



Curriculum

All children follow the National Curriculum, which is mainly taught through projects designed to cover all aspects of the curriculum.

Parallel teams of class teachers have weekly planning meetings to ensure that all children receive the same curriculum and that resources are used effectively. As a staff we are continually updating and introducing schemes of work which ensure continuity and progression between the classes.

Subject Areas

Maths – This is an integral and an important part of everyday life. We aim to provide children with the opportunities to develop and use their maths skills confidently and independently. We do this by providing opportunities for problem solving, logical thinking and by developing an awareness of number and shape through practical activities, as well as by teaching numeracy skills.

English – One of the most important aspects of a child's primary school experience is learning to read and write. We do this by developing children's confidence in all elements of the English language, speaking and listening, reading and writing. We have a very large selection of children's literature in school, including e-books, big books and group reading sets of books.

We strongly encourage every child to read at home every night. This is an important area where parents and carers can actively support their child's learning. We have a detailed reading record for each child, which follows the child through school. We encourage children to 'be writers' from their first day in school and use a variety of teaching strategies to develop these skills.

They include:

- Purposes for writing
- Styles of writing
- Editing and work processing skills
- Basic skills of handwriting, phonics and sentence structure

Key Stage 1 and 2 Aims from the new National Curriculum

Computing – (This has replaced ICT which was taught prior to the new National Curriculum).

It aims to ensure that all pupils:

- can understand and apply fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems.
- can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems.
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

We have a specialist Computing teacher in the school who teaches various classes and advises class teachers on their teaching of the computing curriculum.



Science – Children, before they come to school, develop ideas which enable them to make sense of the world around them. The Science Curriculum aims to give the children more knowledge and skills to develop these ideas. We do this by providing opportunities for children to observe, to ask questions, to suggest reasons and to carry out investigations in a wide variety of situations.

The new national curriculum for Science aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

History – The national curriculum for History aims to ensure that all pupils:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day; how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- know and understand significant aspects of history of the wider world; the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.
- gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.

Geography – The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes.
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time.
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 1. collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes.
 2. interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
 3. communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Art & Design – The national curriculum for art and design aims to ensure that all pupils:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms



Physical Education & Sport – The national curriculum for Physical Education aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives

We are very fortunate to have a specialist PE teacher as a member of our staff who teaches PE to a variety of year groups as well as organizing activities and clubs across the years to ensure that the children of our school lead healthy lives.

Music – The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions:
'pitch' – 'duration' – 'dynamics' – 'tempo' – 'timbre' 'texture' – 'structure' – 'appropriate musical notations'.

Children are encouraged to perform their work in assemblies, concerts and other special school occasions. There is currently a Music Teacher offering guitar, violin and keyboard tuition in school.

Design & Technology – The national curriculum for design and technology aims to ensure that all pupils

- develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Religious Education – We aim to develop children's spiritual awareness by helping children to learn about and begin to understand religious beliefs and practices and also to understand the influence of religion on people's lives. The school follows the agreed syllabus for Oxfordshire which encourages children to study Christianity as the main component of the programmes of study and also to learn about Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism.

Act of Worship – The Education Act requires us to have a 'broadly Christian' Act of Worship each day. This may take the form of a whole school assembly or smaller class-based assemblies. We aim to conduct Christian worship in ways that are inclusive and respectful of the whole school community. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Act of Worship or Religious Education if they so wish. It is really important that parents come to discuss this with the Headteacher prior to making any decisions about this.

Languages KS2 – The national curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

The modern foreign language taught at St. Christopher's CE Primary School is Spanish.