



Our Lady's R.C. Primary School Curriculum Pledge



Mission Statement

'Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus'

Our Core Values

During a series of Summer 2020 workshops and meetings, we revisited both our Mission Statement and Core Values.

During this time, we listened to feedback from parents, and the views expressed by the children during these sessions to ensure that they reflected the context of Our Lady's.

The Core Values that provide the foundation for that Mission are:

Faithful Positive Safe
Nurturing Forgiving Fair
Respectful Honest

Nurture

The School's six nurturing principles sum up our practice and theory. They underpin the context, organisation and curriculum.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. the importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language as a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives



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Every year in our school we will:

- Celebrate Mass and Class Assemblies each term
- Visit & explore our Parish Church of Our Lady's
- Visit and support residents at Holy Dene and Carrington Court Residential Homes
- Hold an afternoon Easter Tea for our Residents
- Experience curriculum enrichment opportunities from Public Speaking competitions with The Rotary Club to Collaborative Curriculum Challenge mornings with a range of schools
- Conduct litter picking and Eco activities
- Take part in our annual 'Love Your Community Day'
- Visit Aspull Library
- Get fit with Latics
- Support various charities including: CAFOD, Caritas -formerly St Joseph's Penny), Cornerstone, Wigan Hospice etc.
- Provide a variety of extra-curricular clubs
- Meet our local councillor
- Experience different cultures and festivals
- Work with an author and artist in residence
- Hold a Fairtrade shop for the school
- Experience a range of sporting activities and compete in dance festivals and swimming galas
- Play a musical instrument
- Listen to live music
- Take part in meditation in our school
- Become members and visit the local library



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Our Lady's children will experience the following in each year group:

EYFS

In Reception, we explore a range of different topics which allow children to encounter a range of different experiences. One of these topics is minibeasts, where children are given opportunities to create bug houses in teams in our outdoor area. They will also enjoy exploring our tree trail with a checklist to see which bugs are hiding in there! We will have visitors in school who will bring in exciting minibeasts for the children to see in real life. The children always enjoy observing what happens when we have cocoons delivered to school and being a part of releasing the butterfly.

At Christmas, EYFS children have the chance to have starring roles within our KS1 nativity. Each child will have an acting part in the performance and parents/carers will be invited to the final production.

In addition, during our Spring topic, children have opportunities to look after their own plants and watch them grow. They also experience baby chick eggs coming into our KS1 area and watching them hatch and even get a chance to hold them!

Through our other topics, EYFS children will take part in other amazing activities such as: a bear hunt, welly throwing, making a mud pie and blowing down the houses of the three pigs.

Finally, in the Summer term, children get to experience an exciting trip. In the past, this has been to the Blue Planet Aquarium, Blackpool Zoo and even the beach!

Year 1

During Year 1 children are encouraged to continue to be independent problem solvers and learners. Within provision, children are applying their newly found skills whilst self-determining the direction of their learning. The Topic of Blackpool and Holidays in the Past allow children to use all of their senses on their trip to the beach. The focus of this is not just their geographical skills but children are able to become immersed in seaside life. Whilst at the beach, children are able to build



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a sandcastle, fly a kite, bury each other in the sand, study pebbles and shells as well as watch the tide come in and out.

1920s topic allows children to compare their life to lives in the past. Children have opportunities to play with toys from the past, take part in a 1920s school day as well as interview local historians to gain more knowledge about life in the past. Children share their newly found knowledge through song and dance to pupils, parents and members of the local community.

Children also have opportunities to explore their local area through a trip on the bus to Wigan bus station. During this trip there is a local historian on hand to answer questions about any landmarks they notice and want further knowledge on. As well as this, children are able to go shopping at the local shops in Aspull for specific recipes to make back in school.

All children plant seeds and bulbs in Year 1. To coincide with this, the children visit a garden centre to gain understanding of how plants are cared for on a larger scale. This learning is then transferred into continuous provision back in school

Year 2

Within Year 2, our humanities topics allow the children to gain an insight of events in history and investigate the influence of heroes from the past. We particularly focus on Florence Nightingale and her work during the Crimean war. This allows the children to study the influence Nightingale's work has had on the current health care system. Another exciting topic we study is 'The Great Fire of London'. This allows the children to investigate how different London was in 1666, from studying the buildings to the modes of transport. These topics are celebrated by a visit to the local community Fire and Ambulance station. This allows the children to be interactive with modern day emergency vehicles, equipment and provides the chance to ask questions to professional emergency service crews.

In addition, our Religious Education curriculum provides the children with lots of opportunities to interact with the local community. Within our topic of 'Books' the children visit the local library, this is a great opportunity for the children to ask questions, share their favourite stories and engage with the volunteers. During our



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topic of 'Signs and Symbols' we visit our local parish to see Father Kevin perform a baptism service on one of our school dolls. This allows us to see first-hand how signs and symbols are used during services.

Throughout our Spring term, children learn all about animals. During this topic, we incubate hen's eggs and hatch our very own chicks just in time for Easter. The children also walk to the local nature reserve to see what animals they can spot and also investigate what lives in a pond through taking part in pond dipping. This allows the children to experience a hands on, outdoor learning experience.

