



St Cecilia's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up.'

Curriculum Policy



KEYS
Academy Trust

Curriculum overview

‘Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up.’

At St Cecilia’s our vision is to be a school community where we celebrate everyone’s gifts, and where everyone has a chance to flourish and grow. Our pupils will leave St Cecilia’s Church of England Primary ready for secondary school with a thirst for seeking knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Our pupils will gain high aspirations and the self confidence that they can lead a meaningful and fulfilling life, contributing positively to the community.

Education at St Cecilia’s Church of England Primary will be built on a firm foundation of Christian values with an expectation of high academic standards and pastoral care for all. The right foundations will mean unlocking future potential and enabling all in our school community to flourish. We want to give all our pupils ‘a good foundation for the future’. In partnership with parents, it is our ambition that all children will be independent, resilient and have a strong sense of moral responsibility.

At St Cecilia’s, the Creative Arts play a pivotal role in our curriculum offer. We see Creative Arts as a way for children to express themselves and discover more about who they are and their potential and capabilities. Engaging with the arts also helps students develop empathic intelligence, which enhances their emotional engagement, commitment and persistence (OECD)

Curriculum Intent

At St Cecilia’s our curriculum aims:



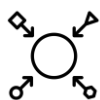
To **Inspire** children so that they are independent, confident, resilient and curious individuals who welcome challenge and new experiences. Children have high aspirations of themselves and strive to do their best.



To **Impart knowledge** on the children so that they have the knowledge, behaviours and skills to face future challenges with confidence. The children use what has been learnt and make strong connections to support future learning.



To **Develop Communication** so that children have a strong command of language and a rich vocabulary base. The children can communicate to a range of audiences confidently and actively listen to the ideas and views of others.



To **Be Inclusive** so that all children have equal opportunities to flourish academically and socially. Valuing everyone’s gifts – individuality, seeing everyone as an individual and finding ways to meet the needs of all learners.



To **Promote Citizenship and Spirituality** so that children are content with their beliefs, values and morals informing their perspective on life. This means our children are caring and respect the feelings and values of others, celebrating diversity and building each other up. Children enjoy finding out about themselves, reflecting on their experiences, and the world around them which builds self-esteem so that they can contribute positively to the community in which they live.

Curriculum Implementation

Teaching and Learning Principles

To realise these aims we have core principles, based on extensive research, that drive curriculum design, teaching and learning in our school.

To inspire:

- We strive to place learning in to real life contexts with appropriate audiences
- We place enquiry at the heart of each lesson
- We give opportunities to problem solve
- We give opportunities to be creative
- We aim high and value excellence
- We teach through engaging themes which relate to the interests of the children
- We celebrate the success of each other and praise effort and perseverance
- We use quality equipment and resources
- We organise quality trips
- We utilise drama and the arts as an engagement vehicle

To Impart knowledge:

- We ensure that our curriculum places rich subject-specific knowledge at the heart of all learning.
- We organise learning so that it is progressive and coherent so that explicit links can be made. We see each subject curriculum as a 7-year narrative where ideas that are taught are linked to previous knowledge and understanding
- We guide children through an instructional framework and model expectations clearly
- We use knowledge organisers to support learning
- We use high quality feedback to children through a collaborative dialogue
- We ask questions to deeper understanding
- Objectives are clearly defined
- We ensure teachers have strong subject knowledge
- We plan for misconceptions and ensure they are addressed in a timely manner
- We revisit key concepts regularly to ensure they enter the long-term memory.
- Each lesson begins with a prior learning retrieval activity such as a quiz.

To develop communication:

- We place a high value on oracy and language development
- We ensure every classroom is a language rich environment
- We plan in opportunities for children to talk and listen to each other's views and ideas
- We teach children how to be good listeners
- Adults model good language and promote the use of higher-level vocabulary
- ORACY programme and sentence stems (Voice 21)
- We have a 'no hands up' policy so all children must engage with questions. Children have opportunities to discuss answers before answering focusing on the quality of responses.

To be Inclusive:

- We have clear routines and expectations of learning behaviours
- We model and scaffold learning so that it is accessible to all
- We ensure learning is broken down in to small steps.
- We ensure we are aware of the specific needs of every child in the classroom
- We make sure key information and timetables are clearly displayed

- We use pre-assessment techniques to inform teaching
- We are flexible in how we let children show what they have learnt
- We celebrate success and progress for all children

To Promote Citizenship and Spirituality:

- We encourage children to take responsibilities for their actions and for looking after the wider school environment and community
- We teach children about the democratic process and encourage children to take part in the decision-making processes in the school
- We use Collective Worship time to reflect on the world around us, explore diversity and explore moral and spiritual issues
- We ensure that the children receive a PSHE and RE programme which explores different religions and cultures
- We provide opportunities for the children to develop an understanding of protective characteristics
- We encourage children to contribute their thoughts and ideas to whole class discussions
- We teach children how to manage their feelings
- We teach children to reconcile tensions and dilemmas
- We teach children and encourage them to lead active, healthy lifestyles
- We provide opportunities for children to present their work and their achievements to wider audiences
- We provide opportunities to meet and talk to people who positively contribute to society e.g PCSOs
- We provide opportunities to meet and talk to people from different religious backgrounds
- We teach children about, and encourage, the development of positive relationships with people within school and in the wider community

St Cecilia's Christian Values



Through our curriculum we aim to develop our school values.

