculum through their senses. We use Plan Bee to stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity. We encourage all our pupils to read widely in order to satisfy their curiosity with knowledge and engage learners at many levels. Scientific method is about developing and evaluating explanations through experimental evidence and modelling. Pupils learn to question and discuss science-based issues that may affect their own lives, the direction of society and the future of the world.

Spanish - Learning a foreign language is a valued part of our curriculum. Children are taught to develop an interest in learning other languages in a way that is enjoyable and stimulating. We encourage children's confidence, we strive to stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language. We want our pupils to be enthusiastic, engaged and challenged and to develop their ability to use and understand another language. We provide weekly Spanish lessons from Reception through to Year 6 as we believe it is important to start learning a language at an early age because children pick up new sounds quickly. Children are taught through songs, games and role play which helps children to learn basic vocabulary and use simple sentences.