

CCSJ's Curriculum Statement 2015-16

At Church Cowley St James 'Our aspiration is that all children will develop their capacity to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.'

The introduction of the New National Curriculum has meant that we have more autonomy as a school as to what we cover and when. The Church Cowley Curriculum has been designed to cover the National Curriculum and the School Curriculum. The School Curriculum is focused around five curriculum key skills which are to; Investigate, Analyse and Synthesise, Communicate, Evaluate and Create and Develop ideas. These are all skills which employers look for today and therefore we feel that they are essential skills for the children at our school. Through the creative curriculum we want to provide our children with 'real-life' experiences which will equip them for life after school.

The curriculum map has been designed by the children, a group of children from each year group were asked what they would love to learn about in school. There were lots of fantastic ideas such as sharks, dinosaurs, horrible histories, salsa dancing and drumming. In order to ensure the National Curriculum is being covered we have added in curriculum weeks such as history, geography and science weeks. These will be led by curriculum leaders and will allow for National Curriculum topics such as Vikings and the Water Cycle to be covered.

The curriculum is designed by a group of subject leaders they ensure there is a clear progression of skills across the year groups, that objectives are covered and that a high standard of work is maintained throughout the school.

We want to get parents more involved in their child's learning experience. The children have enjoyed sharing their work with their parents through, sharing curriculum assemblies and galleries such as the History Museum.

Trips and Visits

In order for the children to become fully immersed in their topics we have planned in curriculum visits such as visits to Warwick Castle, The Sealife Centre and Wytham Farm. For example, during the KS1 Farm to Fork topic the children visited a local farm to understand the process of how the food they eat reaches their fork. As part of our 'Aspirational Curriculum' KS1 performed their Nativity at Balliol College and all children have had lunch in Balliol College's main dining hall.

In addition we have annual visits to Land and Wave for Year 6 and Hill End for Year 4. There are also plans to run Forest School for all children in Reception from September 2015.

English

Phonics

We teach children to read quickly and skilfully through daily phonics lessons. In KS1 the children have two sessions of phonics a day, following the Letters and Sounds programme combined with Floppy's phonics. Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way, starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex, it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. Children are taught how to: recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes, identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make – such as 'sh' or 'oo' – and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word. Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

Phonics websites:

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> (There are a number of fun, free phonics games on this site)

www.oxfordowl.co.uk (Free to use – you just need to sign up – access to Oxford Reading Tree e-books)

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/> (A range of phonics resources)

<http://www.highfrequencywords.org/> (A list of the 200 most common words)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s (This video shows how to accurately say each phoneme)

SPAG

In Year 6 children are now assessed on SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar). All children in KS2 have discreet twenty minute SPAG lessons three times a week. Additionally SPAG is also taught through the daily English lesson.

Speaking and Listening

Effective speaking and listening is fundamental to a child's learning and is a valued skill in adult life. With this in mind, place great importance on developing children's speaking and listening skills. We use drama activities to increase children's confidence in public speaking and to give opportunities for self-expression. We provide children with the children to perform in assemblies and on stage. Furthermore, children are taught how to communicate with their peers and how to work effectively in a group.

Reading

As a storytelling school we place great importance on stories and teaching children to read. One of the greatest gifts we can give a child is the ability to read, and we encourage a love of reading and books. Each topic is taught through a story to allow the children to become fully immersed in the text.

In the Early Years we establish a language-rich environment. As in Years 1-6 the children learn a story, retell a story and are encouraged to write words or sections from the story. Teachers model and share reading with the children, demonstrating that it is an active part in the process of constructing meaning. We discuss how texts are structured, how to use book language and learn about the rhythm and expression needed for reading aloud. Phonics is an integral tool in teaching children to read in the Early Years. The children are taught phonics through daily discrete sessions.

In Key Stage 1 and 2, reading is taught through a wide range of reading activities such as guided and shared reading. These are used to develop children's reading vocabulary and confidence. Through discussion and rich questioning, using quality fiction and non-fiction, children are taught the skills needed to interpret and understand a range of texts. These comprehension

skills enable children to become purposeful, active readers and develop a lifetime love of books and reading.