Gratitude

- Being thankful for opportunities to learn in different ways
- Teachers model gratitude throughout the day – thanking children for contributing positively to the class and the school as a whole

Kindness

- Showing support for others when they are challenged
- Show kindness to yourself when you have made a mistake
- Sharing ideas and resources with others
- Showing empathy for others in the classroom

Forgiveness

- Understanding that sometimes people make mistakes and that this is how we learn
- Knowing that by forgiving people can move past a situation

Truthfulness

- Being honest with yourself when needing help and support
- Being honest when something has gone wrong even if it is hard
- Taking responsibility for own actions, efforts and work quality

Perseverance

- Completing a difficult task
- Being determined not to give up even when things are hard
- Seeing mistakes as a positive learning experience
- Using self-help before asking a teacher
- Bouncing back when facing a problem or difficulty
- Responding to challenge with a positive attitude

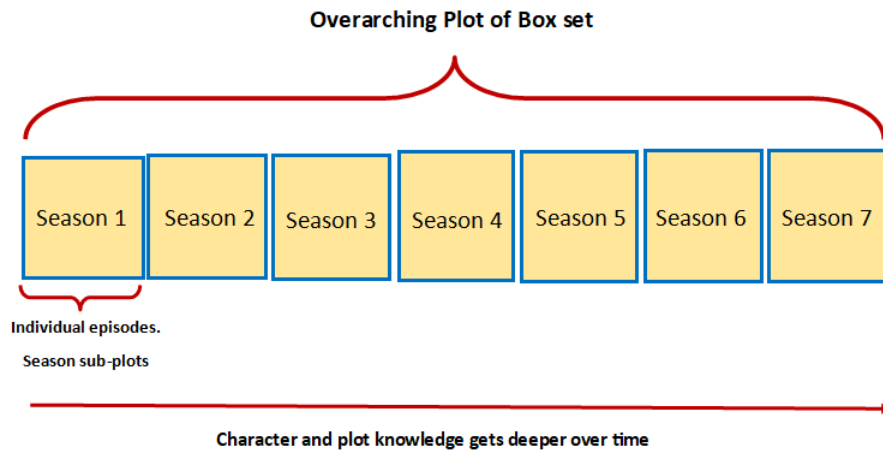
Wisdom

- Finding/ identifying links between their learning / sequences of learning
- Looking up words in a dictionary for spellings
- Asking different kinds of questions to further knowledge and understanding
- Articulate own ideas with evidence and justify point of view
- Thinking critically about other people's views
- Using their own initiative by moving onto challenge
- Trying different strategies when things go wrong or not to plan
- Being positive and finding solutions to problems
- Making wise choices in their own learning, relating to levels of challenge and opportunities beyond the classroom

Curriculum Organisation

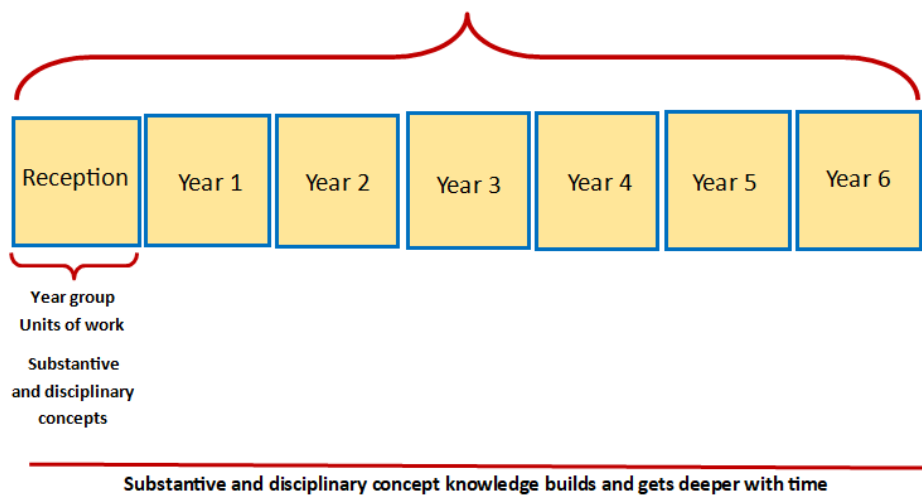
St Cecilia's Box Set Curriculum model.

We think about our curriculum as being a television box set. In a box set, we develop greater understanding about themes, plots lines and characters as we progress through episodes and seasons. At the end of each season there is an end point but there are also things that will link to the next season until the grand finale at the end. This is similar to how we view our curriculum design.



- 1) The Box Set name is the subject being taught.
- 2) Each lesson is an episode where we learn something new, with our knowledge getting deeper as each episode passes by until the end of the season. This is the same with our lessons where we build our knowledge of concepts (Substantive and Disciplinary) each lesson.
- 3) The seasons refer to units of work within a year group. There is a finale at the end but this still links to the next season.
- 4) For us the box set starts in year R and finishes at the end of year 6.

