

CURRICULUM RATIONALE

Our curriculum has been prepared to enhance the life experiences of our pupils at Holy Cross, broaden their horizons and prepare them to be good citizens

Our curriculum is delivered through the key areas of: National Curriculum; Brilliant Beginnings; SMSC; mindset theory; wider experiences; career aspiration; basic skills; community and Catholic Social Teaching

Our school brings the **National Curriculum** alive through '**Brilliant Beginnings**' at the start of each cross-curricular planned Topic. This encourages enquiry-based learning and promotes greater learner involvement in pupils' work. This approach makes learning more meaningful for the children as they are able to see how everything fits together. Where cross-curricular links are not meaningful, subjects are taught separately.

The invitation to consider an **SMSC question** through each planned Topic encourages a high level of deep thinking, empathy with others and a broader understanding of the world in which we live. It makes learning relevant.

Weekly **mindset theory** cross key stage circle time encourages pupils to consider what learning is and take ownership of their own learning.

We plan for extra wider experiences across the year including: incubating and hatching chicks; Liverpool climbing wall and orienteering; outward bound opportunities; visiting farms; visiting art galleries, Cathedrals; study and celebration of the work of Shakespeare are some examples.

In recognition of the needs of our pupils, we also promote an ethos of high aspiration through 'Why Work?' workshops in lower key stage and careers carousels for upper key stage 2. An introduction to 'Debt Awareness' is included in Y5 and Y6 curriculum.

We place a strong emphasis on the development of basic skills – skills that are necessary for lifelong learning.

'Non-negotiable' basic skills are taught in each year group and are expected to be applied. All children have daily phonics lessons until they are secure in their knowledge. This is taught through Read Write Inc.

Our pupils belong to the **Community** of St Helens and as part of our curriculum experience they take part in many local events including for example: Holocaust Memorial Day; democracy debates at the Town Hall; cheerleading at St Helens Rugby games; Armed Forces Day. We strive to ensure our pupils take pride in being members of the St Helens community.

Catholic Social Teaching

Through curriculum our pupils are encouraged to actively demonstrate a responsibility for those less fortunate. The school is organised into Houses (Faith, Hope, Charity and Mission Together) and actively support a range of charities. In support of local need, pupils fund raise for St Helens homeless and our local Food Banks.