



Loreto Convent School

Gibraltar

CURRICULUM POLICY

This policy reflects the ethos of Loreto Convent School and has been compiled and reviewed with the involvement of children, staff and Governors.

The school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

Introduction

The curriculum is dynamic, adaptable to changing educational requirements with its design founded upon traditional educational principles.

"At the heart of the educational process lies the child."

The curriculum is designed to go beyond national criteria, to challenge and extend the children's thinking so that they may be stimulated and motivated to develop lively, enquiring minds, the confidence to question and argue rationally and the ability to apply themselves to tasks.

Along with the common emphasis on helping pupils to acquire understanding, knowledge and skills, the curriculum seeks to encourage an understanding of each subject in the light of an individual and community sense of responsibility regarding morality, values and beliefs.

1 Values

1.1 Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

1.2 Our school is in full agreement with the values statement included in the introduction to The National Curriculum Handbook for Primary Teachers in England. These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

- We value the way in which all children are unique, and our curriculum promotes respect for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all cultures. We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.

- We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of the community.
- We value the rights enjoyed by each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all children in our school.
- We value our environment and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

2 Aims and Objectives

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- To enable all children to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability.
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning so that children enjoy coming to school and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- To teach children the basic skills of literacy, numeracy, science and information technology.
- To enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking.
- To teach children about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- To help children understand their cultural heritage.
- To enable children to be positive citizens in society.
- To teach children to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong.
- To help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- To enable children to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.

3 Organisation and planning

- 3.1 We plan our curriculum in three phases. We agree a long-term plan for each key stage. This indicates what topics are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review our long-term plan on an annual basis.
- 3.2 With our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives and teaching strategies that we use when teaching each topic. As we have adopted the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies for our school, we take our medium-term planning directly from the guidance documents. We use the national schemes of work for much of our medium-term planning in the foundation subjects.

- 3.3 Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly or daily basis . We use these to set out the learning objectives for each session, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lesson.
- 3.4 In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum and early learning goals, and there is planned progression in all curriculum areas.
- 3.5 At Key Stage 2 the curriculum at our school places a greater emphasis on the core and foundation subjects than it does at Key Stage 1, and we teach these subjects separately. Over the three terms of the academic year, each child has the opportunity to experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects.

Seen by Governing Body: