



## OUR LADY'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Curriculum Development: Intent, Implementation and Impact



*Learning and Loving  
Together; We Grow with  
Jesus*



# Curriculum Overview

## Our Core Values

During Summer 2020 workshops, we revisited both our Mission Statement and Core Values. This involved everyone in discussion, reflection and prayer about the values, Mission and Aims of our Catholic school. There was a calling to all to re-commit to our purpose and to work together to understand our roles and responsibilities as part of Our Lady's

During the workshops, the feedback from parents, and the views expressed by the children during sessions played a prominent role in the decisions we made.

Our Mission Statement is:

**"Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus"**

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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## Curriculum Intent at Our Lady's R.C. Primary School



At Our Lady's R.C. Primary School, we strive to ensure that all pupils have access to a rich and balanced curriculum which is relevant to 21st century life and which encourages children to become lifelong learners. Enriching the curriculum with first hand experiences, pertinent educational visits and expert visitors further brings learning to life for children at Our Lady's.

Since 2014 at Our Lady's, we have constantly been refining and developing our school curriculum so that it meets the needs of our

learners and adequately prepares them for their future lives. When designing our curriculum, we spent a considerable amount of time reflecting on our ethos and values to ensure that our curriculum reflected these elements. We considered the needs of our community and combined this with extensive research. We worked with staff, governors, parents and pupils to encapsulate our core values: Faithful, Positive, Nurturing, Forgiving, Respectful, Honest Fair and Safe.

At all times, we strive to ensure that there is excellence, rigour and challenge in all areas of our curriculum. We know that our SAT's results reflect the resilience, hard work and progress made by our pupils. Although, our ambitions for our children go far beyond academic results.

We feel it is vitally important that these core values are at the heart of everything we do at Our Lady's. Our values are traditional, but our approach is innovative and we use technology such as iPads, interactive web based learning platforms which children can access in school and at home, game constructing software and interactive eBooks. Additionally, we have links with our feeder secondary school, St Joseph's R.C High School, who provide Design & Technology and Science workshops in real laboratories. Then, there are various curriculum opportunities in Wigan, such as the Galleries Arts exhibitions and Wigan Schools' Orchestra at Robin Park which offer further enrichment.



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Additionally, our FOOLs (Friends of Our Lady's) have allocated funds for "aspirational" educational experiences so that the cost of coach travel is not a barrier to visiting a range of cultural experiences further afield; such as Salford's Museum and Art Gallery and Ribchester's Roman Museum.

We wanted pupils to understand that support for themselves and for each other are the key to success; that we are a team and therefore look after each other - whether that be within our school community or in a much wider context as a global citizen. Having a positive attitude to learning is very important to us at Our Lady's. Through teaching the children about resilience, academic success and embracing challenge we hope to promote excellent behaviour for learning. And, finally respect, where our restorative culture ensures that all members of our school community take responsibility for their actions and understand that actions have consequences.

Our school curriculum should serve to develop the whole child and fulfil our school Mission Statement 'Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus'. We pride ourselves in the quality, breadth, relevance and abundant opportunities that our curriculum offers our children in school.

At Our Lady's, we work hard to create an environment in which every child feels safe, happy and valued. Our talented and experienced teachers provide stimulating learning experiences that are fun and engaging. These include special theme weeks and sessions, such as 'Love Your Community Day, Super Learning days /Weeks, Collaborative Curriculum Enrichment, World Book Events, Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning, Maths and Science Challenge Days, as well as visits from external providers such as theatre companies, science professionals, authors, artists and many more who are able to add another dimension to our teachers' classroom practice. We offer enrichment challenge mornings for other schools and have formed strong links with our cluster to access a programme for our gifted and able. These sessions include: spelling, science, maths and history from which our children gain confidence and raised aspirations.



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## Our Lady's Curriculum Aims

After consulting with our children, parents and working closely with governors and staff, we created the following 7 core aims for our curriculum which we continually strive to meet.

