

# Frimley Church of England School's Curriculum Statements

October 2017



## English

We believe that the skills encompassed in English are vital for underpinning every area of the school curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the development of spoken and written English, with the teaching of reading and the fostering of a 'love of reading'. The school's aim is to encourage the development of a literate, articulate child, who is able to approach both spoken and written forms of communication confidently.

### Reading

Reading activities build upon the KS1 experience and phonics are taught across the school where necessary. A wide range of rich, stimulating texts, both fiction and non-fiction, are available for pupils in the classrooms and library. We provide the children with a variety of reading experiences which leads to confident readers, who are happy to discuss their opinions on a variety of different styles of text. Reading schemes are used to support children as they develop their abilities. These ensure a structured progression in reading, alongside the teaching of phonics. Intrinsic teaching of reading, based on rich and varied texts is a priority to ensure children read for deeper meaning. The school runs annual book days and book fairs to promote reading.

### Writing

Children have frequent opportunities to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. We use examples of excellent British and International literature as the starting point for children's work and place great importance on composition and effect. The children have opportunities to write individually and in groups, as the teacher models writing skills and gives direct feedback. To stimulate children's writing we use carefully selected stories, animations, plays, film clips, poems and life experiences. They learn the drafting process, spelling patterns and grammatical terms to use in their own writing; as well as creating interactive learning environments within book corners in each classroom. Spelling and grammar are carefully and systematically embedded across the school and we follow the National Curriculum grammar progression. Regular opportunities for extended writing builds children's stamina for volume of work. We teach self and peer editing to improve writing. 'Read and respond' marking allows children to correct and improve their own errors. Neat presentation and handwriting skills are encouraged, practiced and valued throughout the school, in line with the presentation policy.

## Speaking and listening

Children learn through speaking and listening and by encountering a range of situations, activities and audiences, which are designed to develop confidence and competence. These skills are vital in all learning and social situations. We promote these by encouraging children to listen carefully and to speak confidently and clearly. Speaking in public is important and children have the opportunity to take part in: drama, circle time, class and year group projects and school productions.

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics at Frimley Church of England is challenging, exciting, creative and engaging, with children developing a positive and confident attitude towards the subject. Fluency, problem solving and reasoning are at the heart of our teaching; ensuring children develop greater understanding of mathematical concepts. Our approach to maths is investigative with a focus on Mastery and children are encouraged to shape their own learning, asking questions and developing their own lines of enquiry. Teaching is active and relevant and is well supported by a range of resources such as Mathletics, TT Rockstars, Active Maths, Nrich and concrete apparatus.

Grouping within maths is flexible and fluid, ensuring a personalised learning experience for all children, as well as ensuring all children are challenged and supported appropriately.

Progression is planned carefully with small step learning, ensuring that children make links to prior learning building on previous experiences, whilst ensuring full coverage of the National Curriculum objectives. This means children leave us fully prepared for their next steps on their learning journey and can apply maths to real life situations.

Our whole school Calculation Policy ensures consistency, focusing on securing mental methods and using informal jottings, before moving on to fully master formal written methods. We use a range of teaching strategies, using visual and concrete resources to secure conceptual understanding and ensure all children can feel confident to achieve their best.

## **Computing**

At Frimley, we aim for our children to confidently and independently use and apply information technology skills to support and extend their learning across all curriculum subjects. We develop a culture where the use of ICT (information, communication and technology) becomes second nature to our pupils, thus ensuring they are ready and able to embrace the technological advances of the future.

Staff and children have access a range of technologies. Lessons are enhanced through use of desktop and mobile devices, interactive whiteboards, visualisers, digital cameras and numerous other technologies. Each year group has its own webpage on the school website, where they share information regularly.

There is a key emphasis on learning skills for computing; these will include programming, debugging and exchanging information. Our children are taught how to access information, evaluate its suitability, store it, share it with others and tailor it to meet their own needs.

Digital Literacy is a big part of the curriculum, with children learning how to use ICT safely – at regular points throughout the year children undertake online safety sessions on topics such as cyberbullying or keeping information safe.

## Creative Curriculum

Geography, History, Art, Design and Technology, as well as other subjects, are taught through our Creative Curriculum at Frimley Church of England Junior School. Engaging and relevant topics are chosen, in consultation with the children, and lessons are delivered in innovative, exciting and imaginative ways, in line with the National Curriculum objectives. We believe that creativity plays an important part in the curriculum by motivating and engaging the children, enabling them to become more independent and confident as learners. Creativity fosters a sense of curiosity, flexibility, enthusiasm and individuality within the children. Therefore, allowing them to use and apply essential skills and knowledge across all subjects, helping children to take risks and make more connections within their learning.

