



Curriculum

We aim to provide our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum. Children are taught in class groups, in smaller groups and sometimes in year groups. We match the work to the ability of the child and encourage all pupils to try hard and be proud of their work.

Teachers follow the schemes of work for each subject and plan together so that there is continuity and progression through school.

Our curriculum is the complete “learning package” offered by the school. However it encompasses more than just the lessons and activities provided, it also sets the tones, standards, quality and discipline of the school and the attitudes and values we wish to encourage. We feel that HOW children learn and behave is just as important to us as WHAT they learn. The curriculum at St James’ is concerned with personal qualities, behaviour and conduct as well as knowledge and skills children should acquire.

What we teach

The government has laid down clear guidelines for what should be taught in schools. This framework, the National Curriculum, contains eleven subjects, with a significant proportion of time being devoted to the development of children’s literacy and numeracy skills. English

Maths

Science

Computing

Religious Education

History

Geography

Design Technology

Music

Art & Design

P.E.

French (KS2)

In addition, Citizenship and Health Education are taught (P.S.H.C.E.).

We teach children through a programme of subject centred work (e.g. mathematics) and integrated work, where subjects are sometimes combined together when it is appropriate to make the links in learning. Our Teachers prepare yearly and termly ‘curriculum plans’ as well as weekly lesson plans. An overview of each term’s work is published for parents and is available on the school website.

We want every child at St. James’ to reach his or her full academic potential. To help them, we try to ensure that our lessons are:

- Challenging
- Varied and balanced
- Suited to each child’s needs and abilities



English

Our English curriculum provides a scheme of work, which specifies what teachers should teach in reading and writing to each year group on a termly basis. The scheme includes word, sentence and text level work which covers aspects of handwriting, spelling, speaking and listening, reading skills, vocabulary extension, grammar, punctuation, comprehension and composition.

At St James' Lanehead C of E Primary school we see reading as an integral part of the school curriculum that impacts on all learning. We want our children to be confident readers and strive hard to develop a culture where reading is valued. As well as a love of physical books we are increasingly using digital media to motivate children to read.

We teach reading in each of our classes. Our teachers use a range of techniques to teach reading including synthetic phonics, one to one sharing of books, guided reading and whole class teaching. Children read as a whole class, in ability groups and as individuals. Key Stage 1 pupils are taught an additional 20 minutes of phonic and spelling work every day. Oxford Reading Tree books are used for the children to take home and during guided reading. In addition, we also use a wide range of other scheme reading books in school as well as good quality fiction and non-fiction, which are organised to match National Curriculum attainment levels.

Our library is available for all children to use and children take home books to share with an adult which helps children to practice their reading skills and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Mathematics

The mathematics specifies what teachers should teach in Mathematics to each year group on a termly basis. The strategy includes work on:

- Numbers
- Calculation
- Measures
- Shape & Space
- Solving Problems
- Handling data

Teachers now set aside one hour each day for Mathematics. There is a balance of whole class teaching, small group teaching and independent activities. There are also opportunities for children to practise their mathematical skills during integrated tasks throughout the week.

Science

We use the Lancashire Education Authority Science Scheme of Work. Science is about gaining an understanding of the world around us. Young children are naturally scientists in that they try things out, experiment and think up their own explanation of events in their surroundings. Our science programme aims to make use of pupil's natural curiosity. It will equip children with investigative skills that enable them to gain from experience, a deeper understanding of their environment. The main aim of our programme is to develop the children's investigative skills while exploring themes relating to life and living processes, materials and their uses, the earth in space, light, sound, forces, electricity and magnetism



Computing

Knowledge of information technology is an essential ingredient of learning in today's Primary School. Children throughout St. James' have access to both a laptops and classroom based computers from Reception to Year 6. Computing is taught both through other curriculum areas and as a subject in its own right. Pupils are taught to use I.T. hardware and software confidently to communicate and handle information, and to support their problem solving, recording and expressive work. The school has a broadband internet connection and has recently purchased projectors and interactive whiteboards.

Humanities

The Term 'Humanities' covers those subject areas, which have to do with people in time, in place and in society. They are usually referred to as History and Geography although these are mostly integrated into topics for study. The children should begin to understand that they themselves live in, and are a part of a family, a community, a country and a world with its own heritage and history. We aim to foster skills of observation together with the ability to use historical and geographical evidence to put events into sequence, to empathise with people of other times and in other places, and to use historical and geographical concepts and ideas.

Design Technology

Design Technology is concerned with developing skills and understanding through practical design and make tasks. To understand systems, mechanisms and environments, Design Technology exploits the opportunities presented in other curriculum areas, particularly science. It covers card engineering, electrical control, food technology, textile work and an investigation of structures and mechanisms.

Physical Education

Our Physical Education programme aims to develop skills, fitness, strength and agility through participation in a wide range of enjoyable activities. The programme applies to all pupils. Children may be excused activities for medical reasons but this must be requested in writing by parents. Activities covered include gymnastics, dance, game skills, athletics and swimming. Dance and gymnastics lessons are taught in the school hall. Athletics and games skills are taught on the school playground and playing field.

The children in Key Stage 2 attend Pendle Wavelengths, Nelson for swimming lessons on a rota basis.

Creative Arts (Art, Music & Drama)

Work in these areas contributes to all aspects of study and to the children's overall creative, physical and aesthetic development. Art, Music and Drama are principal ways of encouraging awareness and appreciation of beauty and quality. They encourage creativity, individuality, self-awareness, a sense of purpose & fulfilment, the growth of judgement, commitment and enjoyment. Music and drama in particular, help to develop qualities such as leadership and encourage co-operation and team work. Children have the opportunity to participate in performances at Christmas, Education Sunday and the Leavers Service. There is also an end of year Key Stage 2 concert to enjoy.



In Art & Design, children are encouraged to develop an awareness of shape, colour and texture. From first hand experiences, children are encouraged to observe and represent what they see and do through drawing, painting, printing, modelling, sewing and collage work using a wide variety of materials and tools.

The main aim of our music curriculum is to help children gain greater enjoyment from taking part in or listening to a musical performance. To do so, children are encouraged to develop certain practical skills, which will allow them to be able to express themselves effectively in sound. Those skills include singing in tune, performing in time, playing an instrument and reading music. At all stages children are encouraged to explore, use and respond to sound, make up their own music and develop an awareness of sound quality, texture and simple musical structure.

Early Year Foundation Stage

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes for our Reception children. All areas of learning and development are important and interconnected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

- communication and language;
- physical development; and
- personal, social and emotional development.

We also take into account four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and
- expressive arts and design.