



***'Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God.'***

## **Curriculum Policy**

The curriculum at St Simon's Catholic Primary school has been planned rigorously and carefully to support the school's key learning aims (Mission in Practice).

We aim:

- to nurture and celebrate the unique worth of each child so that all children are empowered to fulfil their potential wherever their God given talents may lie;
- to prepare children to enjoy life to the full in this wonderful, exciting world by introducing them to as many different, challenging and enjoyable experiences as possible;
- to develop our children into spiritually aware, articulate, literate and numerate people so that they can access all that life has to offer;
- to seek excellence in all that we do and have high academic standards as well as rigorous, consistent expectations of good behaviour;
- to be fully inclusive and strive for the highest standards in teaching and learning;
- to encourage all members of our school community to own the education of our young as a joint venture among parents, parish and school.

### **Key Drivers**

We have identified six curriculum drivers which underpin our Curriculum Map and, when combining each of the initial letters, spell **STRIVE**

#### **1. Spiritual**

At St Simon's, Religious Education is the foundation of the entire educational process. We aim to develop religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

#### **2. Trusted**

It is important for all our learners to develop secure relationships with one another. We aim to offer a curriculum that teaches children how to put their trust in others and to be counted upon to be loyal, reliable individuals, living honest, fruitful lives.

#### **3. Resilient**

All pupils learn from every experience and it is our responsibility to equip our children with the tools to be able to try many different ways to access knowledge and develop understanding. Our curriculum offers opportunities for our learners to keep trying hard

to be the best learner that they can be, even when faced with challenge and difficulty.

#### **4. Inquisitive**

As a school committed to providing the best education possible, pupils explore what connects us all to the rest of the world, they learn to engage with global and local issues and to explore the links between their own lives, people, places and issues throughout their community and other parts of the world. The curriculum offers the children the opportunities to learn about global and local developments and to question and reflect upon decisions made by those in positions of power, helping them to make sense of reality. We aim to help our pupils to imagine different futures and the role that they can play as stewards of our planet in creating a fair and sustainable world.

#### **5. Valued**

It is vital that, in order to love, appreciate and respect others, we must love, appreciate and respect ourselves. Children are taught about key figures and role models of our society – past and present, whom have made an impact in our world. Our curriculum offers children the time and space to explore topics and themes that have changed the world forever. They learn about the qualities and values of others that have made a positive impact in some way and they are able to work together with peers and adults to adopt and embed such values in their own lives.

#### **6. Exceptional**

St Simon's children are the adults of the future and deserve to be immersed in a curriculum that motivates and inspires them to be the best version of themselves – always.

Each year the school focuses on a specific driver from Y1-Y6, which enables each child to receive a deep understanding of STRIVE and its meaning and purpose to them.

EYFS children focus on three elements of STRIVE a year; one each term, to allow them to be introduced to and familiar with each driver during their time in the setting.

## **National Curriculum**

The statutory content of the National Curriculum 2014 has been mapped into the school curriculum plan. Each class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the content and coverage is taught in an engaging and exciting way.

## **Organisation**

The school year has been divided into four blocks: three blocks of ten weeks and one block of nine weeks. The curriculum is delivered over four thematically linked units of work.

## **Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception Classes)**

The Early years Foundation Stage Curriculum is planned over a two year cycle and is sufficiently flexible to adapt to pupil interest so that our youngest pupils are key players in developing their learning.

## **Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 Classes (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)**

Each year group has a curriculum plan which will be adapted to meet the needs of the most able as well as supporting less able pupils so that every pupil achieves well.

At St Simon's Catholic Primary School, a rigorous programme of synthetic phonics is planned and taught systematically from Foundation Stage 1 onwards. There is a daily phonics lesson in Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1 classes. From the beginning, the correct terminology is used by all staff with all pupils. Pupils are taught, and use, letter names to talk about phonemes and graphemes.

Oxford Reading Tree has been adopted as the primary reading scheme. Although the scheme develops through stages, the reading system progresses through colour bands. Once a child can fluently and audibly read the words and can also understand the content of what has been read, then they will move to the next colour band. The expectation is that most children will have reached the end of the book bands and will have progressed to a free reader by the end of Y3.

BOOK BANDS	EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3
<b>PINK</b>	EMERGING			
<b>RED</b>	DEVELOPING			
<b>YELLOW</b>	SECURE			
<b>BLUE</b>	MASTERED	EMERGING		
<b>GREEN</b>		DEVELOPING		
<b>ORANGE</b>		SECURE		
<b>TURQUOISE</b>		SECURE+	EMERGING	
<b>PURPLE</b>		MASTERED	DEVELOPING	
<b>GOLD</b>			SECURE	
<b>WHITE</b>			SECURE +	EMERGING
<b>LIME</b>			MASTERED	DEVELOPING
<b>BROWN</b>				SECURE
<b>FREE READER</b>				MASTERED

For further information regarding our school curriculum, please contact the school office on 0161 483 9696 for an appointment with our curriculum lead, Mrs Clarke.