Finally, the children have the opportunity to learn about comparing the human and physical geography of Wigan and London with that of a non-European country and contrasting geographical area; Moshi in Tanzania. The children hear first-hand the experiences that Mr Livesey, one of our Governors, had during his trip there. Within this topic, there are many exciting opportunities for the children to engage with the children at Archangles School in Tanzania as we continue to establish our global schools link.

Year 3

Within Year 3, our humanities topic provides the opportunity for children to become archaeologists and investigate an exciting period of history 'Ancient Egypt'. This involves a visit to a museum to engage with interactive activities and informative workshops where children can touch real artefacts from the past. Having experienced how a museum works, children showcase learning in their own museum for others in school.

In addition, children experience participating in a live performance. In the past, this has been with thanks to the 'Let's Sing' project and the 'WigLe' dance festival, both held at Robin Park arena, alongside other primary schools from the borough. Parents are invited to watch after various weeks of rehearsals.

From the Spring term, through to Summer, the entire Year 3 class attend swimming lessons at Wigan Life Centre. For some children, this is a continuation of lessons already taken outside of school, for others this is a completely new activity. After Christmas, preparations begin in Year 3 for those children who wish to complete their Sacramental Programme. This is based at Our Lady's parish and completed with Father Kevin and catechists. Children celebrate completion with their First Holy Communion in Summer.



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Finally, during the Summer term, Year 3 participate in an active school trip alongside Year 2 to aid transition for the younger children in to KS2. This has ranged from trips to the circus to active sessions at Ninja Warrior.

Year 4

In Year 4, we immerse our children into the world through food. As the world evolves, so do cultures and their foods. Learning about a country through its food is as vital to understanding and coming to know about its culture as the act of traveling itself. It is also a way to see how food is a language that unites us all together.

We gain experiences of the many different aspects of The Arts to develop our known and yet to be explored talents. We discover different literature, videography, artistic viewpoints and performances to name a few whilst gaining our prestigious Arts Award and being visited by our author in residence.

We practise Mindfulness as a way to develop the whole brain and help the children to understand their emotions and feelings helping them notice different positives, and develop to a sense of appreciation, gratitude and contentment. This is done through yoga and meditation.

With the involvement of our local innovation and technology centre, the children are encouraged to enhance their innovation and creative mind by using technology to create their own 3D animations.

To bring their History topic of the Romans alive, we visit the Roman settlement of Ribchester and explore Roman ruins and artefacts at their Roman museum.

When the warmer weather arrives, we use our surroundings to their advantage and take a trip up to the historic Haigh Hall Country House and Woodland Park. We get our hands and knees dirty as we travel along its nature trails and complete our field work observations.

To further the children's design and technology knowledge and skills, year 4 sculpt dragon eyes and roman coins from clay, research design and create light up Christmas decorations and explore their sewing abilities when producing replicas of Anglo Saxon money carriers.

Year 5

Within Year 5, our Local History Topic provides an exciting opportunity to enrich pupil learning beyond the school gates as we conduct river studies, go bird watching and create our own wild art.



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Throughout the entire academic year, Wigan Council also enables the children to broaden their musical repertoire by learning a brass instrument every Wednesday afternoon free of charge.

Drawing upon the amazing work of Wigan Athletic, we cement our love for books by participating in a ten week *Latics Literacy* course which combines important reading skills with PE activities in a fun filled two-hour session.

In order to promote vital STEM subjects and develop engineering habits of mind, the children participate in Greater Manchester's annual Engineering Challenge during which they work on a whole class, cross-curricular project before presenting their work at the University.

To bring space alive, the children are visited by an astronaut during the Autumn Term and spend the day building rockets, exploring the galaxy and even drive a moon rover across a lunar landscape.

Finally, during the Summer months, we make the most of the weather by using our outdoor classroom, adventuring on the tree trail and cement our teamwork skills with a trip to Crocky Trail.

Year 6

As children come to their final year of Primary School, they are given a range of opportunities to show the learning they have developed throughout their journey, not only within the classroom, but through extra-curricular activities. Children have the chance of public speaking in the Junior Speaks competition. They are able to write, edit and deliver a speech on a topical subject of their choice. We gain experiences of the great outdoors when we visit the Lake District, working on key skills such as: being a good leader, working within a team and independence as well as learning to paddle a kayak, ghyll scramble and orienteer just to name a few.

In Autumn term, Year 6 become geographers looking at the Earth we live on and developing an understanding of climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle. Our learning journey then takes us to look at and makes us aware of current global geographical issues identifying others viewpoints as well as our own.

We delve back in time during Spring Term and visit the Victorians and Flanders Fields which enables the children to recognise and describe differences and similarities/changes and continuity between different periods of history. We enhance these topics with themed days and trips to museums and art galleries where we can step back in time and try to experience what it was like first-hand.



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Finally, during the Summer term, Year 6, begin to develop their knowledge of the Mayans. The children's design and technology knowledge and skills are given the chance to grow and evolve by being able to plan, make and evaluate Mayan artefacts. Alongside this, Year 6 take part in Crucial Crew where they work alongside the Police and Fire Department so awareness of safety issues are raised. We give children the opportunity to learn to ride a bike and work on their road safety skills through Bikeability.

Year 6 also take part in Aspirations Day where they spend the day learning about future careers. We want our children moving into secondary education knowing that being in school, working hard and having something to aim towards will help them in their future.



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