

St Benet's Curriculum Statement – Breadth, Balance and Depth

Breadth:

At St. Benet's RC Primary School we offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our children and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We believe that our pupils' background, our culture and our climate for learning provide the following drivers that underpin all areas of our curriculum:

- *Living our Catholic Mission;*
- *Anything Is Possible – which helps children to build aspirations and know available possibilities for their future lives;*
- *Our Cultural Offer – which helps to promote diversity and an appreciation for the beauty of the region in which they live;*
- *Growth –which helps to instil in our children a mind-set that they can continue to learn and grow in all areas of their lives.*

We offer a thoughtful range of experiences that support our culture: pupils enjoy a full spectrum of academic, physical, spiritual, moral, social, cultural activities that enrich their lives and give them the confidence and skills for a fulfilled and happy life.

Balance:

We believe that all pupils should feel clever and experience the feeling of accomplishment in a wide range of areas. Our curriculum therefore gives pupils an excellent mix of academic and personal development; it gives equal importance to core and foundation subjects; physical well-being and mental well-being are valued, understood and prioritised by our careful consideration of curriculum design.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development along with a well-planned and structured programme of personal development underpins all of our work and is monitored as closely as academic subjects.

We carefully balance the requirement for pupils to reach national expectations in core subjects with our wider curriculum aims of providing a full spectrum of thoughtful and enriching experiences. As a result our pupils thrive.

Depth:

At St Benet's RC Primary School, our curriculum is carefully organised for depth: We define progress as: the widening and deepening of essential knowledge, skills, understanding and behaviours. To do this, we ensure that our pupils don't merely cover the curriculum but repeat it over and over – each time they return to areas, they gain a deeper and more insightful understanding of the skills and processes within each subject. We refer to the 'cognitive domains' of Basic, Advancing and Deep learning to describe the nature of progression.

Cognitive Domain	Type of thinking	Type of activities	Expectation
BASIC	Low level cognitive demand. Involves following instructions.	Name, describe, follow instructions or methods, complete tasks, recall information, ask basic questions, use, match, report, measure, list, illustrate, label, recognise, tell, repeat, arrange, define, memorise.	By the end of the first year of Milestone
ADVANCING	Higher level of cognitive demand. Involves mental processing beyond recall. Requires some degree of decision making.	Apply skills to solve problems, explain methods, classify, infer, categorise, identify patterns, organise, modify, predict, interpret, summarise, make observations, estimate, compare.	By the end of the second year Milestone
DEEP	Cognitive demands are complex and abstract. Involves problems with multi-steps or more than one possible answer. Requires justification of answers.	Solve non-routine problems, appraise, explain concepts, hypothesise, investigate, cite evidence, design, create, prove.	In the second year of a Milestone, if Advancing is secured early

Our curriculum sets out milestones for progress:

Milestone 1 Years 1 & 2			Milestone 2 Years 3 & 4			Milestone 3 Years 5 and 6		
Basic Year 1	Adv Year 2	Deep Year 2	Basic Year 3	Adv Year 4	Deep Year 4	Basic Year 5	Adv Year 6	Deep Year 6

Milestone 1: **The expected standard for pupils by the end of Year 2**

Milestone 2: **The expected standard for pupils by the end of Year 4**

Milestone 3: **The expected standard for pupils by the end of Year 6**