



St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School is wholly inclusive and its direction stems from its vision and mission. Through our Faith, we acknowledge our responsibility to all, to enrich lives and show love and respect within our school family. We believe in lifelong learning aiming to equip our children to live life today and for tomorrow. The school's motto, 'Walk then as children of the Light' is lived out daily. This document should be read in conjunction with the school's SEF, DSEF, SIP and policies.

Intent

At St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School our intent is:

- ◆ To provide a Catholic Christian education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life;
- ◆ To provide an environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and to promote the full potential of each child, regardless of race, language and starting points, through a curriculum which develops spiritual, academic and social growth and raises the aspirations of all.
- ◆ To provide a curriculum which is enriching and challenging, where children experience the opportunity to learn in a wide range of contexts and which meets the needs of all our pupils, rooted in a deep understanding of the school's context.
- ◆ To provide a rich 'cultural capital'. Cultural capital is the background knowledge of the world pupils need to infer meaning from what they read. It includes visits and visitors, residential school trips, and a rich vocabulary which, in turn, helps pupils to express themselves.
- ◆ To provide a coherent, structured, academic curriculum that leads to mastery for all and a greater depth of understanding for those who are capable.
- ◆ To inspire a lifelong love of learning and to ensure that pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain.



Implementation



The school is currently organised into 7 classes plus a nursery. Children are currently taught in single year group classes.

Phonics is taught through the *Sounds Write* programme and writing is taught using the Talk For Writing approach. There is a key focus on vocabulary for all pupils in all areas of the curriculum. Reading lessons are timetabled over the week as the school recognises the importance of reading for pupils to be able to access the wider curriculum. Maths is taught

using AET and White Rose schemes and resources. St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School is a PIXL school using PIXL resources and assessment with the support of a PIXL associate. Our vibrant and rich curriculum is designed so that the subject specific skills are scaffolded within a cross-curricular theme or context each term. We have designed our own curriculum which builds on prior learning from EYFS to the end of KS2 ensuring consistency and progression across the whole school.

Our curriculum design is based on evidence from cognitive science; three main principles underpin it:

- ◆ Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.
- ◆ Interleaving helps pupils to discriminate between topics and aids long-term retention.
- ◆ Retrieval of previously learned content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength.

In addition to the three principles we also understand that learning is invisible in the short-term and that sustained mastery takes time.

At St Gerard's we want our children to have the following attributes:

Self- discipline

Teamwork

Generosity of Spirit

Empathy

Respect

Ambition

Resilience

Decency

Staying power



Mission Statement

Through Jesus, we develop the uniqueness of all children by providing an exciting, engaging education, in an inspiring environment, with loving people.

St Gerard's School will:

- ◆ Welcome everyone with open arms.
- ◆ Teach you about Jesus and how he wants you to live your life to the full.
- ◆ Provide you with an exciting, extraordinary education.
- ◆ Listen to you and help you as best we can
- ◆ Make your days in school: safe, fun and challenging so you can find happiness in everything you do.

Vision

For every child, we aspire to develop their unique gifts and personal success so that they grow as disciples of faith, hope and love.

Our vision is for all children to:

Develop a unique relationship with God.

Aspire to achieve their own personal success.

Develop a life- long love of learning.

Always try their best.

Have the confidence to persevere and be resilient in all that they do.

Become responsible and productive citizens.

Be equipped for the challenges of the world they live in.



Impact

The curriculum at St. Gerard's is well planned and thought-through to promote engagement, not only within class but in a range of out of class opportunities, sporting opportunities and educational visits, to enable children to develop themselves as learners and encourage each child to be as independent as they can be.



We use formative and summative assessment carefully to ensure pupils are on track to reach the expectations of our curriculum, and pupil progress meetings are held twice per term. Carefully planned and monitored interventions and 'closing the gap' lessons are used effectively to help ensure that children are given every opportunity to make progress in their learning.

Questionnaires to the pupils and parents allow the staff to regularly review and assess the impact that the curriculum is having. We have had many positive responses from the children and their parents.

The impact of our curriculum is evidenced by results at the end of KS2, when the vast majority of pupils have sustained mastery of the content, that is, they remember it all and are fluent in it; some pupils have a greater depth of understanding. In 2019, children in KS1 attained at least in line with other pupils nationally and pupils' progress in Writing and Maths at the end of KS2 2019 puts the school in the top 5% for progress in both subjects and the top 40% for Reading.

Comments from our pupils:

We learn about our local town, how it has changed over time and how we can help to make a difference in our local area.

We get to go on trips to Parliament and Eden Camp which help us to make links in our learning and find out more facts.

Every morning we do 5-a-day which helps us to get better in Maths. I like it when we use the iPads to practise our times tables.

Our teachers make lessons and learning fun and they talk to us about how we can make our work even better.

Sometimes visitors come to school to help us with our work. We also go to other schools to share what we have been learning about.

