



ST WINEFRIDE'S SCHOOL  
*Founded 1868*

# St. Winefride's Curriculum Policy

## Mission Statement

**Our aims are:**

- **To educate the whole child in a caring and Christian atmosphere.**
- **To encourage our children to reach their full potential, mentally, physically, socially, and morally.**
- **To emphasise kindness, care, and mutual respect.**
- **To promote an awareness of the need and religious beliefs of others. This will enable them to become responsible citizens and an asset in any community.**

## Statement of intent

At St. Winefride's, we value pupils' education and aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is accessible to all. We do not tolerate discrimination of any kind and our curriculum celebrates the diverse nature of our society, enabling pupils to embrace the world around them – encouraging adherence with the fundamental British Values. It also promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at our school and of society.

This policy outlines our dedication to establishing a well-rounded and robust curriculum, as well as the provisions surrounding its creation.

Our curriculum, both academic and 'hidden' is the primary method through which we permeate and teach the principles set out in our mission statement. The 'hidden' curriculum is what the children learn from role models and the way they are treated. The curriculum is also the means through which our children are educated to acquire all the knowledge and skills they need to become independent, productive and successful members of our society.

The Headteacher has the responsibility for the leadership of the curriculum and delegates responsibility to key staff.

Effective teaching at St. Winefride's is characterised by:

- Having a secure up-to-date knowledge and understanding of subject matter.
- Having high expectations of all children.
- Planning effectively.
- Providing opportunities for independent learning.
- Planning for a range of learning styles.
- Choosing methods and strategies which match curricular objectives and meet the needs of all pupils in the class.
- Appropriate pace and progress throughout a lesson/sequence of lessons.
- Assessing children's work thoroughly and constructively.
- Children responding to high quality feedback.
- Using assessment to inform planning.
- Differentiating effectively so that all children are challenged, and children with special educational needs are supported.

Effective learning at St. Winefride's is characterised by:

- Inquisitive children asking questions.
- High levels of engagement in all tasks.
- Enthusiastic and motivated.
- Demonstrating resilience – willingness to keep going.
- Critical thinking.
- Pride in work and themselves.
- Self-confidence and a 'Can do' attitude.
- Independence and initiating activities.

## Curriculum intent

At St. Winefride's, we have designed our curriculum with pupils' learning at the centre. We recognise that a curriculum has to be broad, balanced and offer pupils opportunities to grow as individuals as well as learners. Our school values the input of its pupils, parents and the local community with regards to the planning and delivery of the curriculum. We believe pupils get a well-rounded education if everyone is involved in shaping it.

We aim to ensure pupils enjoy learning and feel prepared for life after school. We also intend to offer our pupils new and exciting experiences through extra-curricular activities that are designed to build resilience, confidence and self-esteem. Our curriculum will be delivered in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, through a variety of methods, including those outlined below.

**Classroom-based learning:** Accessing different learning resources and equipment to broaden pupils' knowledge, and making cross-curricular links where possible within lesson plans, so that pupils can draw upon knowledge from different subjects and understand how each topic plays a part in everyday life. Classroom teaching also includes one-to-one and small group tuition for pupils who require additional support.

**Extra-curricular activities:** We provide a variety of extra-curricular activities for pupils that enhance their learning experience, form personal connections with their peers, and teach skills essential for life after school.

## School ethos and aims

We subscribe to the aims set out in the National Curriculum. The fulfilment of these aims will take place within a culture and ethos where religious education and spiritual development permeates all aspects of the curriculum.

The overall aims of the curriculum are to:

- Enable all pupils to understand that they are all successful learners.
- Enable pupils to understand the skills and attributes needed to be a successful learner.
- Enable pupils to develop their own personal interests and develop a positive attitude towards learning, so that they enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- Teach pupils the basic skills of literacy, numeracy, ICT and science.
- Enable pupils to be creative through art, dance, music, drama and design and technology.
- Enable pupils to be healthy individuals and appreciate the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Teach pupils about their developing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- Help pupils understand the fundamental British values and enable them to be positive citizens in society who can make a difference.
- Fulfil all the requirements of the national curriculum, and The Way, The Truth and The Life syllabus for RE.

- Teach pupils to have an awareness of their own spiritual development, and to understand right from wrong.
- Help pupils understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- Enable pupils to have respect for themselves and high self-esteem, and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.
- Enable pupils to be passionate about what they believe in and to develop their own thoughts on different topics.
- Enable pupils to develop their intellect including their emotional development, ask questions and take appropriate risks.
- Teach pupils about the importance of forming healthy relationships with friends, family and peers following the, 'Life to the Full' programme for Relationships Education.

Through the aims outlined above, pupils will benefit by:

- Learning how to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Understanding that failure is part of the road to success.
- Being rewarded for academic successes.
- Being supported with their next stages in education and feeling prepared for life after prep school.
- Becoming responsible individuals who contribute to community living and the environment.
- Achieving to the best of their ability.
- Acquiring a wealth of knowledge and experience.
- Becoming critical thinkers.
- Finding a sense of belonging to the school and its community.
- Learning how to cooperate with their peers and respect one another inside and outside the classroom.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for:

- Approving and monitoring the content of this policy.
- Liaising with the headteacher, subject leaders and teachers with regards to pupil progress and attainment.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring Long Term and Termly Overviews provide a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.

- Assisting teachers with the planning and implementation of the curriculum, ensuring their workload is manageable and resources are purchased.
- Ensuring the curriculum is implemented consistently throughout the school and ensuring any difficulties are addressed and mitigated as soon as possible.
- Receiving reports on the progress and attainment of pupils and reporting these results to the board of trustees.
- Making any necessary adjustments to the curriculum where required.
- Keeping up-to-date with any relevant statutory updates and taking action where required.
- Creating and maintaining an up-to-date curriculum intent statement.
- Ensuring the curriculum is created in accordance with this policy.
- Updating and maintaining this policy.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy consistently throughout their practices.
- Ensuring lesson plans are reflective of the school's curriculum.
- Implementing the curriculum in creative ways, appealing to different learning types and keeping pupils engaged in content.
- Creating lesson plans in collaboration with colleagues and sharing these with the SLT where required.
- Collaborating with the headteacher and the SENCO to ensure that the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.
- Working closely with the SENCO and TAs to ensure those in need receive additional support in lessons.
- Ensuring academically more able pupils are given additional, more challenging work to celebrate their talents.
- Celebrating all pupils' academic achievements.
- Reporting progress of pupils with SEND to the SENCO and ensuring any difficulties identified are discussed and resolved.
- Monitoring the progress of all pupils and reporting on this to the headteacher termly.
- Working to close the attainment gap between academically more and less able pupils.

Subject leaders are responsible for:

- Providing strategic leadership and direction to the school team.
- Supporting and offering advice to colleagues on issues relating to the subject or curriculum area.
- Monitoring pupil progress within the subject and reporting on this to the headteacher.
- Providing efficient resource management for their subject.
- Ensuring the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.

- Ensuring there are specialist resources and equipment available for pupils in need so that everyone can have full access to the curriculum.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Collaborating with the headteacher and teachers to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all.
- Ensuring teaching materials do not discriminate against anyone in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Carrying out SEND assessments where necessary and ensuring pupils receive the additional help they need.
- Liaising with external agencies where necessary to ensure pupils who require additional support receive it.

## Organisation and planning

Lessons will use a range of teaching techniques to appeal to different learning types, e.g. visual, audio and kinaesthetic.

Different learning techniques include:

- **Using different kinds of questions** to engage pupils and prompt them to apply their knowledge to different examples, e.g. using why and how questions.
- **Opening discussions** around topics so pupils can learn from their peers and learn how to hold conversations with others.
- **Holding structured debates** to expose pupils to different points of view and teach them how to negotiate situations where there is a potential conflict of interest, whilst still respecting others' beliefs.
- **Using assessments** to test pupils' knowledge and consolidate learning; these can be through both informal and formal assessments.
- **Role playing and acting** to develop pupils' empathy and give them the opportunity to explore topics in a more interactive way.
- **Labelling, ordering and identifying** key themes within texts, dialogues and films to help pupils' coordinate series of events.
- **Written and spoken tasks** to encourage different methods of expressing ideas, as well as identifying key differences between writing and speaking conventions.

Teachers will plan lessons which are challenging for all pupils and ensure that there are provisions in place for more academically able pupils.

Teachers will plan lessons to accommodate for pupils of mixed ability, making cross-curricular links where possible.

Teachers will have due consideration for pupils who require additional help within their planning and organisation of lessons.

Pupils with SEND and EAL will receive additional support – this will include dedicated time with TAs and access to specialist resources and equipment where required.

TAs will be deployed within lessons strategically so that they can assist with pupils who require additional help, but are also able to minimise disruptions where necessary.

Pupils with EAL will be given the opportunity to develop their English ability throughout lessons where necessary.

Planning will be used to identify any possible difficulties within the curriculum and will break down barriers to learning.

Any difficulties identified will be addressed at the outset of work.

Classrooms will be organised so that pupils have full access to resources and equipment – they will be provided with a rich and varied learning environment that will enable them to develop their skills and abilities.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed annually by the headteacher and the board of trustees.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and relevant stakeholders.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2022.