All children in the school have a weekly library slot and are able to take home a book of their choice from our school library. In addition we use a combination of reading schemes with a common colour coding for level of difficulty. These are for the children to read at home, to share with their parents and to support them in becoming fluent and confident readers.

Writing

Writing is taught through storytelling and the process of 'talk for writing'. All stories and texts are linked to the children's current topic to enable them to become fully immersed in the story. Each story or text begins with a hook (such as a dinosaur egg appearing in the playground) to hook the children in and get them excited about the new story/text). The children then learn the new story or text so that they are able to confidently retell it. This process of 'talk for writing' enables the children to focus on constructing sentences and focusing on their small next steps in writing opposed to what they are writing. In addition to storytelling the weekly 'Church Cowley Creative Write' session allows children to apply skills they have learnt such as story or persuasive writing and to explore their own imagination and creativity. We teach handwriting through the Penpals scheme, which provides a clear progression of skills from Foundation Stage upwards. This enables our children to develop a neat and fluent joined style, and to take pride in the presentation of their work.

Maths

At Church Cowley St. James, our aim is to enable children to use their knowledge and understanding of Maths confidently, now and in every aspect of their future lives.

We endeavour to make Maths purposeful, fun and rewarding for all and encourage a positive attitude as well as the ability to: solve problems, to reason, think logically and work systematically. To enable children to achieve this, we not only teach Maths discreetly on a daily basis, following the Abacus programme, but plan for opportunities for children to apply their learning across the curriculum and beyond.

We recognise that children need to understand the fundamentals of what they are doing in Maths. With the support of the Abacus programme, our Maths curriculum is underpinned by a 'four pillar' approach to ensure children develop a robust understanding and secure foundation in Maths. The four pillars are: **place value**, to ensure children gain an appreciation of our number system; a strong bank of **number facts**, which children can apply in a range of contexts; a constant exposure to **models and images** to promote and support children's understanding; and a secure comprehension of the key mathematical functions based on **doubling and halving**.

We have a concrete Calculation Policy which supports children in achieving the age related expectations detailed in the National Curriculum. It is designed to ensure that there is a consistent approach throughout the school and to ensure that children are only moved onto the next stage when they are ready to do so.

Children have the opportunity to apply their Mathematical learning in the form of weekly Maths challenges, which are often based on authentic real-life contexts. Over the course of a few weeks, Year 6 recently planned a one week holiday to Paris on a set budget and within given parameters for example, leaving from school and only travelling by bus and train. This not only added another dimension to our 'Transport' topic but also supported children in deepening their understanding of working systematically, timetables, money, time and measure as well as developing their problem solving and speaking and listening skills.

Big Maths

'Big Maths' is a concept based on developing children's mental Maths skills. It is taught in addition to our daily Maths lessons at least three times a week in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The sessions are a quick and pacey 15 minutes and include both the teaching of new mental Maths skills and the consolidation of existing ones. Each session covers place value and counting alongside at least two other aspects of Maths for example, mental addition and subtraction, number bonds and times tables.

Maths Homework

Children at Church Cowley St. James are incredibly lucky in that they have access of their own Mathematical virtual learning site – 'Abacus Pupil World'. Children can be set homework electronically by their class teacher, which children can access using their unique username and password via a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. On completion of their homework, children earn coins which they can spend on range of virtual objects, stickers and games to make their world unique to them. Homework activities include maths practice, speaking and listening and problem solving. We have had extremely positive feedback from both pupils and parents about 'Abacus Pupil World' and discussions around the amount of coins children have collected (and some, painstakingly saved) can often be heard on the playground in the morning! If you don't have access to the internet then children can be set Maths homework in their homework books.

