



Curriculum Offer

2018-19

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At Holy Trinity Academy, we want all learners to leave our care with a well-developed love of learning and a strong moral core of Christian values. Our subject leaders have designed and continue to adapt a bespoke curriculum which celebrates the local identity of the academy and prepares our children for the rigours of life in the twenty-first century.

We are constantly developing innovative ways of giving the pupils opportunities to develop and enhance their key English and Mathematics skills across the curriculum. Many subject areas are taught cross-curricular through topics, but there are times when key subject-specific skills need to be imparted to the children. Staff are eager to create 'touchstone' moments for the children through topic-themed days and weeks, which bring learning alive.

We always look to make the learning as meaningful as possible and related to the real world by giving the pupils hands-on experiences and the chance to meet people and visit new locations to enhance their learning experiences. Learners at Holy Trinity have a developed understanding and empathy with their local, national and global communities.

How is the curriculum organised?

In their first year in school, children will follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Those who have attended a pre-school setting will already have started working towards the 'Early Learning Goals' - this play-based learning continues throughout their first year at Holy Trinity. We aim to develop the children's curiosity and capacity to innovate as independent thinkers and learners, through a balance of teacher-directed and independent learning opportunities.

During their time at Holy Trinity, children are taught in a variety of ways. Some children may work individually or in small groups with extra support, either inside or outside the classroom, to support specific SEND (Special Education Needs & Disabilities) targets.

English

At Holy Trinity, we believe that reading is the foundation stone of the curriculum. We aim to engender a life-long love of reading, whereby children take pleasure in reading and feed their fertile imaginations. Children, who read regularly, with the support of their parents, will develop a bank of stories which will develop their writing. Reading is magical; at Holy Trinity we have developed a library that reinforces our belief in the power of reading. We have a wide range of books, newspapers and magazines in school to help nurture a child's reading at each level of development. At Holy Trinity we use three key book schemes; Nelson PMs, Alphakids/Alphaworld (non-fiction texts) and Kingscourt to give the children a wide range of high quality texts. We are keen for children to take books home to share with their family and we provide a reading record book for parents to note their child's reading progress at home.

Speaking and Listening is also an essential part of the curriculum, and indeed, everyday life. The children are given many opportunities to speak in a variety of situations throughout their school life. We encourage them to speak clearly and in sentences using an increasingly wide vocabulary and help them to focus on the richness of our language. The children are taught to listen respectfully and to value each other's contributions, thereby increasing the confidence of the speaker. All pupils have opportunities to speak, sing and perform to audiences throughout the year in a range of activities in class, in assemblies, in school plays, at Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's Church or at various events both locally and nationally. The academy employs a Speech and Language Therapist to work with children with any difficulties; this has proved incredibly successful in developing the confidence and improving the communication of individual children at the optimum time.

Writing is developed through providing children with imaginative and innovative approaches to learning. The children are taught to write for a reader; capturing the reader's imagination is fundamental to becoming a successful writer. A range of text types are employed to produce a rich tapestry of ways to engage with the writing process. Where possible, children are encouraged to develop their writing in different subject areas.

Mathematics

At Holy Trinity, we aim to foster an enjoyment and enthusiasm for Mathematics while equipping children with the key skills necessary to confidently deal with mathematical problems in everyday life.

All aspects of number work are taught. These include: place value, mental and written calculations, fractions, measurement, geometry and statistics. An emphasis is placed upon the development of children's mental maths skills, with a mental maths warm up activity being a feature of all our lessons. In addition, children have regular access to Sumdog (an online learning tool) both in school and at home.

Children at Holy Trinity are expected to talk about how they got to an answer, rather than believe that finding the correct answer is the ultimate aim.

We follow the National Curriculum 2014, and all children take part in a daily Mathematics lesson where there is a mixture between whole class teaching, small group and individual work. Our aim is to make teaching and learning enjoyable, relevant and practical. Alongside learning and practising key skills, we provide children with the opportunity to apply and show mastery of their skills, wherever possible, to real life problems and investigative tasks, in order to develop decision making, critical thinking and reasoning skills. Mathematical skills are also applied across all curriculum subjects when appropriate.