1. To ensure that our children receive the very best education that we can provide by equipping all children with the necessary skills in reading, writing and mathematics to succeed.
2. Give our children opportunities to become resilient, hardworking and confident learners who develop the executive, independent skills necessary for learning and life in today's diverse society.
3. Ensure that our learning experiences stimulate, inspire and motivate children.
4. Following the work of great artists, craft makers and designers, pupils at Our Lady's enjoy a first-rate practical curriculum. A curriculum where they use creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts.
5. To enable our children to develop their understanding of Gospel values alongside their own personal moral values, have a greater understanding of race, religion and ways of life so that they may contribute positively in society.
6. Strive to foster our children's appreciation, knowledge and skills across all curriculum areas. To inspire and nurture an appreciation of all forms of art so that we open the door to the world of possibilities that they offer.
7. To promote a healthy lifestyle, encouraging active participation in physical and mental activities and nurturing their God given talents so our children are healthy in body and in mind.



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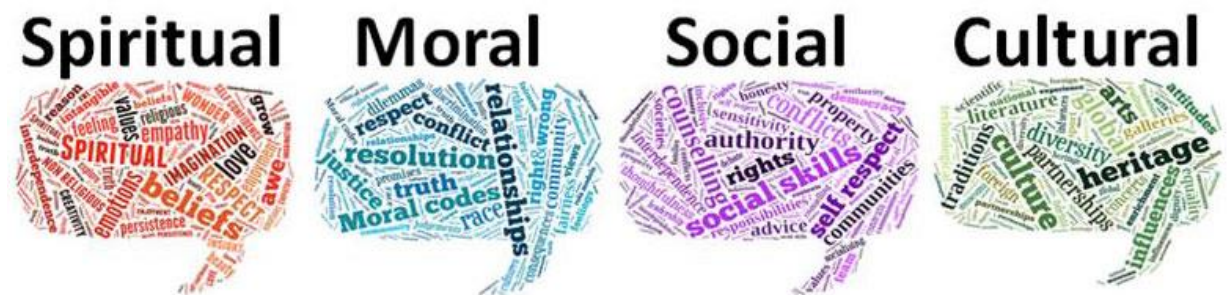


## The Implementation of our Curriculum?

Our Curriculum is implemented with our Curriculum Intent at the heart of all we do at Our Lady's.

Curriculum maps are produced for each year group, ensuring clarity of coverage with a strong emphasis on progression of knowledge, vocabulary and skills. Carefully selected enrichment opportunities are key to providing all pupils rich experiences to enhance their learning. We work hard to develop a deep understanding of the Gospel and fundamental British values, which are underpinned by our spiritual, moral social and cultural teaching. This content is then explored through various aspects of our curriculum and assembly themes.

### *SMSC in the Curriculum*



SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, which encompasses personal development across the curriculum. SMSC requires schools to think about the kind of people we aspire to be, the kind of world we aspire to create, and the kind of education we aspire to provide. SMSC underpins our curriculum intent to develop well-rounded young people who are ready to positively contribute to society following their time at Our Lady's.

The Fundamental British Values that are developed within the curriculum are founded on the Gospel Values of our Catholic school. We teach the importance of British Values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching. At Our Lady's, we



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provide an education that focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life.

Our curriculum design is based on evidence from principles of learning, on-going assessment and organisation and cognitive research. (EEF research, Cognitive Science, Psychological Science)

**These main principles underpin this:**

- Start from a learner's existing understanding.
- Involve the learner actively in the learning process.
- Develop the learner's overview, i.e. metacognition - this requires that students have a view of purpose, have an understanding of the criteria of quality of achievement, and self-assess. (EEF Metacognition and Self-regulation of learning).
- Emphasis the social aspects of learning (i.e. learning through discussion) as these make a unique contribution to learning. (EEF research Collaborative Learning).
- Curriculum organisation and timetabling enable learners' opportunities for constant recapping of knowledge and skills with well-spaced reviews. (interleaving and addressing the forgetting curve)



