



# St Mary's C of E School

## LEARNING WITH HOPE

### Curriculum Statement 2021

#### Introduction

At An Baya Schools, our vision of 'Together We Can Make a Difference' underpins our bespoke curriculum. The children learn about people and places that have made a difference and they are given the opportunity to make a difference themselves in planned opportunities. The curriculum at An Baya makes a difference to the lives of the children as it inspires them to achieve their full potential and leads to raised aspirations.

At St Mary's our mission is to educate children spiritually and morally as well as intellectually by following the example of Jesus in the gospels. Daily life at St Mary's is underpinned by Christian values in particular our core Christian values of Hope, Generosity, Perseverance and Courage. We use the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19 as our key Bible story to show these values in action. Our curriculum has been uniquely designed to teach our children to be courageous advocates so that they too can learn to make a difference, living out our strap line of "Learning with Hope."

#### Intent

At St Mary's, we pride ourselves in being a fully inclusive school. We aim to inspire and enthuse children to achieve their full potential in every area of learning, developing belief, ambition and aspiration for all. In this way they can live 'life in all its fullness'. We have designed a 'spiral' topic-based curriculum for all National Curriculum subjects which builds on children's prior knowledge and understanding. It carefully develops the knowledge, skills and concepts each child needs to learn within each year group and across the key stages.

#### Implementation

Our curriculum is enquiry based so that the children develop a sense of curiosity about their learning. Each topic is based around a question and we help children to develop the skills needed to express their own well-balanced, thoughtful opinions. To facilitate this, the curriculum has a strong emphasis on vocabulary acquisition, language, communication and reading at every key stage.

First-hand learning experiences have been carefully planned to make the best use of our unique location in Mounts Bay and its environment. Each year group has a Cornish element so that the children learn about where they live in Penzance and that it is part of a special place called Cornwall in the UK.

The topics have also been planned so that the children not only learn about their immediate community of Penzance, but that of the wider world. The children explore global issues and how they can be 'courageous advocates' and make a difference both locally and globally.

#### Early Years Foundation Stage

In our EYFS unit we want every child to have the best possible start to their learning journey at St Mary's. Our child led EYFS curriculum enables them to fulfil their potential, building a foundation for igniting

curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships, and thriving. Our Early Years team promote and expand language acquisition between children and their peers in an enabling, language rich environment. By responding to their individual interests and needs, the children are equipped to build on, extend their learning and develop secure attitudes to learning ensuring they are ready for Key stage 1.

### **English**

Our English curriculum is designed to immerse children in rich language so that they can become articulate and confident learners. We do this by exposing the children to a wide range of high-quality literature, both to explore deeply and to listen to for pleasure. We continue this through our writing curriculum, children are given access to language rich texts that they explore and collect language from, in order to use it within their own writing. As much as possible, but only where suitable, we use personal experiences to drive the writing opportunities that we provide the children. These are inspired in many different ways, including through the use of our local environment.

### **Maths**

At St Mary's, we believe that everyone can do maths. We use teaching for mastery approaches and small step teaching to develop mathematical understanding. Maths is an abstract subject but we aim to develop understanding using the CPA (concrete, pictorial & abstract) approach. Children use a range of manipulatives to build a conceptual understanding of the topic before using numbers. Children solve problems by thinking mathematically but this needs to be taught and developed from a young age.

### **Science**

Curiosity and excitement are essential in Science and this is achieved through carefully planned enquiries, the use of equipment and questions. The curriculum is designed to progressively develop the children's vocabulary and knowledge in the subjects they learn. Where appropriate links are made to the wider world, where children consider how they can, together, make a difference. These links have become increasingly embedded at St Mary's with the links to environment, our location by the sea and the changes in climate.

### **Religious Education**

At St Mary's we follow the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education where 60% of the curriculum time is spent on Christianity, 40% of the time on the other key religions in Britain. At Key Stage One the children learn about Judaism and Islam whilst at Key Stage Two they learn about Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. The long-term plan for Religious Education across the school follows a spiral curriculum so that the concepts and knowledge are always built on prior learning. Each unit of work explores a key question and encourages the children to make sense of beliefs, understand the impact of these beliefs and to make connections. The Christianity units are taught using the Understanding Christianity teaching resource.

### **Physical Education**

Our PE curriculum uses the YST Complete PE scheme. This focuses on the development of the whole children through high quality PE; Physical ME (Physical Learning), Social ME (Social Learning), Thinking ME (Cognitive Learning) and Healthy ME (Emotional Learning). These aspects are developed through a carefully mapped spiral curriculum which will respond to the needs of children and group. The broad themes in PE also reflect our emphasis on values and learning attitudes promoting courage, perseverance (resilience), trust, respect, resourcefulness, and reflection.

### **Foundation subjects.**

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well-balanced, thoughtful opinions. To facilitate this, the curriculum has a strong emphasis on vocabulary acquisition, language, communication and reading at every key stage. Knowledge organisers for example, are used to help children's focus on the key learning and acquire a breadth of vocabulary for each topic. At the beginning of each unit of work, we encourage children to record what they already know about the topic and discuss what they would like to find out. This is then revisited at the end of the topic to show the impact of the learning. Teachers use marking ladders to assess against topic 'I can statements' and inform future learning.

We embed our Art, DT and, where appropriate, music objectives into each class topic.

At St Marys, we give children every opportunity to express themselves creatively. Each year, the children learn an instrument through whole class tuition from Cornwall Music Service Trust. This gives all children from every background an opportunity to learn a new skill.

We place a high priority on the teaching of PSHE at St Marys. It is carried out not simply in the classroom but it underpins our school ethos. The three core aims of Health and Well Being, Relationships and Living in the Wider World are taught discretely through our topic work or through separate lessons.

### **Impact**

We aim to achieve at least good progress from starting points and aim for every child to reach age related expectations and narrowing learning gaps. We are aware that all children learn at different rates and have different needs. Our SEN team are effective at targeting support to those who need it so that we narrow gaps in attainment. Learning will be measured by the acquisition of knowledge and skills in each curriculum subject. This will be by formal assessments, written work or discussion with a child.

By the end of their learning journey at St Mary's, our children will have acquired life-long learning behaviours ensuring they are ready for their next stage in education. The children will be able to demonstrate generosity, courage and perseverance in their daily learning. They will recognise how they have made a difference and how they can continue to make a difference in the future.

*We will regularly review this statement, using rigorous monitoring to gauge impact of our intent and implementation. We will celebrate positives and highlight areas of development This way we will be moving practise forward and responding proactively when evaluating data and information from pupil conferencing and pupil voice.*