Religious Education (RE)

The school follows the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus. Holy Trinity uses a mixture of units from 'Understanding Christianity' and 'Discovery RE'. Each unit of learning begins with a Key question for enquiry based around a theme. Teaching and learning activities follow a key pattern of engagement, investigation, evaluation and expression. Children learn about both religion and human experience of religion as well as the ability to learn from religion and apply their learning to their lives

Our children are taught basic Christian beliefs and have an opportunity to study other forms of religions including Judaism, Sikhism and Islam in order to develop respect and understanding of them and the beliefs of their followers. The children learn the nature and responsibilities of religion and appreciate truth, honesty, self-control, helpfulness, friendship, compassion, obedience, forgiveness and cheerfulness. They also learn tolerance, courtesy and respect for all regardless of sex, race or creed.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from attending R.E. in school and we must comply with such a request. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and RE lessons - please contact the Headteacher if you should wish to do so.

Computing

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with mathematics, science, and design and technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems. The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate - able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology - at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

At Holy Trinity Academy, we have a range of IT devices to help support the delivery of computing. These include ipads and laptops. Additional equipment such as data-logging and microscope hardware, programmable robots, digital cameras and control technology (Flow-All, Lego WeDo) also enable the pupils to use computers as a part of their everyday learning and yet another tool for life in the 21st century.

Computing is generally taught through the use of laptops and ipads to develop specific skills. Each class has an interactive whiteboard for whole-class teaching. Ipads can be linked to the interactive board to aid delivery of lessons.

Physical Education (PE)

All children have two PE lessons a week focusing on gym, games, dance, outdoor games or athletics. Children in Year 2 and Key Stage 2 attend swimming lessons at Calne Leisure Centre through the school year for which we ask an additional contribution from parents. This cost also includes lifeguards, qualified swimming instructors and an additional member of staff to supervise the changing rooms.

PE in our school aims to promote personal, social, intellectual and physical skills. Throughout the school it is taught with an emphasis on fun, fitness and the development of a healthy lifestyle. Each pupil has approximately two hours of PE a week, where we provide a breadth and balance of activities. Children have the opportunity to join a wide variety of sports clubs after school and during holidays.

We use the majority of the Sports Premium Funding to employ specialist sports coaching from outside agencies including dance, football, basketball, tennis, hockey, athletics and cricket.

Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)

The PSHE curriculum reflects the values and ethos of Holy Trinity Academy. It has four main components; Developing confidence and responsibility, preparing to play active roles as citizens, developing a healthy, safer lifestyle and developing good relationships and respecting differences between people. These issues are often addressed during 'Circle Time' and through Collective Worship and Value for Life, but may also be reinforced by visiting local community groups or by inviting a member of our local community to come in and talk to us, e.g. local police or fire brigade.

We have a Pastoral Support Manager, who works with children on an individual basis. A tailored approach is designed for each child and an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is deployed as part of this work.

Relationship & Sex Education

Our philosophy is the development of the whole person and specifically to give young persons a wider understanding of themselves, of personal relationships, social responsibilities and to enable them to make effective and responsible choices in matters of personal behaviour.

The aims are:

- To introduce and enhance the personal and social skills needed to make informed decisions;

- To offer the children appropriate, age-related knowledge about their bodies and how they function;
- To help children cope with the emotional and physical challenges of growing up.
- To foster self-esteem and mutual respect;
- To encourage children to appreciate the value of family life and have regard to moral considerations within the family and community.

Sex and Relationships Education in its widest sense may appear many times throughout the school - how the major body organs work, healthy eating, how we grow, young animals, etc.

A specific programme of Sex Education and Relationships lessons dealing with human reproduction occurs in Key Stage 2. Parents of pupils in Key Stage 2 will be consulted each year regarding the video material and will have the opportunity to preview teaching materials.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Sex Education lessons, other than those covering aspects required by the National Curriculum orders in science, and should consult the Headteacher if concerned about this aspect of the curriculum.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Children in Key Stage 2 receive weekly French lessons or lessons that equate to thirty minutes per week.

Science

Our pupils will learn about the four main areas of science: Working scientifically (testing things out and drawing conclusions from our findings), Life processes and living things (including humans, animals, plants and the environment, evolution and inheritance), Materials and their properties, including states of matter, and lastly Physical processes (including electricity, magnetism, forces and motion, light and sound and planets Earth and space). Other elements include: Weather & Seasons & Rock Types.

Geography

The chief aim of geography is to stimulate children's interest in and engagement with the physical and human world. By equipping pupils with knowledge about diverse people and place, and natural and human environments, together with an understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes, we seek to instill a curiosity about the wider world.

Children will be taught to read, draw and interpret maps, to scrutinise data and ask questions about contemporary issues such as deforestation, pollution and fair trade. They

will learn about their local environment and to make comparisons between Calne and other places in the UK and further afield.

History

History teaches our pupils all about their local area in the past and how we used to live. It also takes on major historical themes and civilisations of the past and times in history that have a major impact on how our towns look today. Children are taught chronology (the timing of historical events) and knowledge and understanding of why certain events happened in the past.

They consider changes in living memory & events of local importance along with significant historical figures. They are taught British history from the Stone Age through Bronze & Iron Ages to Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and on to more recent kings & queens. They also study a local historical area in more depth and a broader historical study, such as Ancient Egypt or Ancient Rome.

They study ways of interpreting the past from a range of sources including photographs, pictures, artefacts, documents, museum and ancient site visits, IT resources and oral histories from our older relatives or visitors to the school. They then learn how to organise their information and communicate it in a variety of ways, including talking, writing, model making, drama and IT presentations.

Art and Design

Holy Trinity aims to foster creative thinking, providing children with the opportunity to express themselves through a variety of different media, exploring ideas and recording experiences and reviewing and revisiting these. Within the school, we aim to use art to support other areas of the curriculum; using it as an inspirational tool to motivate the children. It is used as a way of stimulating the children's creative imagination to enable them to express what they see and feel.

Within the Art curriculum, the children will explore a variety of media areas including; Drawing, Painting, Mixed Media (i.e. collage), Sculpture, Textiles and other art and design techniques. They will also gain an understanding of the key art themes; Line, Tone, Shape, Colour, Texture and Pattern. The Art Curriculum also aims to develop an appreciation of the work of artists, craft makers and designers, and the diverse roles and functions of the arts in contemporary life, in different times and cultures.

Children will explore the similarities and differences in the work of artists to support them in understanding different styles and techniques. They are encouraged to explore, investigate, develop and evaluate their ideas and those of others, and are provided with the knowledge and understanding to enable them to achieve this.

Design and Technology (DT)

In Design Technology, we aim for children to explore their creativity and develop a range of technical and design skills. They will learn about, and experience, the complete design process. They will: define needs; develop, plan and communicate ideas; work with appropriate tools and materials; develop a working knowledge of materials and components; evaluate and test their work and ideas and review them; develop creative, technical and practical expertise. This will include the use of mechanical and electrical systems in their designs. Children will also apply understanding of computing to aid programming, monitoring and controlling their products. Cooking and nutrition is now a larger part of our D&T curriculum and pupils will be taught practical skills in preparing and cooking a variety of dishes, as well as understanding of the principles of a healthy and varied diet, where food comes from and how it is grown seasonally, reared, caught and processed.

Music

Children are taught music on a weekly basis through whole class lessons or recorder groups. Lessons are fun and interactive, with children learning through singing, playing and participation. We provide regular opportunities for listening, composing, performing and appraising in order to develop a good appreciation and understanding of music.

Children sing on a regular basis during Collective Worship and we also have choirs and music clubs which perform to the local community and alongside other local schools.

We have specialist music teachers who visit the school each week to provide individual and group tuition in guitar, keyboard and piano.

Drumming is taught in Year 3 and Year 4 by a qualified drumming teacher, this leads to a performance to the whole school.

Graham Shore