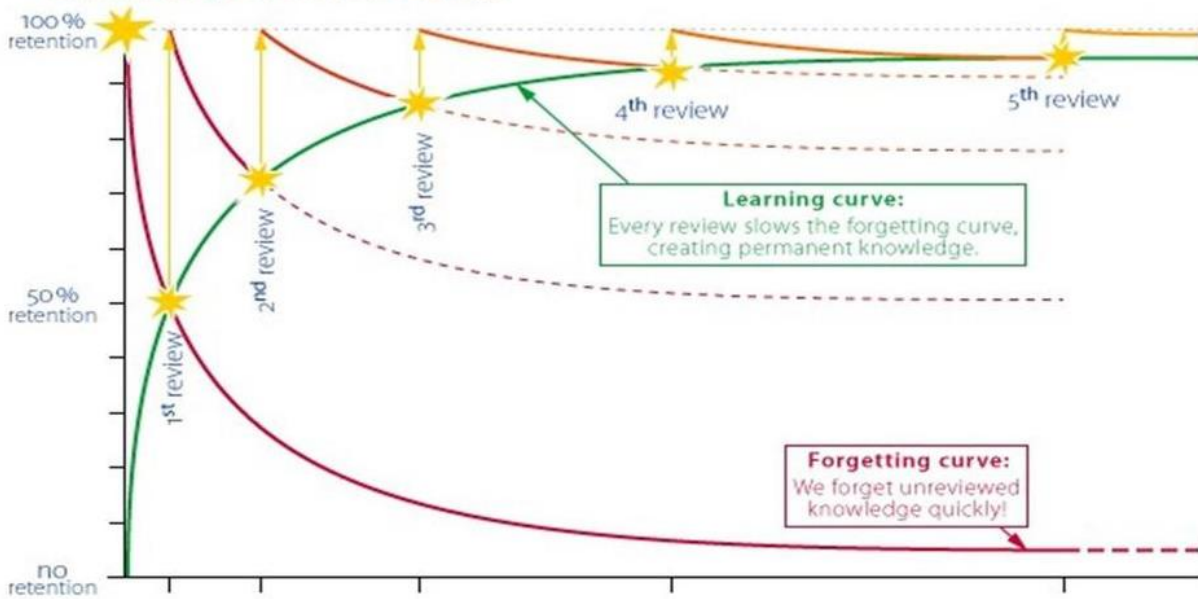
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# Why spaced review works

www.LearnThat.org, a LearnThat Foundation project



We deliver a coherently planned curriculum with a progressive development and understanding of key knowledge, vocabulary, skills and concepts, which will be re-visited regularly. Some of our content is subject specific whilst other content is combined in a cross-curricular approach enabling us to put knowledge into context. The use of Knowledge Organisers provide transparency within the curriculum - an overview of pre-teach content and also a means of tracking knowledge, vocabulary skills and understanding of concepts which are regularly re-visited in the form of a variety of retrieval exercises. This regular revisiting enables knowledge to be committed to long-term memory.

Year group content is carefully tracked by Subject Leaders, to ensure topic content is not repeated, the progression of key knowledge, vocabulary and skills is still maintained and also that content is differentiated for different age groups when necessary.



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## The Impact of our Curriculum?

### Progress and Achievement at Our Lady's

At Our Lady's, our definition of progress is; the widening and deepening of essential knowledge, skills, understanding and learning behaviours. We designed, organised and planned our curriculum to ensure that children are not merely covering content, but achieving a depth to their learning which enables them to use their skills and understanding in all areas of the curriculum. Our careful curriculum design and planning means that we build in many opportunities for repetition and practise for essential skills, knowledge and understanding in every subject. This ensures that children can revisit previous learning, which allows them to gradually develop a deeper understanding of the skills and processes within subjects, at their own pace and in the best possible way for each individual child.