Through **Geography**, children develop and build upon their knowledge and understanding of the people and places around them. At Frimley, we learn about the wider world as well as local areas, looking at and comparing the physical, human, economic and environmental issues affecting each. Learning isn't just limited to inside the classroom, we utilise opportunities for outdoor learning too where children learn from first hand experiences through trips and visits. Throughout Key Stage 2, children develop and build upon the geographical skills needed to raise and answer questions about locations all over the world. The use of maps, atlases, aerial photographs and ICT based apps ensure a well-balanced, accessible and interactive way of learning for all.

Through **History**, children learn to make comparisons and links between the past and modern day, and discover how and why things have changed. They learn about significant people and key events in the past, in Britain and the wider world, and begin to understand how such events have shaped and influenced our lives today. A chronological awareness is key in history and we expect children to be able to place events, people and changes into correct periods of time as well as use dates and vocabulary appropriately and with increasing accuracy as they move through Key Stage 2. History provides children with the opportunity to inspire curiosity and develop skills of enquiry and questioning, allowing them to become open minded "historical detectives" who explore the past in exciting and creative ways. We aim to bring the past to life through practical first hand experiences, such as role play and workshops, and the use of a variety of primary and secondary resources, such as artefacts, to help the children find clues and deduce information about the past. Children are taught how to investigate and record their findings in interesting and creative ways through writing, art, drama and ICT.

Through **DT** children develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently. They learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, and capable young learners. Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world, enabling them to understand how key events and individuals have helped shape the world in which they live. Children are encouraged to use a variety of materials and use a practical, problem-solving approach to tasks. They will build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users. The children therefore develop a wide range of invaluable skills around the design process (investigate, design, model, refine, make, test and evaluate). Through DT children will also understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook. Children are encouraged to critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others, encouraging them to be independent and analytical learners. They are also given opportunities to work in team situations where they will develop skills of cooperation and communication. Through DT children will acquire a broad range

of subject knowledge and draw on disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing, history and art.

**Art** stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Through art children are encouraged to develop their artistic creativity and learn and acquire new skills and processes. Children develop a deep understanding and appreciation of the role creativity has played culturally and historically, through an exploration of key artists through time. The children are given opportunities to explore a wide range of materials, tools and techniques in 2D, 3D and virtual form. Children will be given opportunities to explore different mediums and encouraged to invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. In addition, children will have regular opportunities to explore a wider range of skills and techniques to express ideas creatively across the curriculum.

### **Physical Education**

Physical Education is an important part of the curriculum at Frimley Church of England School. A balanced programme is essential to the development of the whole child in line with our values based approach to the teaching of PE. Through the development of health and fitness along with social, personal, creative, cognitive and physical skills, it is our aim to provide the foundation for a healthy active lifestyle, whilst also promoting character building, co-operation and self-esteem. These core skills link with our whole school approach to teaching and developing the whole child through our school values.

Frimley aims to provide high quality Physical Education. We aim to ensure that pupils at Frimley are:

- Committed to PE and sport and make them a central part of their lives – both in and out of school;
- Knowledgeable about their personal goals and how to achieve them;
- Understanding of the roles which PE and sport play, as part of a healthy, active lifestyle;
- Confident to get involved in a range of different physical activities;
- Developing the skills and control that they need to take part in PE and sport effectively;
- Willing to participate in a range of competitive, creative and challenging activities, both as individuals and as part of a team or group;
- Reflecting and making appropriate decisions for themselves;
- Showing a desire to improve and achieve in relation to their own abilities;
- Developing the stamina, suppleness and strength to persevere;
- Enjoying PE, school and community sport.

We aim to deliver the requirements of the National Curriculum through a balanced programme which provides children with opportunities to promote physical development and competence, increase their self-awareness and collaborative skills, and develop artistic understanding through movement.

We run an ever widening range of sports clubs, both at lunchtime and after school, and provide a range of opportunities for children to participate in competition at inter-school level in the local community.

### **PSHE & Citizenship**

At Frimley Church of England School, the subject of PSHE & Citizenship underpins and supports our six Core Frimley Learner Values: Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Honesty, Collaboration and Love. PSHE makes a significant contribution to children and young people's personal, spiritual, moral, social and

cultural development and the ability to understand and reflect upon British values, such as inclusion, acceptance and honesty.

Pupil Voice is active and children are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of their school and communities. In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. Pupils at Frimley learn to understand and respect our common humanity; diversity and differences so that they can appreciate empowering values and go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

The PSHE/Citizenship programme will support the development of the skills, attitudes, values and patterns of behaviour, which enable pupils to:

- Have a sense of purpose
- Develop the ability to reflect upon situations and circumstances
- Assess risk and possible consequences
- Value and respect themselves and others
- Form and maintain positive healthy relationships
- Make and act on informed decisions
- Communicate effectively
- Apply a restorative approach to conflict resolution
- Work with others effectively
- Respond positively to challenge and appropriately manage feelings of anxiety
- Be an active partner in their own learning
- Be active citizens within the local community
- Explore issues related to living in a democratic society
- Become healthy and fulfilled individuals
- Keep safe in a variety of situations, including, on social media.