Useful Maths Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

<http://mathszone.co.uk/using-applying/symbols-formulae/>

<http://www.coolmath.com/>

www.supermathsworld.com

www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html

<http://nrich.maths.org/students>

Science

At Church Cowley we place great importance on developing a new generation of scientific minds. We aim to teach and develop children's enquiry skills within Science and improve their understanding of the world around them, through interesting and enjoyable experiences linked to our topic themes. Children are encouraged to become scientific thinkers who use questioning, observing, investigating and communicating in both logical and systematic ways. Science is taught through topics and is linked to the National Curriculum outcomes. We have strong links with local secondary schools, children regularly use their science labs and we have expert teachers from the secondary's who come in to teach science at our school.

Useful websites

<http://www.scienceoxford.com/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index_flash.shtml

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

Computing

Computers are increasingly part of our day to day lives and teaching pupils to use both logic and creativity will help them develop the skills they need to understand and change the world around them. Church Cowley St James School aims to use a cross-curricular approach to Computing, using links with maths and science in particular, to develop a knowledge of how digital systems work and how to apply these in everyday situations. This means that children not only learn the essentials of programming and content creation (such as video and audio), but also a sense of computer literacy – how to use and develop ideas using technology and doing so responsibly. As children progress through the school, we encourage more critical thinking and assessment around technology, meaning that they reach the end of their primary education not only knowing how to use technology, but also to select and choose the appropriate tools and resources.

At home, use of computing can be supported by ensuring children learn to use keyboards and have open discussions about how and what is accessed on the

internet. As technology changes rapidly, understanding code, such as through programmes as Scratch or Kodu, give a solid foundation for future development and even games such as Minecraft develop “netiquette” as part of becoming responsible digital citizens. As Church Cowley St James develops its curriculum and improves its web presence, this not only improves home-school links but should provide further opportunities for children to share and access material wherever they are.

Geography

Our aim at Church Cowley St James School is to help children to relate to the world they live in. The Geography curriculum provides children with the opportunity to learn about their local area and we aim to deliver much of this through first-hand experiences on school trips and local visits. As well as their local environment, children study the wider world and explore the diversity of places, people, resources and natural/human environments. In addition to this we also encourage children to think about their impact on the environment and how they can help care for it. During the academic year we immerse ourselves in Geography week. This year each class have explored a country in depth looking at its climate, food, and environment- to name but a few things. Geography week also provides us with a great opportunity to use a cross curricular approach which is brilliant as it enable pupils to access the curriculum through a variety of linked activities and helps develop more personalised learning. Finally we make Geography fun and interesting for the children to keep them interested in the people, cultures and the world around them.

PE

At Church Cowley we value the importance of physical education and physical activity. We work hard to provide substantial opportunity for children to take part in sport and other physical activity throughout the school year.

Real PE give pupils the chance to develop an individual journey based on their needs. It's a FUN, energetic, cross curricular and inclusive curriculum which provides children with the fundamental skills (coordination, balance and agility)

needed for sport and everyday life. PE is taught by class teachers for one hour each week. In addition to this we also have Zumba and salsa, swimming, rugby, multi-sports football and futsal.

Links with local partnership schools

Church Cowley is part of the Oxford Academy's School Sports partnership.

This enables us to:

- Take part in local competition in a variety of sports.
- Use the Academy facilities such as the trampolines and indoor football courts.
- Have expert coaches come and run after school clubs.

RE

As a Church of England school, Religious Education plays an important role within the classroom and within the life of our school as a whole. Collective Worships led by our staff and an Open the Book team from St James' Church enable the whole school to gather together and consider religious stories and festivals, their meaning, how they link to our school values, and how they impact us today. Our four school values, a regular subject of discussion amongst staff and children, enable our ethos to permeate through the school, and form a bedrock of our spiritual life as a school. Along with many other local schools, we follow the excellent Oxford Diocese Board of Education scheme of work for our weekly RE lessons. This involves a model of engaging, enquiring, evaluating and reflecting upon religious ideas and considering a "big question" each term, as we explore beliefs, stories and practises from different faiths.

