

Farington Moss St. Paul's Church of England Primary School



Our Curriculum Overview

In our Christian family we Thrive in the gift of life. This is based on John 10:10: 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

We realise our vision through inspiring and nurturing our whole-school Christian family to grow and reach their full potential.

Our School Vision was created through a collaborative process involving Children, Parents, Governors and Staff over a period of time. The key word is **'Thrive'**.

As a Church School, we see our whole *raison d'être* as being to see life as God's gift, to receive that gift, and enable all people within our community to **thrive** in that gift of life. All that we do, whether in terms of academic life, spiritual life, or the values in which we seek to live, enables our school community to live in that abundant life. This does not happen automatically. We work hard to ensure that our Vision permeates throughout the whole curriculum and is an integral part of school life.

Our Vision is supported by the teaching of twelve Christian values over a two-year cycle. The values are the root of our Christian vision and are core to the Ethos of the school.

Our Christian values are:

Year 1: Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship and Respect.

Year 2: Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Truthfulness

We may adapt our values and explore Peace, Hope, Community, Dignity, Wisdom and Joy when circumstances dictate, for example during and following a period of lockdown.

Daily worship, whether as a whole-school or in individual classes instils our Christian values which underpin pupils' moral compass and teaches them these qualities. Using the teachings of bible stories and parables, pupils learn how these values can be played out in life.

The Christian Vision drives the focus on the whole child and on each child as unique, allowing all the best they can be. This was validated in the SIAMS inspection in January 2020 when the school was awarded three EXCELLENT grades in

1. 'The school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and staff to flourish.'

2. The impact of Collective worship

3. The effectiveness of Religious Education

At Farington Moss St. Paul's our curriculum is designed on the following 10 principles;

1. Reading and phonics is at the heart of our curriculum and is the driving force for our pupils to access, achieve and **thrive** in all subjects. We want them to leave St. Paul's as fluent, confident and able readers who can choose a range of texts for pleasure and enjoyment.
2. Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education is embedded to ensure that good physical and mental health, well-being, resilience and positive social skills foster successful behaviour for learning. Happy and confident children who feel safe will learn with confidence and **thrive**.
3. We build strong and highly positive relationships with parents, carers and families to work together so each child can **thrive**. Our staff are good role models as adults to be trusted.
4. We provide quality first teaching which is flexible to pupil need to allow each individual to **thrive**, particularly disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. Every child is recognised as a unique individual. Assessment, planning and pupil progress reviews are part of a robust evaluation system to ensure pupil needs are met.
5. A challenging and engaging curriculum which is coherently sequenced to ensure progression in knowledge and skills across all subjects. Whole school projects planned collaboratively by staff also enable teachers to plan for progression giving pupils the chance to **thrive** in a knowledge rich curriculum. Whole school subject displays are a valuable tool for subject leaders to monitor their subject. Linked governors play an active role alongside subject leaders to monitor year on year learning to see progression and growth.
6. The curriculum offers first hand experiences, opportunities to learn in a variety of ways e.g. visual, aural, kinaesthetic and active as well as exciting experiences to meet the needs of a wide range of abilities to support each child to give them the knowledge to reach their potential and **thrive**.
7. A commitment to enrichment activities once a half term for each child e.g. theatre visits, visits from Faith leaders, visits from public services, poets, musicians, sports coaches and forest school days providing new opportunities to broaden their cultural and spiritual experiences enabling them to **thrive** and grow.
8. A positive learning environment is vital to all areas of the curriculum with supportive working walls in English and Mathematics, stimulating displays, relevant book collections, print rich classrooms, subject specific vocabulary, reflective worship areas and Christian value displays which collectively support children to **thrive** holistically.

9. We value children's ideas about learning and building resilience, confidence, intrinsic motivation and ownership of learning. We use key questioning to challenge and encourage time for reflection. All these qualities will help children to develop, grow and **thrive** in school and prepare them for life beyond St. Paul's.
10. Our curriculum celebrates children's successes; academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We seek to have a holistic approach to education, in which pupils see themselves as valuable and valued, whatever their achievements are – they **thrive** in the gift of life.

As a school we seek high standards for all pupils and do all that we can to help pupils achieve all that they can. We provide a broad, balanced and creative curriculum using the National Curriculum objectives from 2014 and follow an exciting and engaging whole-school thematic approach to provide the children with a wide range of learning opportunities.

Our focus on curriculum development is therefore always carefully designed to ensure coverage and progression. It is tailored to our pupils' needs, location and interests. As predominantly British white ethnicity, our lack of diversity means a carefully planned programme promoting British values, cultural experiences from around the world and learning from and about other faiths is a strong feature of our curriculum. Visits from faith teachers explore these religious and cultural differences. Our involvement with The Linking Project has enabled pupils in Year 2 to make friendships and explore the themes of identity, equality and community through drama and play with a predominantly Asian community primary school.

In Reception class our school bases its teaching and learning on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework 2021. There is a strong emphasis on the three prime areas, which are most essential for children's development. These areas are: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Learning in the specific areas of literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design build upon learning in the prime areas. We offer a personalised curriculum where the children have fun, are engaged in their learning and, through transitional work, are actively prepared for Year 1 of the National Curriculum. Reception follow the thematic approach, which is used throughout school however, the topics in Reception can change regularly depending on the needs and interests of the children. In 2019, St. Paul's was awarded the EYFS Quality Mark for supporting and celebrating excellence in English and Mathematics.

