

CURRICULUM

Teaching at St. Paul's

We like to think that we retain the best in traditional teaching whilst at the same time employing modern methods and equipment. We realise that parents seek academic excellence and this we aim to achieve.

The atmosphere in the classroom promotes self-reliance and self-discipline and encourages many varied activities. It also gives the teacher a chance to work with individual children. For all basic skills, such as reading, writing and mathematics, every child works through the National Curriculum according to his /her ability.

Religious Education

Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum, enriching and informing all areas of learning with the light of the Gospel, teaching children to seek the truth which is of God, in the whole of creation, in themselves and in others. The task of handing on the faith to future generations is both a privilege and a responsibility. As teachers, we share this responsibility with parents and with the child's home parish.

Liturgy and Worship

An act of Collective Worship takes place every day at St. Paul's: sometimes as a class unit, as a key stage or together with the whole school.

Holy Mass is celebrated in Our Lady's Church on special occasions involving the whole school. Our three Parish Priests often concelebrate. During the year the whole school will visit our other two Parish Churches to celebrate the Eucharist there. Parents and parishioners are always welcome to attend these services.

Every term each class has their own special liturgy. These are intimate occasions, prepared for and attended by each class unit alone.

Yearly festivals and feasts are celebrated with special services such as Harvest Festival, the 'Way of the Cross' during Holy Week, and of course the Infant and Junior Christmas presentations. There is a Reconciliation Service for the junior children before Easter. Parents are reminded that it is their right to request that their child be removed from any aspects of Religious Education and worship, if they so wish.

Preparation for the First Sacraments

At the beginning of Year 3 parents are invited to register their children in their parish programme for the reception of First Sacraments. In school we reinforce and enhance this preparation through the 'Come and See' programme and a selection of material from the parish schemes. When all three parish programmes are complete, we celebrate as a school family with a special thanksgiving Mass and communion breakfast.

Literacy

Literacy at St. Paul's develops our children's skills to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes. The children are empowered to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others effectively, thus deepening and enriching their learning across the curriculum.

Numeracy

Numeracy offers a particular language that children can use to organise the world around them, as well as the opportunity to appreciate ways of thinking that can be entirely abstract in form and perfect in their conclusion.

Science

The study of science builds on our children's natural curiosity and imagination, developing their skills of analysis and reasoning as they begin to understand the world around them. Through a wide range of practical activities and opportunities to explore their own knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts, we aim to foster a sense of discovery and an awareness of the contribution of science in everyday life.

Information Communication

Technology

Through teaching ICT we equip children to participate in a rapidly changing world increasingly transformed by technology. We enable them to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We also focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way. ICT skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners.

Design and Technology

Design Technology offers children the opportunity to design and make products with a specific practical purpose. At St. Paul's we also encourage children to see this as an opportunity to enhance other people's lives, through producing products that both meet a need and can improve and facilitate everyone's interaction with the physical world.

Music

Music gives the children the opportunity to learn, experience and express themselves in a language that is entirely abstract in the normal linguistic sense. In addition we believe that it offers the children a spontaneous and creative medium through which they can celebrate and express their Catholic faith in daily collective worship and within the Church building itself.

History

In History, we teach pupils about important episodes and developments in Britain's past, from early invaders and settlers to modern times. They also investigate ancient civilizations and changes over long periods of time. Through studying history children develop concepts and skills that lead to the interpretation and understanding of when and why things happened in the past. Children are helped to weigh up evidence, using a variety of sources of information, in order to reach conclusions. Off site visits are arranged to support historical enquiry.

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French

French is an ideal forum to foster and develop verbal and linguistic intelligences. Learning another language raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning

Geography

Geography allows children to reach out into the world around them, admire the beauty and wonder what it has to offer. We provide children with the skills, understanding and experiences they need to fully investigate places from across the other side of the world to outside their doorstep. Through the study of geography we can enlighten the future of our world to understand relationships between countries, humans and the effects that they have on each other.

Art and Design

The teaching of art and design in our school aims to provide pupils with the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to develop visual awareness and be able to express themselves fully, creatively and imaginatively.

Healthy Schools

Being part of the Healthy Schools Programme is a long-term initiative which aims to make a significant difference to the health and achievement of children, staff and families at St. Pauls. It is about creating healthy and happy children who do better in learning and life.

Physical Education

Physical education celebrates bodily and kinesthetic learning. It develops pupils' physical competence and confidence, and their ability to use these to perform a range of activities. It promotes physical skilfulness, physical development and knowledge of the body in action. It promotes positive attitudes towards fit, active and healthy lifestyles.

Assessment

At St. Paul's assessment is carried out through Assessing Pupil Progress; this is a structured approach to in-school assessment which:

- provides diagnostic information about the strengths and weaknesses of individual pupils and groups of pupils
- promotes teaching that's matched to pupils' needs
- informs curriculum planning
- facilitates the setting of meaningful curricular targets that can be shared with pupils and parents
- enables teachers to track pupils' progress over time
- enables teachers to make judgments about their pupils' attainment, keyed into national standards
- supports the transfer of meaningful information at key transitional points, e.g. from KS1 to KS2

Special Educational Needs

At St Paul's, our aim is to enable each individual child to reach his or her full potential. Class teachers work closely with the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) to identify and assess children with special educational needs as soon as possible in order to give them the support they require. This may be offered in the classroom, or the pupil may be withdrawn for individual or group work. Outside specialists are also regularly called on to support children with special needs. Provision is monitored closely and there are regular opportunities to meet with the child's teacher and the SENCo to discuss progress.

We have decided against a separate 'gifted and talented' register, as such pupils are already included in the Special Educational Needs Register. We do, however, monitor carefully children who are exceptionally able, offering an appropriate broad, balanced, challenging and relevant curriculum, which enables them to attain their potential.

Sex and Relationship Education

In response to the exhortation of the Bishops of England and Wales we recognise the school's important role in Sex and Relationship Education. We seek to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships in the context of the Catholic faith. Parents are reminded that it is their right to request that their child be removed from any aspects of Sex and Relationship lessons, if they wish to do so.

Educational Visits

Each term, every class has the opportunity to participate in an educational visit that will support and enhance the curriculum they are studying. These visits are an important part of school life as they help to bring the curriculum alive, develop independence and promote a sense of adventure. Recent visits have included Shah Jehan Mosque, Imperial War Museum, Fire of London Walk and Butser Farm. The older junior children have the opportunity to take part in a residential trip and Year 6 take part in water sports activities at a local water sports centre.

Foundation Stage

Within the Foundation Stage at St. Paul's every child is given the opportunity to develop key learning skills and attitudes. We aim to produce confident, happy and successful children who will become independent learners. We foster this approach by offering a broad and balanced curriculum where all areas of learning are recognised to be of equal importance.

Details held within this brochure may be amended from time to time. For the most up to date school information, please refer to our school website:

www.stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk