

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

Our Curriculum Offer

Curriculum Intent

At Whinmoor St.Paul's we believe all children have the right to receive a quality, well rounded education that raises aspiration and focuses on high expectation. We seek to deliver a curriculum which inspires and challenges our children to become confident and competent in their own abilities and which enables them to move forward in life and learning.



We want our curriculum to:

- Develop a rich knowledge of vocabulary.
- Develop a thirst for learning.
- Give children the skills they need for later life (Cultural Capital).
- Enabled our children to respect the opinions and beliefs of others
- Teach our children about the world around them, and beyond Whinmoor.
- Give memorable experiences to enrich their lives.

Our journey is always underpinned by the central Christian belief that ‘*Every child is a unique child of God – the future adult members of our society*,’ and as such, we work closely with parents and carers to ensure our children receive the help and support they need to attain and make excellent progress, regardless of their starting point. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, we provide our children with opportunities to explore and develop their own beliefs based around central Christian and British Values including kindness, tolerance, respect and choice. These values include the highest expectations of positive behaviour and are reflected in all aspects of school life including worship times and times of Worship.

We offer a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum covering all areas of the National Curriculum enhanced by additional art, dance and drama projects, educational and residential visits, sporting activities, musical opportunities and child led questioning and research. Lunch time and after school clubs, led by staff, children and outside coaches further enhance our curriculum offer. We ensure that Quick Start meetings, consultation meetings and regular newsletters ensure our families know what is on offer and can support us, where they are able to.

Our curriculum ensures learning is effective, exciting and above all relevant to the needs of our children.

Curriculum Implementation

All pupils will secure firm foundations in English and Mathematics with an emphasis on oracy, vocabulary and reasoning. This underpins a growing excellence in other subjects. Our child-led and knowledge-based curriculum, offers a broad range of subjects from Early Years through to KS2. We believe in bringing learning to life, both indoors and out, with an emphasis on engaging and purposeful learning.

Every child at Whinmoor St Paul's has a voice and we listen to them. We have elected School Councillors, Eco Warriors and Sports Captains who all represent their classes and provide Pupil Voice.

Whinmoor St Paul's Primary aims to provide a curriculum that is engaging, balanced and relevant. While emphasis is placed on children learning core skills of English and Maths, we place great value on developing the "whole child" and provide an engaging programme of study in all curriculum areas.



We know developing a positive learning experience in the Early Years is crucial and while following the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance we strive to create a safe and happy environment, which provides motivating and challenging learning experiences that enable the children to become confident and independent learners. We aim to foster a sense of enquiry and a real thirst for knowledge and skills which takes place in both the indoor and outdoor environments. We are committed to play-based, active learning and know that rich memorable contexts for learning inspire children and promote greater levels of involvement and engagement.

The curriculum is organised so that the children learn through a combination of child and adult-led activities. Phonics, reading, writing and mathematics are taught through adult-led activities in discrete lessons. Through ongoing observations using the Development Matters, the children's attainment and progress inform their 'next steps' on a daily basis, with the aim of meeting the Early Learning Goals by the end of the year. We plan for individual needs, different learning styles and the interests of the children.

Pupils begin phonics in the Early Years following Letters and Sounds and this continues through Key Stage 1, working towards the Phonics Screening test, and where necessary into Key Stage 2.

In Key Stage 1, children continue their learning journey, building on the skills from Foundation Stage, taking part in fluency maths, maths, reading and writing lessons on a daily basis each morning. In Year 1, children continue to have daily phonics lessons whilst in Year 2, children access daily spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons, which are linked to their learning in writing, to allow them to apply and deepen their basic skills. In the afternoon, children access the wider curriculum through carefully planned topics: Science, R.E and Computing. PSHE and Music are delivered as timetabled discrete lessons.



In Key Stage 2, children again continue their daily diet of rigorous teaching, taking part in fluency maths, maths, reading and writing lessons on a daily basis. Children access the wider curriculum through carefully planned topics. In addition: Science, R.E., Computing, PSHE, Art, Design Technology, MFL and Music are delivered as timetabled discrete lessons when they do not link with topics.

AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM

Reading

Teaching a child to read is vital. We use a variety of strategies to teach reading in addition to phonics, such as VIPERS, a variety of decoding methods, teaching tricky words through sight recognition, discussion through picture books and individual interventions.

We engage and enthuse the children about reading through our curriculum and reading activities such as: World Book Day, author visits, Leeds Book Awards, library visits, Reading in Unusual places, book exchanges, Book Fair – to name a few. These make up part of our 'Joy of Reading' and encourage our children to become lifelong readers who enjoy reading for pleasure.

Key skills of decoding and comprehension are prioritised throughout school to enable the children to access the world around them. We use class novels, guided reading, individual reading and the Cracking Comprehension scheme as a backbone to develop these skills.

Each week reading volunteers give additional time to support targeted readers. These include, parents, governors and other members of the local community.



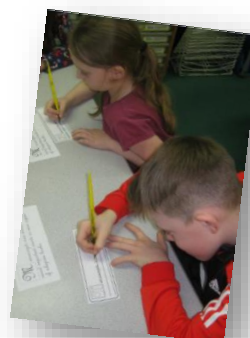
From Year 1 to Year 6, reading is taught through a carousel of activities. These activities include reading with a teacher or teaching assistant and written comprehensions. In addition to this reading is taught through whole class reading using class novels. One to one reading occurs in Reception and targeted readers are identified in each class to ensure reading progression and a love of reading. During the reading sessions the VIPERS strategy is used, there is an emphasis on vocabulary, the retrieval of facts and inference. Novels are used to teach reading as well as a range of non-fiction texts. These texts are carefully chosen to ensure that there is progression and challenge across the school.

We currently use the Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme complemented by additional materials to meet the interests and individual need of each and every child. Text include: non-fiction, poetry and a wide range of fiction styles. These books include those that are phonically decodable and those which are not to enable all decoding skills to be practiced.

Writing

At Whinmoor St Paul's we are proud of our writers and our writing standards. Writing is celebrated at Whinmoor St Paul's as seen by the many high quality examples on display around school. Pupil interviews re-enforce the fact that our children enjoy writing and see the need to be skilled writers for future life opportunities.

At Whinmoor St Paul's, in Early Years and Key Stage 1, we incorporate the Talk for Writing model into the teaching of writing. Children are taught writing skills through studying a range of both fiction and nonfiction texts including teacher produced models. Children are encouraged and supported to orally rehearse



text, before trying to write. In addition, in Key Stage 1, picture books and topic work are used as a stimulus for writing. In Key Stage 2, children are taught to write through Novel Study. Much of our writing is inspired by novels studied during the year and links to Topic work. Challenging texts are chosen to ensure that children have an excellent model for their own writing.

During their time at Whinmoor St Paul's, children are exposed to a range of classic and contemporary poetry. They then have the opportunity to use these poems as a model for their own writing.

Our writing judgements are regularly moderated citywide and have been successfully externally moderated by the L.A. in both KS1 and KS2 in recent years. Our rigour and standard of evidence has been praised in both Key Stages.

Phonics



At Whinmoor St Paul's Primary we follow the *Letters and Sounds* scheme of phonics teaching. Each child in Early Years and Year 1 has a daily, phonics lesson, following the teaching sequence of review – teach – practise – apply. In Year 2, children access a balance of both phonic and spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons based on their individual needs and attainment. Early Years and KS1 children are either taught as a whole class or small groups, based on regular assessments so that children's learning needs are accurately matched to the correct provision. Phonic sessions or interventions are delivered by teaching assistants and overseen by the class teacher, to provide complimentary teaching.

Sessions are lively, multi-sensory, fast-paced and fun. In a session children are taught either phonemes/ digraphs/ trigraphs, high frequency and/or tricky words and these are consolidated through reading and writing. There is an emphasis on paired work and lots of opportunities to speak and listen, as well as read and write the sounds.

At the end of Year 1 children have to take the national *Phonics Screening* which tests children's phonic knowledge, where they are required to read real and nonsense words, applying the skills they have learnt. Any child that does not complete the phonics programme will continue learning phonics throughout the use of bespoke phonic interventions.

Vocabulary development

We actively promote and teach the development of a rich vocabulary in our children from an early age. We are a vocabulary aware school where classes study, and work on, agreed lists of words, which enrich their everyday language (we call these Tier 2 Words). Subject specific, technical vocabulary is also built into our subject planning.



Maths



At Whinmoor St Paul's our children learn important concepts and can make connections within mathematics. They develop a range of skills in using and applying mathematics. They are able to work independently and cooperatively and take the initiative in solving problems. Children think for themselves and are willing to try when faced with challenges. They love to learn from mistakes and false starts.

Teachers develop units of work using with the objectives given in the National curriculum and use the White Rose Maths Schemes of learning to support planning. Each half term children will be learn about 2 or 3 topics in mathematics. Within these topics children are given opportunities to make connections between different mathematical facts, procedures, and concepts to create a rich network. Statistics and elements of measure are often taught through Science and the Creative Theme.

We aim to enable our children to develop conceptual understanding, recall of number facts and patterns and apply their knowledge rapidly and accurately. Quick retrieval of number facts is vital for success in mathematics. It is likely that children who have problems retrieving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts, including number bonds and multiples, will have difficulty understanding and using mathematical concepts they encounter later on in their lessons. We ensure that children are given ample opportunities to develop fluent recall of number facts by providing daily practise outside the maths lesson.

Our expectation is that the majority of children will move through the topics at broadly the same pace. However, decisions about when to progress will always be based on the security of children's understanding and their readiness to progress to the next stage. Children who grasp concepts rapidly will be challenged through being offered rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content.

Science

At Whinmoor St Paul's we use the Collins Connect – Snap Science scheme of work.

We have worked with Deborah Roberts, a STEM Science Consultant to develop our knowledge and teaching of Science in school and supported us to incorporate awe and wonder into science lessons. Science is hands on where possible; pupils are given the opportunities to experience science in the real world. Having a nature area on site is an invaluable resource available to all Year groups, ensuring they have a real world setting in which to base their investigations. We follow the requirements of the National Curriculum for science ensuring all pupils develop their scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.



Computing

Our Computing curriculum comprises a number of different strands: Programming, Multimedia, Data Handling, Using Technology in the wider world, E-Safety. Each year group builds on the skills taught during the previous year, to ensure that by Year 6 students are confident using technology, including a range of different programs, apps and websites.

We have a suite of laptops, which we use round school in addition to a computer suite. Each class also has interactive boards, cameras and access to tablets. These resources are used to support our children to learn computing skills and use these skills to access other cross-curricular learning.

We want to develop the skills that will enable our children to safely access the world through technology in the 21st century.



PSHE (Personal, Social Health, Education) and SRE

Our PSHE programme 'You and Me' helps children to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to live confident, healthy, independent lives now and in the future as individuals, parents/carers, workers and members of society.

Planning for PSHE covers the following topics:

- Careers, financial capability and economic well-being
- Physical health and well-being
- Keeping safe and managing risk
- Identity, society and equality
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco education
- Mental health and emotional well-being
- Sex and relationship education
- Bullying of all types and citizenship at a level appropriate to children's age

We keep parents and carers well informed of the approach we take when delivering PSHE. We aim to keep lines of communication open and create a safe environment where questions can be asked, and any further support or information can be received.

History and Geography

We place a strong emphasis on ensuring our History and Geography topics develop the children's awareness of the world they are part of, how they can make a difference and encourage them to consider how they have shaped the world around them. As a result, History and Geography form an important part of our learning. We follow the National curriculum and embrace a broad-spectrum of stimulating topics, aided by several themed days to deepen our understanding. Consequently, our lessons are well planned, highly engaging, encourage an inquisitive approach to learning and challenge all abilities. At the heart of our History and Geography lessons we intertwine other subjects, to ensure a fully-rounded Curriculum is delivered.



Other subjects.

PE: A life-long love of sport and an active lifestyle is what we aspire to achieve. At Whinmoor St Paul's, we believe passionately in a progressive and inclusive P.E education for all children. Our sporting events have been open to all of our children thus developing their hearts and minds through physical activity. Our rich and well-rounded P.E curriculum creates opportunities for all our children to be encouraged and inspired to become young champions.

We inspire our children to engage in team games and competitions against other schools, take part in workshops with Team GB and local athletes which has taken them out of their comfort zones and enabled them to learn new skills and enjoy new challenges. Each year we challenge all of our children to take part in a Dance Festival, again creating cross-curricular opportunities for inclusion, making them feel valued and rewarded in a safe environment.

MFL: Over the course of KS2, we study French at Whinmoor St Paul's using the Jolie Ronde scheme of work. These lessons are supported by theme days which give the opportunity to learn more about the language and the culture of France. We make our lessons interactive, entertaining and enjoyable as we believe this develops a positive attitude to the learning of an additional language. We are ably supported by several children in school speaking French fluently, who support us in this task. In addition, our Y6 children spend an extended time learning about the culture, history and lifestyles of a country of their own choice. This culminates in class presentations and sharing of key facts and language related to their country.

Design Technology: Design and technology is part of every child's immediate experience. It is important that children are not only aware of what design and technology is, but also develop a practical approach to it. At Whinmoor St Paul's we ensure that children develop skills and knowledge of a wide range of materials and equipment through practical activities in a safe and controlled environment.



The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in design and technology lessons. The principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding in design and technology. Teachers ensure that the children apply their knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning and making products and then evaluating them. We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual/group activities. Within lessons, we give children the opportunity both to work on their own and to collaborate with others, listening to other children's ideas and treating these with respect. Children critically evaluate existing products, their own work and that of others. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources, including ICT.

Art: At Whinmoor St Paul's Art makes a major contribution to the emotional and creative development of our children and we believe that it is a vital part of the education of all children. We encourage children to question, reflect and become inspired through studying the works of artists, craft workers and designers from a range of cultures and contexts, time and places. Through their practical experiences with a variety of media, the children will develop their creative and aesthetic skills.



Art is often linked to cross-curricular or topic work. However, teachers also plan specific activities to provide adequate development of the skills, knowledge and understanding associated with the subject. The child's use and understanding of the visual language of art is developed by effective teaching and a considered sequence of experiences. We provide an art curriculum which will enable every child to reach their full potential in learning in art, through investigating and making, through research and the development of skills and through their evaluation of their own art and that produced by others.

Music: The school follows the Charanga Music School programme that encourages a practical, exploratory and child-led learning experience allowing all children to access it at their own level. Every child is encouraged to engage with and develop a love of music. In Foundation Stage the children are encouraged to explore and experiment with making sounds. In Key Stage 1 the children learn to play instruments musically and listen with increasing understanding and concentration. In Key Stage 2 the children develop their confidence and control when playing and performing tuned instruments. The children are exposed to a wide range of genres and ages of music including the music and facts about the great composers, which we share each Friday with our families during collective worship.

Alongside the class based lessons the whole school comes together each week to worship through song, led by the schools Music leader. We are also delighted to run a thriving school choir, enthusiastic recorder club and offer ukulele lessons to classes in Key Stage 2.

Experiences away from school



We are proud to be able to offer residential to all the children in Y4 (Lineham Farm), Y5 (Boggle Hole) and Y6 (PGL). This compliments the experiences that all children experience at Whinmoor St Paul's and helps develop curiosity, independence and life skills. We have links within the community to places of worship including Mosques, Hindu Temples and Synagogues along with trips that inspire and complement our learning.

Hands on learning and trips are key to children and are used to widen the life experiences and knowledge of the world they live in.

Cultural Celebrations, links and Charity work.

As a church school we celebrate the major festivals of the Christian year and our daily acts of worship are supported by local ministers and other church leaders. Year groups put on Christmas performances for parents, we hold a Christingle service and our choir visit local retirement homes.



Our school council help to organise a range of charity events during the year which include national charities such as Children in Need but also local charities with personal links to our community. In addition to this our Year 6 hold an Enterprise Week every summer. During this week the children work in teams to run a mini business. This proceeds are given to the charities chosen by the teams.

We have a link with the Leeds Playhouse where every year group receives workshops with staff from the Playhouse. During the year our children have visited theatre performances and we have hosted professional performances in the school.

Additional details of our curriculum are available in our Long Term Overview documents. If you are interested in learning more, please ask a member of staff.