Church Gresley Infant and Nursery School Curriculum

'Believe, Achieve, Succeed'

INTENT

Our curriculum is about bringing engagement, fun and enthusiasm to learning. We aspire to provide outstanding educational experiences which will inspire children to develop into lifelong independent learners. Our high expectations develop character and pride in our identity as Church Infant and Nursery School preparing every child for their future.

Our curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of our children. It has been developed using knowledge of our children, their families and our local community so that our children can really relate to what they are learning. We believe our well organised and coherent curriculum enables children to explore and experience what interests them, as well as building on what they have already learnt. It provides a range of opportunities from which the children can apply the skills they have been taught and make sustained progress in all areas of the curriculum.

We have five core values which overarch all that we teach in order to give the children a wider understanding of the world that surrounds them and into which they are growing up and these are interwoven into every topic.

These values are: Independence, Resilience, Kindness, Respect and Honesty

School Vision

Our school vision is: Believe, Achieve, Succeed

To help our children really understand and recognise what this means for them we have broken it down further:

Believe: We believe in ourselves
We respect and Care for each other
We feel confident and empowered

Achieve: Achieve the best we can
Be a happy learner
Be a resilient learner
Be an independent learner

Succeed: Succeed in all we do
Have high aspirations
Have an enterprising mind

We recognise that if children can demonstrate these characteristics they will achieve and succeed in their learning and development.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our curriculum is built through a thematic topic-based approach which makes connections in skills and knowledge. We focus on teaching the knowledge from Development Matters for the Early Years and the National Curriculum for Key Stage One, alongside ensuring that our children have the necessary understanding of our important Key values to become well rounded individuals and understand their place in the world.

We try to build experiences for all our children around visits (linked to topics) and themed 'WOW' days to enable the children to either demonstrate what they have learnt (at the end of a topic) eg Year 2 children designed their own 'Spa Day' based on the topic of What does it mean to be Healthy?' or engage more deeply with the topic they are going to learn (at the beginning of a topic), eg Year 1 children visited Sharpe's Pottery as part of their local history theme. In addition, we arrange visits to school from a wide spectrum including authors, musicians, sports people and people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

We choose key concepts to link with each topic, for example: belonging, diversity, tolerance, consequences, belief, pride, individuality, responsibility, courage, community, love, compassion, fairness, determination and inspiration. We believe these are concepts which link well with our topics but are also concepts which our children specifically need to develop an understanding of how to become well rounded individuals who are ready to make a sustained contribution to the world. The children develop an understanding of what these concepts mean and then use this understanding to help them make links between the subjects they are learning.

We believe learning is most effective when it is repeated over time and when retrieval of previously learnt content is frequent and regular. We also believe that sustained mastery takes time and whilst some of our content is subject specific, some is combined in a cross curricular approach. Running alongside this approach, we also have a well-developed nurture programme run by specialists to help children who find it difficult to engage with what children are learning in the mainstream curriculum.

IMPACT

We measure the impact of what we are teaching in a variety of ways. We assess the children on a termly basis to see how much they know, either formally or informally. We also measure how much the children are enjoying what they are learning through their interest and attitudes, by getting regular feedback from all stakeholders and by measuring attendance at our regular school events.