PSHE takes a whole school approach and is proactively led to prioritise and address mental health and wellbeing. PSHE as a subject helps to embed the school aims, values, SMSC, behaviour to engage successfully, and safeguarding principles. Questions asked by pupils will be answered in a way that is appropriate to their age, maturity, understanding and need. Correct vocabulary for terms will generally be used during PSHE lessons, in line with all other curriculum subjects.

PSHE/Citizenship is timetabled and discretely taught on a weekly basis in each class. The school provides enrichment activities to support cross-curricular opportunities, for example Relationships and Sex Education and Drug Education within Science, e-safety within Computing, Healthy Living within PE and Healthy Eating within Design Technology. Extra-curricular activities under the umbrella term of School Council offer opportunities for children to be part of the Learning Council, the Wellbeing Team, the Sports Council, Environmental Council, School Ambassadors plus Head Boy and Girl.

In addition to the taught PSHE curriculum we provide enrichment activities to support the curriculum such as a Healthy Schools Week, Enrichment / Value Days and Anti-Bullying Week. We operate whole school initiatives such as 'Run a Mile' and the 'Golden Boot Challenge'.

Assemblies support the delivery of PSHE and Citizenship through planned themes and are used to focus upon specific values, activities and topics; for example respect, care, compassion, inclusion and equality.

## **Religious Education**

Our approach to Religious Education provides an opportunity to explore issues which the children see in the wider world. We are a Church of England school with Christian values and an open minded approach to Religious Education. The world is a much smaller place today and we are preparing our children to go into the world and form relationships with people from a huge variety of backgrounds. We encourage children to question and explore philosophical issues. Understanding traditions, beliefs and different ways of expressing spirituality is a way of giving our children choices and the chance to develop their own ideas, beliefs and values. Learning about religion and culture will help our children to be tolerant and respectful.

Through Religious Education at Frimley, the children extend their knowledge of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and are introduced to aspects of Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism, recognising the impact of religion and belief locally, nationally and globally. We also acknowledge that Religious Education encompasses some difficult concepts that are not easily explained and consider the non-religious perspective. We want our children to be able to make reasoned, informed and creative responses to religious and moral issues.

Through the curriculum, children are engaged in various activities in order to develop their understanding of religion and spirituality. We welcome chances to give children first hand experiences to build community links and explore all faiths through visiting local Synagogues, Mosques and Temples or inviting visitors of different faiths to our school. We are supported by two local Parish Churches and receive guidance on our Religious Education curriculum from the Guildford Diocese. We have strong links with the Wintershall Estate who use drama to present Bible stories. All children from the school are involved in Harvest, Christmas and Easter services at one of the local churches and Year 6 pupils attend the leavers' service at Guildford Cathedral. We have artefact boxes and the children can handle religious objects related to the faith they are studying. Our lessons are active, creative and engaging with opportunities for both quiet reflection and exciting debate.

## **Science**

Science is about children developing a sense of enquiry and extending their knowledge and understanding of themselves and the world around them. At Frimley, children are encouraged to be inquisitive and question their world through cross curricular creative topics and subject specific investigations. They develop skills of predicting, asking questions, planning practical enquiries, making inferences and evaluating results based on evidence and current scientific understanding.

Independent enquiry is encouraged, with children regularly working co-operatively, forming their own questions and communicating scientific ideas to each other. Activities are planned to cover all the National Curriculum Working Scientifically skills and subject knowledge for each year group, with particular importance placed on children working practically so that they can make discoveries for themselves. Pupils are encouraged to become naturally curious and develop a responsible attitude towards health and safety, as well as respect for all living things and the physical environment.

Throughout Key Stage 2, cross-curricular links are made between Science and other subjects, particularly English, Mathematics, Computing and Personal, Social and Health Education. Findings are recorded in a variety of ways including the use of drawings, charts, graphs and photographs. A Scientific Toolkit is used

to assist the children in the planning of investigations and with their own assessment of the key Working Scientifically skills that they have used.

Our new Science Garden enables children to learn outdoors, exploring nature and discovering for themselves the joy of planting, watching plants grow and then tasting edible produce whilst gaining a knowledge of healthy nutrition. They can observe and compare the large variety of species that live in our extensive school grounds and grow to an understanding of the importance of caring for our environment. Additionally, the science garden provides opportunities to measure and investigate other scientific areas such as the weather, sound and the effects of forces on materials.

Finally, science is made relevant through links to what is happening in the real world, with an understanding of the importance of science in current society and the environmental concerns that affect the future of our children.