

Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School

Holy Ghost Curriculum 2018



Religious Education and Spiritual Development

The curriculum continues to hold spiritual, moral and social development as a top priority, and of course our curriculum for Religious Education is central to this development. It is also at the heart of every other curricular area.

Our curriculum for Religious Education, including education for personal relationships, has remained unchanged in terms of content. We continue to give it the status of a core subject, and seek to make ongoing improvements to our teaching approaches in Religious Education. We also continue to play our part in the spiritual development of the children. Please look at the Religious Education section of our website for more information on this.



Holy Ghost Curriculum Years 1 – 6

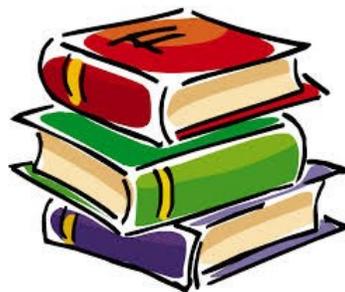
Literacy

Teaching in Literacy embraces the teaching of reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar, handwriting, and the more explicit development of spoken language. Each unit of work exposes the children to rich “models” to help them to develop specific linguistic and literary skills.

The integrated approach we are using (perhaps working from a class novel or exploring a theme like “Wolves”) aims to give a strong context for the development of literacy.

During each school year at Holy Ghost the children have opportunities to analyse and experience the main non-fiction genres - explaining, reporting, discussing, instructing, and persuading - in addition to the range of fiction genres. Reading for meaning is developed in its own right, and carefully selected, rich stimuli from literature really inspires children’s writing.

We celebrate World Book Day each year; visit the theatre; and have visiting theatres to school, in addition to poets, storytellers, authors and illustrators.



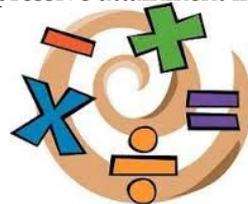
Maths

Some recent changes to the Maths curriculum are:

- Year 1:** Counting and writing numerals to 100 and number bonds secure up to 20;
- Year 2:** Finding and writing simple fractions of quantities, adding two 2-digit numbers and three 1-digit numbers and demonstrating the commutativity of addition and multiplication;
- Year 3:** Adding tens or hundreds to 3-digit numbers, formal written methods for addition/subtraction, counting in tenths and comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators;
- Year 4:** Solving problems with fractions and decimals to two decimal places, rounding decimals, recognising equivalent fractions and decimals and Roman numerals to 100;
- Year 5:** Understanding and using decimals to three decimal places, writing percentages and fractions and decimals, knowing and understanding prime, squared and cubed numbers and using standard written multiplication and division methods;
- Year 6:** Adding and ordering fractions greater than 1, long division, four operations with fractions and calculating decimal equivalents of fractions.

By the age of nine, all children will be expected to know their times tables up to 12×12 .

As well as developing speaking and listening in Maths, our curriculum has a good balance of calculating, solving problems, reasoning about numbers and applying knowledge. Children are given lots of opportunities to discuss their methods and encouraged to use the appropriate mathematical language. Mental mathematics is an integral part of every Maths lesson. We consider that practice, speed of recall, rehearsal and reasoning are essential, if children are to become confident and skilful with numbers. The excellence of our Maths curriculum is evidenced through the performance of all classes, including the especially impressive attainment in Year 6.



History, Geography, Computing, Science, Art and Design

History

In History the children will investigate different periods and events from the past and are equipped with the basic skills to carry out historical enquiry. They will examine evidence and learn about causes and consequences of historical events.

We use key questions to present learning challenges in History; look out for the fun titles that we have given to some of the units of work.

Children learn to use a variety of historical sources of evidence which include artifacts, pictures, photos and documents in order to develop their enquiry skills.

We enable children to develop a good sense of chronology, helping them to place different periods of history into a time frame.

We make good use of trips and regularly take children to places of interest such as mud larking on the Thames, the Churchill War Rooms, the Museum of London and the British Museum.



Geography

Through Geography we teach children about a variety of world locations and involve them in researching the different communities to identify similarities and differences. They also learn about the earth's key physical processes and consider the consequences of human processes on different environments.

Children acquire the geographical knowledge and skills they need to collect and analyse data, and interpret a range of sources of geographical information including maps, globes and aerial photographs in order to communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, oral presentations and the written word. There is an expectation that they will know the continents; countries of the world; capital cities; oceans; and names of rivers in the areas which they study.

Again, the learning challenge approach is used to inject excitement for the children, and overarching questions such as "What makes the earth angry?" will allow the children to probe certain aspects of geography, in this case, volcanoes, by building a series of more contained questions, which lead to the research needed to answer this more overarching question.



Computing

The new computing curriculum has been developed to equip young people in England with strong foundations in the skills, knowledge and understanding of computing they will need for the rest of their lives. Through the new programme of study for Computing, children will learn how computers and computer systems work; they will design and build programs, develop and evaluate their ideas, to become confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

We work with a computing advisor, who is assisting teachers with how to use iPads to develop very exciting learning in Computing, and for a range of meaningful purposes across the curriculum.

We have planned units of learning in Computer Science, including programming the toy "sphero", which involves the development of logical reasoning. Digital Literacy, including multi-media presentations and the use of 'green screen' technology, will enhance the children's creative communication. In Information Technology, the children will learn to use a number of programs, for example, 'Wildkey' and 'Wildform' to collect and analyse data in order to solve problems and answer questions.

The safe use of the internet is also a focus in our school with children being taught about the benefits and possible dangers of internet use. We will continue to work with parents to promote awareness of cyber-bullying and general internet safety.



Science

In Science we seek to develop pupils' natural interest and curiosity about the world in which they live, and foster in them a respect for the environment. Our Science curriculum provides the foundations for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. There is now a stronger emphasis on scientific knowledge but the importance of different approaches to scientific enquiry remains a focus.

Through our Science curriculum, pupils build up a body of key knowledge and concepts, and are encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation as well as further developing their sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. Children acquire and develop these qualities through the teaching of focused half termly Science units of work.

The Science teaching at Holy Ghost is engaging and relevant to pupils needs and encourages their active participation both in lessons and through independent research beyond the classroom. The introduction of 'Forest Schools' is an example of this.

Enrichment events such as science week and trips, for example, to the Science Museum and the Wetlands Centre not only provide a "WOW!" factor to extend and challenge learners but also provide an invaluable opportunity to involve parents in the role of "expert" aiding learning in very real and practical ways.

Our Science teaching encourages our pupils to develop ways of finding out for themselves and gives them practice in problem solving. As their knowledge and understanding increases and they become more proficient in selecting and using scientific equipment and collating, presenting, interpreting and evaluating results, they become increasingly confident in their growing ability to come to conclusions based on real evidence.

Our teaching of Science also promotes and supports the development of pupils' communication and mathematical skills. For example, they build up an extended specialist vocabulary in Science and apply their mathematical knowledge to their understanding of, including collecting, presenting and analysing scientific data.



Design and Technology

Design and Technology continues to involve children in the design of structures and mechanisms; making high quality prototypes and products for a range of users, for example, toys, slippers, games and pots; and critiquing, testing and evaluating their creations. It is afforded greater importance, however, in the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming designers and engineers of the future. A more sophisticated use of design equipment is expected, such as electronics and robotics.

In key stage two the children will learn about how key events and individuals in design technology have shaped the world

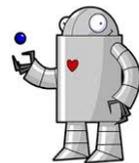
Art

In Art the work of great artists and craftsmen has been given a higher profile. Art enables children to explore and understand the world around them. Through Art they are able to express their own feelings and develop imaginative ideas. An understanding and knowledge of Art from the past and other cultures is fostered through visits to galleries and museums.

The scheme of work, linked to other subjects, facilitates progression in the art processes of drawing, painting, print-making, textiles and sculpture. We consider drawing to be a key skill that needs to be taught. All units of work start by drawing from first-hand experience, this develops observational and perceptual skills. Through these experiences children develop an understanding of the elements of Art and develop an art vocabulary to review and evaluate their own and others' work. Integrated into each of the art units, is the study of work by artists from different periods of time and cultures .

Sketchbooks are used to collect information when working on location. Professional materials enable children to develop skills in drawing, painting, print making, sculpture and textiles. The "double primary system" enables children from Reception to year 6 to develop colour mixing skills.

Stimulating displays around the school share and celebrate the children's visual learning.



