

St Nicholas and St Laurence Primary School Curriculum Design

INTRODUCTION

The Department for Education expects all primary schools to publish the following onto their school website:

- the content of the school's curriculum in each academic year for every subject
- the names of any phonics or reading schemes the school is using in key stage 1
- how parents or other members of the public can find out more about the curriculum the school is following

Teachers in St Nicholas and St Laurence Primary school have designed a curriculum around four pillars that hold a table top laden with an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum. These pillars hold the curriculum in place to ensure that all pupils can learn and enjoy their learning.

1. The first pillar in this table is the '**statutory requirements**' for any school. This pillar includes teaching the National Curriculum, ensuring pupils and families know how to be safe - including work with safer schools and safety online, teaching pupils to make risk assessments and Key Stage 1 and 2 statutory assessments.
2. The second pillar holds the '**pedagogy**'. Pedagogy is the artistry of the teaching and learning in the school. Here in St Nicks we strive to have the very best teaching and learning for the pupils in our care. Quality teaching is our priority. Not only do we expect our class teachers to deliver the very best learning opportunities, we invest in specialist teachers to deliver Music, Drama, Art and Forest Schools on a weekly basis. The rich curriculum in our school means that pupils 'skip' into school, looking forward to a joyful day of learning.
3. The '**context**' of our school holds the third pillar. St Nicks is a Voluntary Controlled, Church of England school. It was judged as having outstanding Christian Distinctiveness in 2015. Our 7Cs are at the heart of our Christian Values and British Values. We expect all pupils and adults to be conscientious, confident, communicative, caring, cooperative, courteous and considerate. The school uses research about the local area to adapt the curriculum to ensure that it can meet the needs of all pupils in our care. For example, we have a Thrive specialist teacher in the school because Weymouth and Portland has the 14th highest divorce rate in Europe.
4. The final pillar of the table holds **standards**. The school has a variety of formative assessments that supports all leaders in knowing how well the pupils are doing throughout their time in St Nicks. For example, we use Accelerated reading, Lexia, Athletics, NFER standardised scores and Comparative Judgement programmes. St Nicks expects pupils to enjoy a 'memorable' curriculum. We set clear vocabulary expectations that support pupils to reinforce their learning. An example of this; in geography the words abundance and scarcity can be reinforced in drama or art.

Once these four pillars are well and truly in place, any school is ready to deliver an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum that holds values, high standards and understands the needs of the pupils it serves.