



St Francis

Catholic Primary School

Curriculum Vision 2023-24

Mission

The Mission of Saint Francis Catholic Primary School is to prepare all members of our community for tomorrow's world, in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community. With Christ at the centre, we will strive to allow His Spirit to be the love and guiding force of all our teaching and living, to reflect the Gospel values and the unique value and dignity of each individual.

'In Jesus, we will do our best as we love, pray, learn and play because this is the St Francis way'

We have an exciting mission. We have the power and help of God to fulfil it.

Local Context

Our primary school is in the small market town of Melton Mowbray. Our nearest city is Leicester, which is 16.9 miles away. 33% of our pupils are EAL and the majority of the pupils are White British from a mixed demographic of families.



Inspired by our Franciscan founders and Patron St Francis, we want our pupils to know and learn about the world we live in and foster a deep respect for different ways of life, religions and cultures. We are a Catholic school for all children and welcome children and families of all faiths and of no faith. Through our House Families and devotion to the Saints, we encourage our children to see everyone and everything in creation as our brother and sister and so foster the respect due to all God's creatures. Central to our mission are our Catholic virtues and values which complement British Values and the principle of democracy. We work in partnership with parents and our parish community which leads to the development of confident, independent and caring young people who are empathetic to the needs of others in the community they live in. St Francis' greeting 'Peace Be With You' will guide us to be welcoming to all.

Joy and Spirit- The Holy Spirit

We want our pupils to be happy and confident, to know who they are and have respect for their own dignity as well as the dignity of others so that everyone feels known and loved. We will promote within each child an awareness of God's presence in our daily lives. Worship, prayer and liturgy take a central place in the life of the school and we strive to make these meaningful experiences that contribute to the faith development of everyone in the school community, leading us to respond to God's love in praise and thanksgiving. Our community is one of joy and hope and as such we recognise the importance of emotional wellbeing as part of a healthy lifestyle. We encourage our children to take risks which supports creative work and play so that all children's talents and interests can be developed.

Knowledge and Enquiry- St Thomas Aquinas

At St Francis high quality, inspiring and relevant teaching will motivate pupils to become lifelong learners. We evolve and develop our curriculum to ensure that it is knowledge rich to enable children to think critically and creatively. We strive to provide all pupils with a range of experiences beyond their normal range to allow them to have new experiences and develop life skills. There are opportunities beyond the classroom to enhance the teaching of outdoor learning, sport and the arts. These opportunities are provided to enable children to develop their own character and to develop their relationships to their own self and others.

Responsibility- St Anthony

There is a focus on being a responsible individual in all areas of school life- we build children's skills so that they become resilient learners. Children are supported to develop skills to take responsibility, make decisions, collaborate and problem solve in preparation for becoming responsible citizens in their homes, parishes, wider communities and in the world. We want our pupils to be physically literate with the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary to equip them for a healthy lifestyle and lifelong participation in physical activity and sport.

Communication- St Elizabeth

We believe that communication is an essential life skill and feel passionately about enabling all pupils to develop effective communication skills. Communication impacts on every part of life and is crucial for future success. A vocabulary rich curriculum supports children to understand the key concepts and ideas in each subject area and build on their knowledge as they move through the school.

Ambition- St Clare

Pupils who are achieving their full potential, regardless of their starting point or background. We strive to open our children's eyes to the possibilities available to them and to support them to reach the highest levels of achievement and behaviour. Excellent provision for SEND pupils and provision for all pupils ensures that resources are well matched to learning needs.

We practice the Catholic Virtues that we have chosen together as underpinning the way in which we achieve the aims of our curriculum so that we can flourish academically and as a whole person.

Curriculum Delivery

The school curriculum reflects the requirements to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the Academies Act 2010, and the National Curriculum programmes of study which we have chosen to follow.

It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014 and Equality Act 2010, and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook.

EYFS

In the Foundation Stage children will have access to a rich and engaging learning environment which will allow children to demonstrate their learning in a range of contexts. The curriculum will provide for open-ended, interest-led and hands on experiences to allow children to play imaginatively and explore, make choices, combine and test ideas, seek challenge and be willing to risk-take and recognise that failures are opportunities to learn. We follow the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 which sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five.

In EYFS and KS1 children are taught phonics using the Little Wandle scheme. More information can be found under the phonics section of our curriculum pages.

KS1 & KS2

- In Key Stage One and KS2 the children are taught the National Curriculum. The National Curriculum comprises the core subjects of Religious Education, English, Maths and Science alongside the other subjects of Computing, Design Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Languages and Physical Education.
- RE is taught according to the 'Come and See' scheme of work and makes up 10% of curriculum time; cross curricular approaches are used with links made with PSHCE, SRE and other curriculum areas. World faith topics are taught twice a year but other opportunities for teaching about other cultures and faiths are woven into the whole curriculum to deepen understanding of diversity and the rich cultures within our world.
- There is an emphasis on the key skill of reading with daily phonics lessons in KS1 and both Key Stages children are encouraged to read across the curriculum and at home where we value parent's enthusiastic support for this most important skill. Pupils read widely and often, with fluency and comprehension appropriate to their age. Progressive development of texts is appropriate to the developmental stage of that child. There is exposure to challenging, high quality texts through whole class reading.
- In KS1 pupils' physical development is supported through access to physical literacy sessions which aim to develop fine and gross motor skills.
- In KS2 all children have the opportunity to experience inter-school sports competitions, and as play leaders, children in Y6 are able to lead physical activities with the younger children.
- All pupils in UKS2 learn a musical instrument and have opportunities to perform regularly to an audience to demonstrate their developing skills.

