

The Key Subjects

English

We teach our children to use language as effectively as they can in a wide variety of situations, as laid down in the 2014 curriculum. They will be introduced to many types of literature including fiction, non-fiction and poetry and will be encouraged to read widely. Our reading policy focuses on developing a love of reading. We ensure that our children are given opportunities to develop spoken language, reading, writing including extensive cross curricular writing. Contextual grammar, punctuation and spelling activities are designed to improve their overall ability.

Mathematics

We equip every child with the basic mathematical skills required in every day life and to encourage investigations and problem solving techniques. Our children are given the opportunity to work both in groups and individually, using a variety of resources. Through our variety of teaching styles we aim to develop a successful foundation for future learning and to present children with the challenge that mathematics offers and allow them to experience the fun, which is often lacking from this subject.

Science

Through our Science curriculum we give children the experience of a wide range of practical work as well as developing scientific skills and attitudes. Science helps children to understand more about the world around them and encourages them to question aspects that they don't understand. Through Science, children can experience the excitement of discovery.

History

Through History, our pupils learn about significant people, events and places from both the recent and more distant past. Good use is made of the local environment, which is rich in resources.

Geography

Pupils investigate a variety of people and places within our local area, throughout the UK as well as abroad. Children find out about different environments and the people who live there. They carry out geographical enquires both inside and outside the classroom and begin to learn about the wider world. Children are encouraged to ask geographical questions and use skills and resources such as maps, atlases, aerial photographs and ICT.

Information Technology

As ICT underpins today's modern life, it is essential that all pupils gain the confidence and ability that they need in this subject to prepare them for the challenge of the rapidly developing and ever changing technological world in which we live. At Our Lady's, ICT is used to enhance and extend the children's learning across the whole curriculum. All classrooms are equipped with an interactive white board or touch screen. We have a fully equipped computer suite and access to laptops and digital cameras. All pupils have daily access to computers and are able to develop their all round ICT skills. E- safety is a very important part of our ICT curriculum and all children receive regular lessons around E -safety.

Arts

Art, Music, Drama and Dance offer great opportunities for children to express themselves creatively and emotionally. They also provide valuable means of developing children's knowledge of other cultures and greatly enhance the spiritual celebrations of our own christian faith.

Each year we present whole school and key stage musical productions for Christmas and Easter. We also hold a yearly performing arts show and an annual summer musical production. Parents are invited to join us on such occasions. The children's work is displayed throughout the school in order that they can celebrate their achievements and realise how much their efforts are valued.

Physical Education

Throughout their time at Our Lady's children will have experience of dance, gymnastics, athletics and outdoor games. Together, these promote the children's physical development, an awareness and understanding of the body, the development of skills and imagination and an appreciation of creative performances. Most importantly, it is hoped that the children will gain enjoyment from

physical education and pursue sporting activities in their private lives, thus promoting a healthy lifestyle. Children from year 2 onwards are able to take part in swimming lessons.

All children are given an opportunity to represent the school in local sporting competitions and to develop team work.

Design and Technology

Including Cooking

Our DT curriculum stimulates the innovative and creative abilities of our children. Children develop their design and making skills through the use of a variety of resources, skills and techniques.

Our children are taught about where food comes from through research and practical opportunities using our allotment. We also have a fully equipped kitchen which provides opportunities for the children to plan, prepare and cook a variety of foods. All of this contributes to our ongoing vision to promote a healthy lifestyle for our children as they grow and develop.

Modern Foreign Languages

Our children learn to speak, write and understand French in Key Stage 2. All children learn about the French culture through focus weeks.

Personal and Social Development

Personal and social development of the children is an area that has become an increasingly important part of children's education. In order to allow individuals, friendship groups and classes to react to, and cope with, the pressures of the world around them, we allow time for discussion and reflection so that everyone knows that they are important and that their opinions are valued.

Religious Education

The school's religious education reflects the values and traditions of the catholic faith and is based upon 'The Way The Truth and the Life' religious education programme. The children are taught through a thematic approach and we have a whole school policy in which topics are addressed each term at the level appropriate to the child's age. The religious education programme also recognises the important role of the school as part of the parish community. Either on a whole school or individual class basis children regularly participate in parish liturgical celebrations. Our ongoing preparation for

the sacraments is incorporated into the religious education programme.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education lessons.