Modern Foreign Languages

Spanish is currently taught at Holy Ghost, by a native Spanish speaker.

Children are expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language.



Food Technology



Cooking and nutrition is a welcome addition to the curriculum, and at Holy Ghost we have a small kitchen for pupils incorporated into the Splat Studio, which is a room dedicated to practical work.

Music

Children benefit from a wide range of opportunities with every day singing and class music lessons, which are a regular feature of the curriculum. Through the Wandsworth Music Service's singing projects, the children and staff focus on a half term's vocal development, building towards a whole school performance.

Children in year 4 will learn to play the clarinet.

The school choir is very popular with pupils in years 3 - 6, with performances in school and at community events throughout the year. The school is currently developing a Junior Choir for years 1 and 2.

Underpinning the development of children's musicality is the nurturing of the skills of listening and appraising, composing and performing.



PSHE and Citizenship

The development of PSHE and citizenship is discretely covered in lessons focussing on building friendships; adapting to change; dealing with conflict; celebrating successes; making goals and empathising with others. This work has been strengthened by the school's accreditation as a UNICEF "Rights Respecting School". Central to our ethos as a Catholic school is the living of the Gospel values of love, forgiveness, unselfishness, and inclusion. Lessons in PSHE permeate our everyday lives in school, where high expectations are set for positive behaviour, and upholding the rights of every-one else, alongside our own.



PE

Having an outstanding specialist PE teacher means that the provision for PE is rich and varied, developing physical skill, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Learning in PE covers all the elements which are a part of a 'physical education'. The children have lessons in: ball skills; opportunities for creative games making and the invention of their own games; developing their problem solving skills; and helping them to understand the importance of rules and fair play. The children learn the traditional sports under the umbrella of invasion games (netball, football, tag rugby and hockey), net and wall games (tennis) and the striking/fielding games such as cricket and rounders. With imaginative use of our facilities the children train in cross country and indoor athletics and also have the chance to attend a running club on Wandsworth Common before school.

Years 5 and 6 enjoy a half term each year of swimming lessons where they concentrate on stroke development and personal life saving skills. Years 3 and 4 swim in small groups for a term every year which ensures every child is given the opportunity to be more confident in the water.

The children are encouraged to focus on improving their own performance levels throughout the year. There is a house system and the children enjoy "Inter planet" competitions each term in a sport they have been practising. Medals are awarded for improvement and good sportsmanship, and certificates are presented to the winning planets.

Children are selected to represent the school in tournaments and competitions. 2017 saw much success across a multitude of sports including swimming, athletics, football, rugby and cricket. Holy Ghost was once again represented at the 'Borough finals' were the girls' team finished 1st and the boys' team in 4th, the girls squad also went on to compete at the Dulwich School Gala were again they won their section. In athletics our Year 4 class represented Holy Ghost at the Catholic Athletics Competition which is organised by St John Bosco College, the children finished the competition in 2nd place. Athletics continued with the Quad Kids competition where Year 5 and 6 finished 2nd out of 22 competing school, meaning they then qualified for the London Youth Games. At the games our team finished 12th out of 33 different boroughs. Finally, football is always a favourite of the children's and this year saw us enter a football league for the first time. Run by the Chelsea Foundation it allowed the children to show their skill and determination, which paid off as both the girls' team and the boys' team won their respective leagues.

We very much enjoy the annual visit of Wimbledon Tennis to "talent spot"; and love our participation in such projects as "The Big Dance". We also welcome the Tesco funded football coaching as it always recommends links with outside clubs for the children, and we are currently using Fulham football coaches for after school provision.

In addition to the formal curriculum, there is a range of before and after school clubs run by the teachers and external providers to complement classroom learning.

This year children throughout the school will participate in orienteering activities which suit their age group. Year 6 have the opportunity to enjoy a week's residential at the Arethusa Centre on the River Medway where they sail and take part in a variety of outdoor sports and physical challenges.



Keeping Parents up to date

Half termly curriculum letters from teachers provide greater detail of curriculum coverage from week to week.

Assessment

The school is currently working on changes to pupil assessment. This has been necessitated by the move in the new National Curriculum towards removing the levels of attainment. Children's learning continues to be assessed from lesson to lesson, so that adjustments can be made quickly ensuring that each child is stretched and supported accordingly.

