



St Aidan's R C Primary School

Curriculum Statement of Intent

At St Aidan's we believe the purpose of our curriculum is to prepare our children to be confident and tolerant contributors to society. Our mission statement 'Come in and learn with Jesus; go out and serve with love' encapsulates the balance between learning about ourselves, others and knowledge of our world, with the aim of converting this knowledge into understanding and skills that combine to serve our community as a whole.

At St Aidan's we believe that language is the driver for all learning, which runs as a theme through our core, supplementary, enriched and incidental curricula.

In Early Years, language and communication is our key priority when beginning to work with parents as co-educators. Parent workshops, home activity resource bags and parental engagement through See-Saw are developed from the very beginning of a child's learning journey with us. These are all designed to promote quality talk between parents and child. The importance of language and communication also informs our supplementary programmes such as [BLAST \(Boosting Language Auditory Skills and Talking\)](#) and outside agency work with Health Visitors and Speech and Language Specialists.

In Key Stage 1 and 2 our approach to the national curriculum is focused on continuing to develop the use of language and vocabulary to develop understanding and mastery of the curriculum.

In Mathematics we have developed this through a focus on Maths Meetings and Maths Mats which provide children with opportunities to explore and develop the vocabulary of mathematics in a collaborative and developmental way. We believe that this leads to stronger understanding of concepts and principles. This is underpinned at Key stage 1 through the ['Maths – No Problem' programme](#) which has a pedagogical focus on children talking about mathematical vocabulary as it is a development gateway to understanding concepts and knowledge. Supplementary programmes such as Talk4Number and 1st Class at Number build further on these principles at Key Stage 2.

This is complemented in our writing through adopting key aspects of the [Talk for Writing approach](#), and in our reading through focused group reading and 'Chatter-box' book clubs.

The broader curriculum is also supported by a commitment to developing the language and communication skills of our pupils, for example through opportunities for role-play in History or through high quality school performances such as the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

At St Aidan's, we believe that the ultimate aim of education is to provide pupils with a vocabulary to make sense of our world, and to provide them with a voice that they can use to make our world a better place. This is summarised by Professor Robin Alexander in the Cambridge Primary Review as:

Aims of Education - Learning, knowing and doing:

- *To help children recognise that knowledge is not only transmitted but also negotiated and re-created; and that each of us in the end makes our own sense out of the meeting of knowledge both personal and collective.*
- *To advance a pedagogy in which dialogue is central: between self and others, between personal and collective knowledge, between present and past, between different ways of making sense.*