

Curriculum Intent Statement

Our aim for pupils of Esh Church of England Primary School is to have achieved the objectives set out in the National Curriculum by the time they leave school. We want every child to be a fluent reader, with a firm grasp of all the key skills in numeracy, and literacy to equip them for the next part of their journey in education. We promote a positive attitude in school, incorporating a growth mindset. When they make mistakes in their learning, or socially, our pupils are encouraged to move on from this and learn from these mistakes. Embedded in our curriculum are the Christian values of Generosity, Thankfulness, Service, Compassion, Trust, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Truthfulness, Respect, Perseverance and Courage. Through the teaching of these values, children learn to be respectful, kind, tolerant and ambitious, ready to face the challenges of life beyond primary school in a positive manner.

National Curriculum:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>

Planning Documents

We teach in mixed-age-group classes (Classes 1-3) at Esh and work on a two-year rolling cycle of topics. As a result, specific concepts (for example in science) are not always taught in the order suggested within the National Curriculum. Our curriculum has been carefully-developed to ensure all objectives are still covered at an appropriate age with a planned progression of skills throughout the school. Topics are designed to incorporate British Values, SMSC and equality and diversity. Wherever possible, links are made across subjects as a way to engage and enthuse pupils, and class texts are linked to cross-curricular themes. Planning incorporates opportunities for external visits (or sometimes visitors coming into school) to bring topics to life, consolidate learning and provide further opportunities for cross-curricular learning. We have strong links with Beamish Open Air Museum and Ushaw College.

More details of how each subject is taught, and its content can be found on the individual pages.

PSHCE is taught as a discrete subject, though elements are weaved into other lessons where appropriate. We celebrate diversity through involvement in programmes such as Educate and Celebrate, and our school council, lead the way on social action.

Class Structure

Class 1 Reception and Year 1

Class 2 Year 2 and Year 3

Class 3 Year 4 and Year 5

Class 4 Year 6

A range of teaching styles and methods are used in school, and teachers are encouraged to adapt to the needs of the class, including using kinaesthetic approaches where appropriate. Peer support and tutoring are also used. Evidence from the EEF suggests this is particularly beneficial for children with SEND, and it promotes cooperation between children. We have an inclusive approach to the curriculum, and all children participate in all subjects. Work is adapted accordingly to accommodate children with SEND, through differentiation, in-class support and interventions where appropriate. Interventions range from additional reading practice with staff and volunteers; structured

programmes such as Lexia, and Catch-Up Numeracy, and short same-day interventions to quickly address misconceptions from the morning. Where children work with a member of staff outside of the classroom on an afternoon, these sessions are short, and focussed, and lessons are rotated so the child does not frequently miss part of the same topic.

Educational visits are available to all children and school only requests a voluntary contribution from parents and carers to help facilitate this.