



Alder Grove
Church of England Primary School



Curriculum Policy

Version Control

Version	Date	Description
1	September 2020	New Policy
2	Summer 2022	Review

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Review: Summer 2024

Christian Vision at Alder Grove



Our vision for Alder Grove School is about the importance of roots. Just as a tree cannot grow to be healthy and strong without good roots, so we believe that children need the right conditions to grow and flourish.

Our school community at Alder Grove is rooted in the following values:

- Kindness
- Service
- Truthfulness
- Forgiveness
- Courage
- Perseverance

We see these values in the life of Jesus, and Christians choose to live their lives rooted in him. At Alder Grove, we want to help all our children, whatever their faith background, to grow deep roots which will enable them and the whole community to be strong and healthy learners, and to care for each other.

As we live out these values, we help each other to flourish and grow. Our vision is not just about individuals but about a whole community, so we emphasise the importance of serving each other, and treating each other as we would like to be treated, and we also believe in the importance of caring for the world around us.

When the roots are healthy, we will see fruit growing:

'They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season' (Psalm 1.3).

The right roots will allow our children to fulfil their potential in all areas of life.

Aims:

The aim of our curriculum design is to provide deep roots to enable children to grow, flourish and inspire them to learn. We have a strong academic ethos providing a focus on the core subjects of reading, writing and maths, whilst ensuring pupils develop subject specific knowledge, understanding and skills within all other curriculum areas. We strive to ensure that our pupils leave this school with high standards of academic achievement having progressed well from their starting point.

Our key aim, through a knowledge led curriculum, is to help all of our pupils develop a love of learning which results in a rich reservoir of knowledge from which connections and links within and between subjects optimise their progress so that they achieve to the best of their ability

Description:

This policy aims to create an overview of the school's pedagogical approach to our curriculum. It sits alongside our Teacher and Learning Policy as well as the school's Curriculum Vision Statement and individual subject vision statements.

1. Curriculum Intent

We have core principles of teaching and learning which drive how we plan and teach:

- We work together to ensure that all learners succeed and that every child is confident, happy and secure;
- We aim high and value excellence;
- We aim to teach a curriculum that is rich in subject knowledge and enables the child to make connections and have a strong understanding of the subject;
- We guide learning through an instructional framework with concrete models that demonstrate excellence;
- We see skills and understanding as a form of knowledge;
- We use questions to deepen understanding and we see mistakes as central to the learning process so we encourage resilience and a love of learning;
- We believe oracy in the classroom and a rich vocabulary should be taught as it supports learning and is the key to unlocking future potential of our learners
- We enable teachers by providing time, tools and resources to ensure high quality teaching;
- We strive to make learning activities engaging and real;

2. Curriculum Implementation

At Alder Grove Primary School, we plan learning in a thematic approach to the curriculum that is underpinned by the National Curriculum as the basis for content and expectations. Each theme is structured so that each year group has:

- A clear list of what must be covered (curriculum map).
- The 'threshold concepts' pupils should understand by the end of each year supported by knowledge organisers.
- Subject-specific progression maps that detail how knowledge and skills are developed through the child's journey through the school.

A thematic approach allows us to interleave knowledge across different contexts to maximise the retrieval and transferability of previously learned content. Whilst most content is subject-specific, there are regular opportunities for cross-curricular approaches often underpinned by Oracy-related outcomes.

3. Curriculum Impact

At Alder Grove we want our children to be motivated to succeed, demonstrate resilience and grow a love of learning. We strive to ensure that our children's attainment across subjects is in line with or exceeding their potential when we consider the varied starting points of children. We measure this carefully using a

range of materials, but always considering Age Related Expectations. We intend that the impact is that children will be academically and physically prepared for life in secondary school and in Modern Britain and the world.

The Primary National Curriculum clearly shows the framework which underpins the school's curriculum. Further information can be found [here](#).

Long Term curriculum planning is undertaken by the whole staff and defines the timetable of subject delivery across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Common themes across individual subjects are developed so themes and linked learning can be identified.

Year group teams plan Medium Term Planning which details the content of an individual subject within the curriculum.

Weekly plans are the responsibility of individual teachers which consider progress, differentiation and adult support.

4. Organisation:

Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage, the curriculum is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The focus of learning and teaching at this stage is learning through experience in a stimulating and child-friendly setting. Assessment is made against the Early Learning Goals at the end of the year.

Key Stage 1&2

Subjects are taught:

- In separate lessons
- In whole class groups, small groups and individually
- Using the mobile technology, Design/Technology Room and using the outdoor environment
- Using the wider local environment and external visitors

The teaching style and approach will vary according to the subjects, topic and pupil needs.

The time table will be flexible to include opportunities for visiting experts to work with pupils and for visits outside the School to enrich the curriculum.

5. The Wider Curriculum

The School encourages a broad range of interests. This will include the development of extra-curricular activities.

The children experience activities and events first hand, outside of the school environment during a variety of school trips.

6. Home Learning

Children further develop their learning through homework activities such as spelling and reading. Project based work will be set that links to a pupil's topics in class. This will be set over a longer period of time and will give children the opportunity to explore a range of skills in their home environment that will enhance their knowledge and understanding in school. This will be explored in line with latest research and the age of our children as we continue to grow as a school.

7. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

We regularly use assessment tools to inform planning and develop learning in all subjects.

8. Equal Opportunities

The curriculum will be accessible to all children irrespective of their ethnic background, gender, disability or religious or linguistic background. Children with additional needs will have full access to the curriculum.