



Saint Pierre School,
16 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LE

Curriculum Policy

Policy Owner (Position)	Last Updated By (Name)	Date of Last Review	Date Next Review Due
Director of Studies	Poppy Smith	October 2020	October 2022
Read in Conjunction with: Homework Policy			

Saint Pierre School – Curriculum Policy

Introduction

For the purpose of this document, the, ‘curriculum’ is all the planned activities which are organised to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the explicit requirements of the taught curriculum, but also includes the implicit benefits of the, ‘hidden curriculum’ – what the children learn from the way they are treated and the wide variety of opportunities which lie outside the timetable. At Saint Pierre School, we want our children to continue to flourish into positive, responsible people who work well and co-operate with others, whilst at the same time developing their knowledge and skills and becoming competitive, independent learners.

Aims

The aims of the curriculum at Saint Pierre School are:-

- To provide a thorough and broad education which engages, excites and challenges our pupils;
- To include knowledge, skills and understanding appropriate for the age and aptitude and, if possible, the specific interests of the pupils;
- To provide a planned and monitored curriculum which ensures the learning is continuous and that the children make good progress;
- To prepare pupils for the next stage of their education (including grammar schools) and for adult life;
- To ensure that the children have an education which is rich in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative experiences;
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning with good study skills, so that pupils enjoy coming to school and acquire a solid foundation for lifelong learning;
- To keep children’s aspirations and dreams alive;
- To fulfil the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, incorporating the National and School’s Curriculum, where possible;
- To help pupils have an awareness of their own spirituality;
- To help pupils understand the importance of truth and fairness and distinguish right from wrong, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all;
- To enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem and to live and work co-operatively with others;
- To promote and encourage a positive mental health.
- To include all children in the curriculum, including those with SEND and EHCP.

Planning

The Nursery and Reception classes adhere to the DfES Curriculum Guidance for the EYFS which includes seven areas of learning:-

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development;
- Communication and Language;
- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Physical Development;
- Understanding of the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

The curriculum in the Early Years is further enhanced by an Additional Curriculum, produced termly, which identifies the specific topics and areas to be covered each day in the Early Years. The curriculum is purposely designed to incorporate children's interests where at all possible.

Where possible children in Early Years will aspire to be ahead academically for their age in Maths and English and will dip into the National Curriculum Year 1 objectives where possible.

Between Years 1 – 6, Saint Pierre School, with aid of the Director of Studies, Miss Smith, has produced its own curriculum which is very much in-line with the National Curriculum but with some of the school's own input. Topics include:-

- Verbal Reasoning;
- Current Affairs;
- JASS – Junior Award Scheme for Schools
- Spanish (introduced in September, 2019).
- Relationship education
- Health Education
- Relationships and Sex Education

In our Scheme of Work, we use Long, Medium and Short (weekly) term plans which are continually updated and improved. These plans ensure that there is no unintentional repetition.

Long term plans – these are broad outlines, indicating progression in knowledge from year to year.

Medium Term Plans – These are termly plans that have the subject objectives the children should work towards as well as Topic/ theme suggestions. They also give ideas on what activities could be carried out to achieve this. The activities are not mandatory but can be used as a guide or an idea for teachers to use. These plans are then rewritten and published in the format of Curriculum Guides and are sent out to parents at the end of one term for the following term.

Short Term Plans – these are the day-to-day plans of individual teachers as they plan towards achieving the goals prescribed in the Medium Term Plans. These are used to set out the learning objectives, the differentiation, the activities and the resources for each lesson. A new Weekly Planning Sheet is used to ensure appropriate direction in relation to Medium Term Plans. Saint Pierre School does have its own individual Lesson Planning sheet which is available to staff.

From Years 1 – 6, pupils are given the opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects which are organised into a subject based timetable. Whilst extra weighting is given to the core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Computing, the following subjects are also covered – Humanities, Religious Studies, French, Spanish, Guided Reading, Phonics/ Spellings, Drama, Art, Design Technology, Physical Education, Tennis, Bootcamp, PSHE/RSE, Music, JASS and Current Affairs. Other areas are also taught including Times Tables practise and Handwriting lessons. Where possible, many of these subjects are taught by subject specialists.

At Saint Pierre School, we pride ourselves not only on the breadth and depth of the curriculum we offer our pupils but also on the fact that pupils can influence what is taught by incorporating their

ideas and interests, where possible. Children will work on fluency of the skills within lessons before moving on to applying them through reasoning and problem solving to gain a mastery level of understanding. The curriculum at Saint Pierre School is further enhanced by Theme Weeks and Topic Days (where possible).

Delivery

The children in the Early Years have 22 and a half hours of tuition per week, if they attend full time. As well as this, there is morning break, lunch, lunch break and afternoon break.

In Years 1 – 6, Saint Pierre School operates a 40 period weekly timetable, with single lessons lasting 30 – 35 minutes. Extra weighting is given to English, Maths and Science and also to the 11+ and SATs preparations as they approach. The theory of Computing is taught as a separate lesson and learning is then applied at home.

Homework

Homework is set in-line with the school's stand-alone Homework Policy and follows the published homework timetable, which each child receives as part of their new timetable at the start of the academic year.

Inclusion

The curriculum at Saint Pierre School is designed to be accessed by all pupils who attend the school. If it is necessary to modify some pupils' access to the curriculum in order to meet individual needs, then this is done with parental and staff consultation.

If a pupil has learning difficulties, Saint Pierre School does all it can to meet these individual needs, in line with the detailed and effective guidelines laid out in the school's SEND policy. The SEND at Saint Pierre is overseen by Mrs. Charlotte Tipper. Saint Pierre will provide in-class support, individual support, will produce Individual Support Programmes (ISPs)/ Educational Health Plans or One Page Profiles and will fully involve parents in discussions to assist in any way possible. Similarly, children who have English as an Additional Language or those who are deemed Gifted and Talented are also catered for.

All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that children with disabilities or EHC plans are not disadvantaged compared with their peers. Teaching and learning are modified appropriately for children with disabilities, eg they may be given extra time to complete certain activities or the teaching material may be adapted.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

Circle/Discussion Time is delivered twice daily in Early Years (where possible) and occurs in other classes on a regular basis. Here, a variety of topics are discussed and any 'issues' can be raised. PSHE is delivered as a separate lesson in Years 1 – 6. Our PSHE policy reflects the school's ethos and is enhanced by activities and presentations. Our PSHE policy also includes our Health, Relationships and Sex Education unit for all children in Reception – Year 6.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

Saint Pierre School provides opportunities for the development of SMSC through direct teaching of Religious Studies and Current Affairs. However, SMSC permeates the school and is not defined solely by its discrete and direct delivery. Many opportunities arise across the curriculum, depending on the topic and the approach taken.

Further SMSC opportunities at Saint Pierre School include their own varied experiences, interactive assemblies containing a moral and a prayer, discussions, excellent role modelling, positive reinforcement and helping and supporting both local and international charities.

Extra-curricular Activities

The school is proud of its range of extra-curricular activities which offer a broad range of opportunities for enjoyment, involvement and improvement in both cerebral and physical activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Early Years – In Early Years, curriculum development and the monitoring of its success is the responsibility of the Head of Early Years, Mrs. G. Hoffman. The responsibilities include:-

- Maintaining and updating, by active consultation with the relevant teaching staff, the aims and objectives of the curriculum in the Early Years;
- To prepare a Curriculum Policy, including schemes of work and the Additional Curriculum;
- To ensure that there is coherence in planning between Early Years and Year 1;
- The requisition, within budgetary allowances, of the resources needed for the effective implementation of schemes of work;
- To help devise and maintain a meaningful system of assessment, including progress tracking;
- To keep abreast of current educational thought and initiatives;
- To attend, and encourage other members of the department to attend relevant in-service training and, where appropriate, share useful information / feedback with the other staff;
- To monitor the effective teaching within the Early Years, through staff appraisal.

Director of Studies (Miss Smith)

The role of the above team is to:-

- Oversee the curriculum and planning for all subjects;
- Provide a strategic lead and direction for the curriculum;
- Support and advise colleagues on curriculum issues;
- Aid teachers with planning
- Monitor and plot children's progress;
- Provide effective resource management;
- Maintain the quality of teaching and learning;
- Review and evaluate weekly planning and provide teachers with feedback when necessary.
- Review curriculum plans and ensure that progression is planned into schemes of work;
- Monitor teacher's marking and record keeping and reflect upon summative and formative assessments contained therein;
- Maintain records of test data;
- Monitor teaching;