

## **Our Curriculum Statement**

At Holmer C of E Academy, through our Christian ethos which underpins everything we do, we aim to provide the children with a curriculum which is broad, well balanced and above all stimulates the children to learn. Through a positive and caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to exceed their full potential. We embrace Christian and British values and ensure all children are ready for their next step in their educational journey.

The planning of the curriculum ensures coverage of selected topics by all children. The children gain both knowledge and skills which are progressive and built upon as they move through the school. Planning takes the form of a topic based approach. Where appropriate teachers link subjects and always provide an engaging and inspiring curriculum.

Whilst the core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science and Computing are taught on a regular basis the foundation subjects may sometimes be taught as blocks of work over a number of weeks. Information communication technology and computing skills are essential to pupils living in today's world and it is imperative that pupils are confident users of a range of technology. ICT is embraced and supports learning throughout the curriculum with children having the opportunity to use a wide range of technological resources to facilitate and enhance their learning.

This programme is regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure it meets the needs of our learners and takes account of any new directives.

The teaching of phonics, throughout Early Years, Key stage 1 and in to Key Stage 2 is supported by the Read Write Inc commercial phonics scheme. Reading is taught through a progressive structure of coloured Book Bands and quality literature and texts are read to children as "Class Books" throughout the school.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is taught as both a discrete subject within the curriculum and embedded cross curricular. Pupils are taught to make healthy and informed choices and good health is promoted. Themes based on healthy eating, hygiene, personal safety, drug awareness and sex and relationships are covered. At all times we place a strong emphasis on kindness and consideration. The teaching of Religious Education is statutory in all schools. It is taught as a discrete subject following elements from the Agreed Syllabus for Telford and Wrekin 2014 and the Herefordshire Syllabus 2016 - 2020.

At Holmer C of E Academy we seek to create opportunities for children to experience and excel in a range of activities that enhance and extend their learning. Children have opportunities both inside and outside the classroom e.g. Forest School Sessions, Steel Pans, Chess, Residential Trips, Gifted and Talented Workshops, a variety of sporting

events, visiting speakers, theatre visits and much more. We have a range of after school clubs covering many different interests. .

We value the role of modern foreign languages in the curriculum and French is taught from Year 3 to Year 6 as a specific subject lesson and is then practiced incidentally throughout the week.

Pupils are supported to develop a strong sense of moral purpose and understanding, tolerance and respect for people who have different characteristics to themselves, whether that be age, disability, gender, race, religion, culture or sexuality. Throughout the curriculum the values of democracy and the importance of the rule of law are entrenched. When children leave Holmer C of E Academy at the end of Year 6, they are equipped with the independent learning skills that enable them to become lifelong learners . Through our unique approach of teaching and living out Christian Values, children have developed social skills and understanding and are good citizens.

We believe that the school/parent relationship is key to promoting learning beyond the school gates and crucial in ensuring children make the best possible progress. We pride ourselves on being open, friendly and approachable and encourage parents to be involved in their children's learning. Furthermore, we host regular sessions to inform parents about how they can support and work alongside their child. Events include: How to help with reading, shared writing sessions, Mathematics Calculation Strategies and E-Safety.

More detail of individual year groups can be found in the each year group's long term plan and in the termly topic webs.