



CREATIVE CURRICULUM POLICY

APRIL 2014

Reviewed April 2014

St John's Angell Town Church of England Primary School

Policy for Creative Curriculum

Introduction

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for learning and teaching of the Creative Curriculum at St John's.

School Aims

At St John's, we aim to foster a life-long love of learning, through adopting a highly practical, skills based and cross-curricular approach to learning that encourages progress in literacy and ICT at all times. Our Creative Curriculum aims to deliver a twenty first century education that will equip our children with the skills required to be an independent and responsible citizen. We aim to deliver this through:

- Embedding ECM in all learning opportunities
- Developing a sense of community and belonging, contributing to our community through direct interaction – making links with local organisations
- Equipping children with skills for life, through practical experiences
- Making learning more meaningful, through putting it into context.
- Establishing cross-curricular links to foster broader understanding
- Ensuring literacy and ICT are embedded in topics and projects.
- Encouraging and developing independent learners in all areas of the curriculum by a big emphasis on research, use of ICT (I-pads) in all areas.
- An emphasis on peer support and team working.

Effective learning takes place when:

- Children know what they are going to learn and why (Learning outcomes)
- Children know what they need to do to be successful (Success Criteria)
- Children are helped to assess their own learning and have input into their own individual learning journeys.
- Children have a genuine say in their learning and their ideas for projects etc are always considered.
- Children receive positive feedback that helps them to identify what they need to do next
- Children have time to reflect and review their learning
- Children feel cared about, happy, secure, motivated and stimulated
- The learning environment is well-organised, attractive, stimulating and positive

- Displays show children's work – at all levels
- Children experience a variety of learning situations, both indoors and outdoors
- Expectations are high
- Spontaneity is encouraged
- Children are encouraged to be active and responsible for their own learning and progress.

Creative Curriculum Planning

- Our key principle is to ensure rigour and progress in literacy, maths and science through an exciting topic based curriculum that is consolidated through good quality reading (core novels in KS2, available on our website)
- The Creative curriculum brings together art (both visual and performing – see appendix A), humanities and design. ICT is key to all topics and children are encouraged to see ICT as a learning tool as well as receiving good quality ICT teaching to develop specific ICT skills.
- Where possible and beneficial links are made to other core subjects.
- Planning begins with the Long term Curriculum map for each class. These may be topics or key books. This is available on our website. Our teachers are skilled and understand the needs of their pupils very well. Teachers are therefore free to change their topic to better suit their classes learning needs or to follow an interest of the children. If they decide to change their topic they will first have a meeting with a senior leader to ensure all areas of the curriculum can be covered and that the change is genuinely beneficial to the learning and enjoyment.
- From this an overview of the half term/terms learning is created, incorporating ideas for visits and visitors. This overview holds the relevant learning objectives for the theme. Teachers use the objectives to translate them into activities for the children.
- Learning and teaching is flexible based on children's current knowledge and skills.
- All children receive specialist lesson in singing (related to our Christian ethos), street dance, French, music tuition and PE. All of which support our varied and rich curriculum.
- Mid term Planning is monitored by the Senior Management team and Subject Leaders.
- Whole school themed days/events will occur on a regular basis to promote a particular curriculum area, in accordance with the School Development Plan and priorities.
- All classes keep a creative portfolio – these plus creative literacy books are monitored termly by the Creative Curriculum leader.

Curriculum Organisation and Time Allocation

Foundation Subjects are taught in accordance with the requirements of time allocations. Whilst a Creative curriculum has been fostered by the school, teachers are required to ensure that subjects are covered in accordance with national requirements.

Community Links

Where possible we will invite in parents or members of the local community. Visits to places of interest will also be planned into the themes taught.

- Opportunities to explore the wider world will also form part of children's learning. As a school with a high percentage of children from Ethnic Minority backgrounds we ensure that Black History forms a large part of our curriculum to promote and protect self esteem.

Assessment and Recording

- Quality feedback and marking
- Evidence will be collated from children's work; discussions; observations and photographs – via our creative portfolios.
- Children's work will be assessed according to the Learning Outcomes of the lesson(s)/activity.
- Children's enthusiasm and progress in writing also tell us about the effectiveness of our curriculum

Monitoring and Review

- Subject leaders and the senior management team will collate evidence on a regular basis from planning; children's work; pupil discussions; learning walks and lesson observations.
- Governors are kept well informed of the developments and progress made through the Creative Curriculum.
- Parents/Carers are kept informed of developments, through parent's evenings, creative events, reports, newsletters and workshops.

The Role of the Deputy (Teaching and Learning)

- Take the lead in policy development
- Collaborate with other Subject Leaders regarding Foundation Subjects covered through the Creative Curriculum
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Creative Curriculum through the impact on standards and children's perceptions
- Ensure progression and continuity throughout the school
- Support colleagues in their development of detailed work plans and implementation of the schemes of work and in assessment and record keeping activities
- Keep up-to-date with developments in Creative curriculum education and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate
- Keep informed with how the children and parents are feeling about their learning and curriculum.

The Role of the Governing Body

- Support school in providing appropriate resources to ensure learning.
- Monitor and evaluate learning and progress.
- Ensure resources, teaching and learning is in accordance with the Equality and Inclusion guidance.

The Role of the Extended Services Lead:

- To ensure after school clubs and outside projects are varied and exciting for all the children.

The Role of the Head Teacher

- To ensure the Creative curriculum is effective
- To monitor learning and teaching
- To support subject leaders in purchasing resources; professional development and through the implementation of training and procedures.

The Role of the Class Teacher

- To ensure planning adopts appropriate learning styles ensuring that all children make progress.
- To take part in professional development.

Written June 2011

Reviewed and amended April 2014

Will be updated January 2015 when the school moves to the International Primary Curriculum.

Agreed by Governing Body

Signed: _____

Date: _____