Whole school subject curriculum—Subject Intent



Substantive knowledge – Factual knowledge that children know and can recall

Disciplinary knowledge – This is the way in which children find out this information e.g analysing artefacts in history.

At St Cecilia's we follow the National Curriculum and therefore teach all the subjects within this including:

- **Core subjects:** Mathematics, English (Reading and Writing) and Science
- **Foundation Subjects:** History, Geography, Physical Education, Music, Religious Education, Art, Design and Technology, Computing, French, PSHE

We have carefully mapped out all national curriculum content across the year groups to ensure coverage and ensured that the content taught is unique to our school.

Within each subject area, we have also drawn out the key substantive and disciplinary knowledge that we want our children to learn and remember. These knowledge strands are built on and revisited often. As a result, we have a clear, progressive narrative through the school for each subject.

To aid the teaching and learning in the school, we subscribe to a number of different schemes of learning and resource websites. Where schemes of work are used we have ensured that they are of high quality and they meet the aims of our curriculum and the needs of our children.

We see each subject as a discipline in its own right and therefore the way that it is taught can vary from the others. Our philosophy on teaching each subject is based on evidence and research. A more detailed explanation of how each subject is taught can be found in the 'How we teach.....' subject document.

EYFS

At St Cecilia's we follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and the standards outlined within it. A detailed description of the EYFS curriculum can be found by following this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf

To support our teaching and assessment in EYFS we also utilise the non-statutory guidance document called: Development Matters. A link to this document is below

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007446/6.7534_DfE_Development_Matters_Report_and_illustrations_web_2_.pdf

The children's learning in EYFS is always based around a chosen theme. These themes can change weekly or fortnightly, depending on the interests of the children. The themes chosen for the class are based on the interests of the children e.g. Castles and Dragons, Dinosaurs, Space.

We utilise the learning spaces in EYFS to its maximum having clear dedicated learning areas around the class and the outdoor areas. These learning spaces allow the children to engage in a range of different activities and are set up to reinforce and develop different skills linked to the Early Learning Goals.

There are two learning types in EYFS:

- 1) **Adult led learning** – this is learning where an adult teaches a session and the children complete set tasks. This can be 1:1, small group or whole class.
- 2) **Explore time** – This is when learning is led by the children, following their interests. Adults then facilitate learning through conversation and questioning. Adults can suggest further tasks to extend the learning.

During the last half term in the Summer, the children participate in more formal lessons in preparation for KS1.

KS1 and KS2

Year 1 – During the first half term, the children continue to work in a similar way to that in reception so that they have a smooth and comfortable transition to the expectations of KS1.

We split our academic year in to 6 half-termly themes. Where ever possible, to create stronger links in the minds of the children, subjects will be linked together by the half termly theme. Subjects that do not sit within the theme and create meaningful links, will be taught discretely.

We do not cover every subject every half term but we ensure equal coverage of subjects throughout the academic year providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

Enhanced Curriculum

A St Cecilia's we value the importance of experiences and opportunities offered to our children so that children can live life at the school to its fullness. We have therefore created our 'St Cecilia's' experience list. Below is list of experiences that the children will have the opportunities to do during their journey through St Cecilia's.

Perform in a school production	Go to the theatre	Raise money for charity	Visit a museum
Learn a musical instrument	Watch a pantomime	Learn first aid skills	Visit a working farm
Attend a residential trip	Play a new sport	Safe cycling	Lead an activity for other children
Work with a professional author	Perform in a concert/orchestra	Hold a classroom election	Represent the school in a competition
Work with a professional artist	Grow and eat their own produce	Try new foods	Financial literacy day

Measuring the impact

Our curriculum has an ambition for high achievement for all pupils irrespective of background or starting point. To measure the impact of our curriculum we assess against our curriculum aims.

Assessment

At the end of the unit of work, an end of unit task is completed which allows the children to use the knowledge gained. This task is used to assess the children against the year group milestones and to assess the recall of key factual knowledge.

Evaluating the curriculum offer

When evaluating our curriculum, we ask ourselves these questions which are derived from our curriculum aims:

Inspire

- To what extent do our children show independence, resilience and high aspirations?
- To what extent does our curriculum provide new experiences and challenges?

Impart Knowledge

- To what extent do children retain the knowledge learnt?
- To what extent does the curriculum build over time?
- To what extent do children make progress against milestones over time?

Develop communication

- To what extent does our curriculum provide a rich language environment?
- To what extent does the curriculum provide opportunities to work collaboratively?
- To what extent does the curriculum support children with oracy skills?

Inclusivity

- How well is learning broken down and scaffolded?
- How well is assessment used to inform planning?
- To what extent does the curriculum meet the needs of all learners including SEND/ EAL etc?

Citizenship and Spirituality

- To what extent does the curriculum allow children to take responsibility for their learning?
- To what extent does our curriculum allow for diversity?
- To what extent does the curriculum offer opportunities to present work in creative ways?
- To what extent does offer opportunities to utilise the skills of the wider community?