In terms of Maths and English, the impact of our curriculum on outcomes is proving to be very positive with sustained and rapid progress being made. As a former Maths Hub Lead school, we continue to support a range of schools with their Mastery Maths development. One of our former Maths Hub schools recently had an Ofsted inspection where Maths was highlighted as demonstrating outstanding practice. Our continued curriculum development, will also be reflected in the end of year outcomes for 2022. Outcomes for pupils in Early Years and the proportion of those achieving a Good Level of Development remains consistently above National and that of the Local Authority. This is also reflected in KS1 where we are confident that our pupils in Year 2 will continue to demonstrate outcomes in reading, writing and maths which are above National and that of the Local Authority.

As a result of our curriculum development, Our Lady's Primary School is now a founding member of the Wigan Local Cultural Education Partnership. During academic year 2019/20, our Artspeak project, supported by the Community Investment Fund, created opportunities for children and staff to engage with a range of artists and the wider community, make their own artwork and see their achievement celebrated in an exhibition. Those children that took part achieved the Discover Arts Award and culture and creativity are now embedded across the curriculum. Our Lady's Primary School have made a commitment to continue developing opportunities through art, culture and creativity so that their children may develop fully, express themselves and be more deeply engaged with learning.



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## Impact Opportunities

Some of the many ways that we assess the impact of our curriculum include:

- Knowledge Organiser assessment tasks
- In school attainment tracking of both core and foundation subjects(see below)
- Attendance data
- Behaviour Logs
- Engagement in enrichment activities
- Pupil voice - questionnaires, pupil book reviews
- Subject Leader monitoring - Lesson visits, scrutiny of books, assessment, pupil interviews and questionnaires
- Governor monitoring

To develop our History and Geography curriculum we worked collaboratively with the PTI (Prince's Trust Institute), which enabled subject leaders and specialists across Salford Diocese to ensure a rich subject. Our progression of knowledge, vocabulary and skills within these subjects are rigorous and have lead to improved outcomes for all pupils. The school is also embarking on its Geography Mark journey, which will provide us with a further framework to benchmark the subject

The same work approach will the PTI will be undertaken for Design and Technology during academic year 2021/22.Currently paused due to Covid, but due to start in Spring 2.

## Evaluating our Curriculum

We pride ourselves in constantly improving our school and value feedback from all of community. We give our parents and governors many opportunities to share and celebrate the outcomes of our curriculum. All year groups regularly invite parents to termly celebrations of their work, such as: assemblies, curriculum museums and workshops (virtual or face to face), where they showcase their learning. Fortnightly Headteacher newsletters, subject specific letters/newsletters and website pages also inform parents of their child's curriculum journey.



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## Who leads each area of the Curriculum?

Subject Area	Teacher Responsible
Curriculum	Mr C Horridge, Mrs B Parkinson & Miss E Wright
Assessment	Mr C Horridge & Mrs C Teahan
Pupil Premium	Mr C Horridge & Mrs C Teahan
English & Phonics	Miss G Cunningham
Maths	Mrs B Parkinson
SEND	Mrs C Teahan
Science	Miss K Postlethwaite & Mrs C Teahan
Computing	Miss G Cunningham/Miss J Wallace
History	Mr C Horridge
Geography	Miss H Millington
French	Mr C Horridge & Mrs A Whitton
Music	Mrs B Parkinson
PSHE	Miss E Wright/Miss H Millington
PE	Miss K Postlethwaite
Art	Miss J Wallace
D&T	Miss C Teahan
RE	Miss E Wright/Miss H Millington
School Council	Mrs B Parkinson
Sports Council	Miss K Postlethwaite, Mr C Horridge & Mr T McLoughlin
Gift & Caritas Team	Miss E Wright/Miss H Millington
Science Ambassadors	Miss K Postlethwaite
Music Ambassadors	Mrs B Parkinson
ECO	Mrs C Armstrong

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our curriculum, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Horridge, Miss Wright or Mrs Parkinson at school. Similarly, if your question is about your child's curriculum then please contact your child's class teacher.



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