PSHE

At Church Cowley St James we follow the Jigsaw PSHE Scheme of Work. Jigsaw PSHE is a comprehensive Scheme of Work for the whole Primary School from Foundation through to Year 6. It brings together PSHE Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive

scheme of learning. All of these pieces of learning are brought together to form a comprehensive picture, helping children to know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in the world.

Jigsaw PSHE is designed as a whole school approach, with all year groups working on the same theme (Puzzle) at the same time. This enables each puzzle to start with an introductory assembly, generating a whole school focus for adults and children alike.

Each class has a Jigsaw character with its distinctive colour and a chime bar to encourage calmness. There are 6 Puzzles (Units of work) per year each with 6 Pieces (lessons). Each piece has two learning intentions: one is based on specific PSHE learning and one is based on emotional literacy and social skills. This means that the Jigsaw PSHE Scheme of Work is relevant to children living in today's world as it helps them to understand and be equipped to cope with issues like body image, cyber and homophobic bullying and internet safety.

History

At CCSJ, we are all Historians! Every year group learns History through investigation, exploration and practical activity. Although Nursery through to Year 6 will all have different topics, we often come together to showcase our efforts in History. Last term, the school focused on History for six weeks; from Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale in Year 16, to Ancient Greeks and Mayan Civilization in Years 5 and 6! This History term allowed us all to delve deeper into our chosen periods of history, and ended with the fantastic CCSJ Museum. The Museum displayed exhibitions from each of our topics, and the children became curators for the museum which parents visited and enjoyed. At CCSJ, we bring History alive by providing the children with the platform to investigate something for themselves - this means becoming experts at sourcing information from artefacts, books and the internet, but also developing our skills through visits and visitors. All the children at CCSJ enjoy a wide range of these practical activities to broaden their historical knowledge - from visiting

the Natural History Museum, to having a real American cowboy visit our classroom!

Art and Design

We deliver a rich and diverse Art and DT curriculum at CCSJ. The children across the school are introduced to a range of art and design practices through thought-provoking themes linked carefully to their current topic. The children learn key skills such as drawing, painting, sculpture and sewing and there is a clear progression in the level of expectations and challenge across the school. We are lucky to have developed strong links with local artists who have brought their expertise and flair to exciting school projects such as the Cowley Road Carnival. The children have also learnt sculpture making skills using willow and other interesting materials. Other recent projects have included working with comic artist Neil Cameron to create England's largest comic strip for the wall of our Library! We have also worked with local artists to create a stunning mural painting which has allowed the children's imagination to run wild. The children's wonderful creations are proudly celebrated around the school. Overall, Art and Design at CCSJ is purposeful, fun and provides the children across the school with an opportunity to express themselves in a creative and dynamic way.

Music

The whole school follows the 'Voices' scheme of work. This teaches children key concepts through singing and use of musical instruments. At CCSJ we want to inspire our children to learn new instruments and immerse themselves in other cultures through music. As part of this, all children in the school have learnt djembe drumming, this will continue so that by the time the children leave school they will be accomplished drummers. Additionally KS2 have learnt the Ukulele and we offer drumming and guitar lessons. In the future we hope to expand the range of musical instruments we offer and opportunities for children to perform.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning covers many areas at CCSJ. This year there has been a real focus on children learning offsite; all children from Reception to Year 6 have participated in a wide range of trips connected to their topics. This has ranged from Farm trips and Environmental Centre workshops to whole school visits to The Natural History Museum and the up-coming Balliol College visit. From this, children have gained a wider experience to draw on for their writing and other core areas of the curriculum. The school also has its sights set on a permanent outdoor learning site down at Beauchamp Lane where children can learn from a wide range of skills: bushcraft and woodcraft, team building exercises to improve communication and language skills, fire building and cooking alongside the depth of knowledge required to grow your own crops. In the long-term we hope that this will truly be a 'From farm to fork' experience. Children already learning about growing vegetables have been seen to benefit from the therapeutic and engaging nature of the work. This year we have set up a fantastic Forest School in Wytham woods. Sixty children from EYFS visit the site weekly to explore, investigate, communicate their ideas and get very muddy!