

Curriculum Intent

Art

Art is a vital part of the curriculum at Holy Ghost as it allows them to communicate their thoughts and ideas in a variety of ways and provides a much needed outlet for their creativity and imagination. The teaching must foster this creativity and competently deliver the skills needed for the children to make progress in their learning. Our programme of study ensures that their skills progress over the course of their education, whilst promoting an enjoyment and love for the subject.

Aims

- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- Foster of love of art in every child-stimulating their ideas and creativity
- Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- To effectively deliver the skills needed for the children to make expected progress in their learning. Including their understanding of colour, form, texture and pattern
- Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Computing

At Holy Ghost, we strive to provide every child with the opportunity to develop their computing skills in a progressively structured learning environment in order to achieve their full potential and prepare them for our technological world.

We also aim to provide ongoing training opportunities for staff to develop their own computing skills to ensure a smooth transition in the use of computers and software, along with using technology as a form of communication between all stakeholders in the school community.

Teaching and learning

At Holy Ghost, we believe that the characteristics of high quality teaching and learning of Computing are:

- Setting suitable learning challenges for all pupils.
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs and prior knowledge.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.
- Using Computing to access all areas of the curriculum through the use of ipads and chrome books.
- Working closely to share skills among staff to ensure a well-planned and confidently delivered curriculum.
- Ensuring there is a comprehensive approach to online safety.

Design and Technology

Design and technology at Holy Ghost allows children to combine their creativity and imagination with their developing knowledge and skills to design and create products and solve problems. We encourage the children to go through every part of the process of designing a product, from considering their target audience, to how evaluating how they might improve the product the next time. Over the course of their time at Holy Ghost, children will have the opportunity to plan and cook meals from different cultures, create electrical board games, and design and sew slippers for a fashion show. All of these amazing opportunities allow the children to be both artistic, and ambitious in their process, whilst developing skills over a number of years.

Aims

- Develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world
- Follow a process clearly-applying prior knowledge and new knowledge to their pieces.
- Build and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
- Critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others-suggesting improvements where needed.

Geography

Geography provokes questions about the natural and human world and seeks to provide children with the tools to answer them for themselves, by direct and careful observation and thought. From their earliest school experiences, making sense of their place in the world in Understanding the World, through to Key Stage 2 and beyond, we want to foster our children's sense of wonder at the beauty, complexity and diversity of the world around them.

Aims

- Have the right to enjoy and reach their full potential in Geography regardless of physical ability, race, gender, stage of achievement or economic circumstance
- Develop an informed concern about the quality of our environment and the future of the human habitat
- Develop an awareness of their locality and the wider world, using a range of geographical enquiry skills including fieldwork, geographical vocabulary, making and using maps and interpreting photographs and aerial photographs
- Balance the finding of information with investigation and exploration
- Understand different societies and cultures and realise how nations rely on each other
- Be inspired to think about their own place in the world, their values and their rights and responsibilities to other people
- Develop ideas of citizenship and challenge stereotypes.
- Think more deeply, moving from finding a simple answer to a question to comparing and contrasting and then evaluating information and synthesizing their own knowledge.
- Demonstrate a strong knowledge of the world around them.

History

History is the enabling of children, by staff, to fully understand the past and to learn from it. What influences us, how history has shaped our values, and it allows to explore the cultures of many different people over many different time periods. It builds up a range of skills that intrinsically link to other areas of the curriculum; literacy, maths, art and more. By building analysis skills in children across the school, we enable them to draw references from each history topic they cover and we see a progression of these skills as they go through the school.

Aims

Pupils will:

- Develop an interest in the past of both Britain, and the rest of the world.
- Use a variety of sources and evidence to enhance their understanding.
- As the progress, analyse the effectiveness of different sources of information
- Understand how the past has influenced the present
- Make enquiries using well developed questions
- Use technology effectively to aid their learning.

Literacy

Our children are provided with experiences of real value, which develop their language:

- ◆ to master important concepts and to think
- ◆ to engage in dialogue which communicates and deepens understanding
- ◆ to produce work of a highly creative and aesthetic quality, with correctly formed cursive handwriting

This involves:

- ◆ the acquisition of a wide working vocabulary
 - ◆ clear expression of thoughts, using correct syntax and spelling
 - ◆ understanding the use of grammar in writing
 - ◆ clear articulation of speech, with awareness of purpose and audience
 - ◆ becoming a fluent, avid and analytical reader
 - ◆ becoming a competent writer for a range of purposes
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- Teachers themselves being models of excellence in their own use of language, and using models of excellence from literature, from all other forms of written English, and from audio-visual resources
 - Exploiting all areas of learning for language development
 - All pupils achieving a real appreciation and enjoyment of the aesthetic use of language and actively engaging in creative work themselves.

Maths

At Holy Ghost School, the teaching of mathematics equips children with a wide range of skills and understanding, promoting logical reasoning and critical thinking. Mathematics also provides effective means of organising and communicating information. At Holy Ghost, our aspiration is to promote a passion and curiosity for Mathematics, involving children in the learning process, building resilience and providing opportunities for a deeper level of understanding. Children are supported to develop fluency across the mathematics curriculum. Links to real life experiences are developed through applying this fluency to problem solving. Through reasoning, children internalise, make sense of and question mathematical concepts developing their understanding of the world.

We strive to achieve personal growth for all children by giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence to approach any mathematical problem that they encounter throughout their lives

Music

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It gives an opportunity for personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of an individual. Music reflects many different cultures and societies from across the world and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can be a highly academic and demanding subject, with proven cross-curricular benefits in maths, literacy and other key subject areas. It is also important in helping children feel part of a community.

At Holy Ghost, the aims of music teaching are to enable children to:

- know and understand how sounds are made using our voices
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- know how music is written down (simple notation of notes, pitches and rests.)
- know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, improvising, composing and appreciating music;
- enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles;
- make and quantify judgements about the quality of music

Physical Education

At Holy Ghost there is a strong and well supported approach to physical activity in its every day routine. The school is energetic and fast moving and the provision of Physical Education in the curriculum through safe, varied and thorough teaching, makes it a unique and vital way to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Our provision of PE intends to:

Engage the children in 2 hours of physical activity weekly.

Encourage the children to participate in club activities provided both before and after school.

Steer the children towards joining local clubs and be involved in active events in the local community.

Nurture a wish to lead (Young Leader's programme), initiate change (Sports' Representative on the School Council) and discover preference by teaching a varied, broad and transferable set of skills.

Enable children to understand their goals, set their own targets and evaluate their progress in a range of activities.

Develop an understanding of how to measure success, how to acknowledge success in others and in themselves.

Embrace the positive effects of physical activity and to promote a healthy lifestyle enabling the children to make informed decisions about the part exercise will play in their lives.

Give opportunities for the children to compete individually and in small groups, both in Level 1 Competitions (Intra- school events) and in Level 2 Competitions (Inter- school events).

Provide a safe space for children to experience physical and mental challenges, encourage discussion, recognition and give permission to have these feelings. As an extension to this provision, this safe space should also serve to explore solutions and consider ways to manage these feelings.

Recognising the value of resilience and to clearly see the steps that can be taken by anyone to achieve resilience.

Personal development

At Holy Ghost, we aim to ensure every child achieves personal growth as characters, as learners and as members of a Catholic community. We ensure that all our PSHE teaching is based upon/ centred around the teachings of the Catholic Church and delivered alongside spiritual, moral, social and cultural teaching (SMSC).

We integrate PSHE throughout our week, within a variety of subjects and periods of worship. We link our collective worships, whole school worships and Key Stage worships with our PSHE curriculum. SMSC and Rights Respecting values are also integrated throughout these periods, further promoting children's personal development.

Aims of our PSHE curriculum at Holy Ghost:

- To encourage children at our school to build strong inter-personal relationships, fostering mutual respect between all regardless of age, gender, race, religion, capability or occupation
- To celebrate the achievements of all in our community, valuing all contributions and efforts made by all individuals
- Motivate children to be active members of the community, at school, at Church and locally
- Encourage children to make healthy life choices and lead healthy lifestyles
- Encourage, develop and discuss own and others' feelings and emotions, building a range of strategies and support networks during times of need

Religious Education

Religious Education is at the centre of our curriculum and community at Holy Ghost. As stated in our mission statement, our learning is 'a joyful celebration of God's creation and a lasting source of radiance and wonder.' In RE, throughout a wide range of Christ centred topics, we encourage children to develop their love of Christ, theological wonder and personal engagement with their faith. Taught so that pupils explore, engage and develop their own inquisitiveness, the children are appropriately challenged to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the faith, their engagement and response and how it is influenced by the works of God and others. Our key values and beliefs of our faith permeate throughout our day-to-day life at Holy Ghost through child led prayer, worship and learning. Children are encouraged to think theologically and ethically over a range of contexts and in doing so develop their awareness of 'the demands to religious commitment in everyday life'.

Using 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' as a basis of our taught curriculum, at Holy Ghost within the classroom and through the wider school life, we aim to provide rich learning and opportunities for children to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith.
- Engage and know key stories from the Bible.
- Promote their innate capacity for wonder, mystery and spirituality.
- Understand, know and discuss how their beliefs and moral values are influenced by others.
- Develop their awareness and understanding of other faiths.
- Engage in prayer respectfully and maturely, to develop their interpersonal relationship with God.
- Have an understanding and awareness of the meaning of scripture and lessons taught.
- Develop a thirst for learning of their faith and an appreciation that it is a life-long pursuit guided by the spirit and the presence of Christ, in the service of God and others.
- Encourage independent study, investigation and reflection.

Science

At Holy Ghost School, the teaching of science promotes a curiosity and a love of learning, nurturing children's awe and wonder, and encouraging them to develop an understanding and respect for the natural world. Science learning equips children with the ability to communicate scientifically, for them to ask scientific questions, predict, hypothesise, test and explain in a scientific way, and to develop, model and evaluate explanations through scientific methods of collecting evidence using critical and creative thinking.

A significant proportion of learning for all pupils is through scientific investigation, focussing on the key features of observing over time; pattern seeking; identifying, classifying and grouping and comparative and fair testing, enabling children to develop and deepen understanding in biology, chemistry and physics. Children develop an understanding of the safe and appropriate use of appropriate scientific equipment and materials.

At Holy Ghost, our aspiration is to promote a positive image of science, scientists and theories and to be able to discuss, where relevant, current scientific issues and debates, building links to real life experiences.

Children are given opportunities to deepen their thinking and achieve at the highest level in both scientific knowledge and working scientifically.

We strive to achieve personal growth for all children by giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence to approach scientific enquiries, discussions and questions.

Spanish

- According to the National Curriculum, children from KS2 are required to be taught a foreign language.
- Holy Ghost exceed this by providing Spanish from Reception
- The aim is to promote an initial and continuing interest in Spanish.
- To enable all pupils to converse and write (as appropriate) in the Spanish language.
- To enjoy the culture and lifestyle of a foreign country.
- To develop the confidence to achieve this at a very young age.
- To have high expectations of the children in the learning of the Spanish language.