We have a strong tradition for music and performance. Musical opportunities are delivered through a comprehensive music curriculum using the Charanga scheme and wider enrichment through drumming lessons, the school choir and 'Let's go sing' performance, advent service, nativity production, fortnightly hymn-singing, and through collective worship exposing children to live instrumentation (piano, violin and guitar) and an eclectic mix of world music. Our school choir perform locally in the annual Blackburn Cathedral singing outreach programme, performing at the King George's Hall and Ewood Park football stadium. Pupils in Year 5 have the opportunity to learn musical instruments and we employ a specialist

music teacher for pupils to experience instrumentation through drumming. From September 2022 we will offer Year 3 Pbuzz lessons (a brass instrument made from plastic) as part of the music curriculum. Children love performing in our KS2 advent service held in St. Paul's church, our most recent event was held in 2021 titled, 'St. Paul's performs Christmas through the decades'. In KS1, children enjoy singing, dancing and performing the Nativity story.

Our children enjoy learning new languages and as a school in Years 3-6, French is delivered as part of the curriculum offer. This provides opportunities to learn about other cultures, customs and language.

Sport, physical fitness and mental well-being have a high profile in school and we commit to this by employing specialist coaches to teach children and train staff in a wide range of disciplines from orienteering to archery. Half-termly whole-school festivals focus on a variety of disciplines linked to the curriculum such as rugby, football, racket, striking & fielding as well as exploring SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) through our Paralympic festival. There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities that are available so that pupils have access to a club run by either teachers or the Active Sports team. These include cheerleading, dance, multi-sports fun fitness and target sports. Regular Inter-school competitions, events and celebrations are timetabled in throughout the year involving pupil premium, SEND and EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan).

Some learning lends itself more easily to direct Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development such as PSHE Education and RE. We develop SMSC through worship, behaviour expectations and our attitudes in school. Pupils play an active part in the development of SMSC in school. For example, pupils in Years 5 & 6 are responsible for: organising the school hall for worship and celebration assemblies, door duty at the main entrance, KS2 sports leaders for KS1 pupils, KS2 reading buddies for KS1 pupils, running the school library, dance from the heart training and fundraising events for local charities. Spiritual - Pupils lead worship (in Y6) and write and read prayers in whole school-school worship. The school council meet to discuss school issues and pick our Christian Value winners each half term. Our local Community Police Officer visits school to discuss sensitive local issues to upper key stage 2 pupils around county lines, anti-social behaviour, online safety and anti-graffiti messages – pupils deliver an assembly to their parents to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of these issues.

Mental health and well-being provision are further supported through our lunchtime mindfulness club, yoga enrichment, classroom worship and PSHE Education and is highly valued in our curriculum to support children to be emotionally secure in order to learn successfully. Our 'Well-being wonders' enrichment club for KS1 pupils explores how art, music and dance can make us feel good about ourselves.

Our involvement in the recent PASTA Club – Play and Skills at Teatime Activities enabled a number of our pupil premium pupils and their parents to take part in the programme, creating healthy, affordable meals together to take home.

Every week we welcome our Pets as Therapy dog, Pippin, who supports pupils with their reading and helps them to feel calm and relaxed in school. Pippin has supported a range of

children, including those who may have suffered a traumatic or adverse childhood experience e.g. attachment issues, bereavement.

Regular uniform swap days to support our families have been a feature this year to help our school community with the rising costs.

Our commitment to promoting mental and physical activity is validated by achieving the School Games Gold Award for School Sport in the last five successive years including virtual participation during lockdown. Outdoor learning is explored as much as possible, using our extensive grounds and garden. Outdoor provision is a feature of the curriculum and as part of the continuous provision in EYFS, reception class are outside, whatever the weather, exploring nature, gardening, art, being creative as part of 'Muddy Mondays'. Forest school days are delivered every year for all classes to encourage risk-taking, discovery, our natural environment, awe and wonder, improve confidence, social skills, communication, motivation and physical skills. From September 2022, we are developing our own forest school initiative, with staff training and grounds development so these sessions will be a regular part of our curriculum offer.

Scientific and technological advances have made the world in which we live healthier, much more accessible and more complex. There is a great deal to be praised but it is important that we are able to engage in science and technology that is age appropriate and safe. Therefore, our curriculum includes half-termly online safety lessons in school as well as communication with parents/carers through our website, social media platforms and twice-yearly online safety newsletter to share and support them in order that all children are safe online.

How to be a safe citizen is taught as a priority in our curriculum through online safety, road safety, bike-fix and bikeability, being able to swim and water safety.

Our curriculum focuses not just about individual morality: it is also about developing a strong sense of social morality, in which we take seriously the Golden Rule to love our neighbours as ourselves. We teach the children to treat each other, and all staff, with care, courtesy, consideration and respect – treat others how you wish to be treated yourself. Our curriculum teaches inclusivity and celebrates individuality and that it's ok to be different, for example, through World Autism Acceptance Week. Recognition of global inclusivity is embedded in the sponsorship of our pupil at school in East Meru, Tanzania.

We encourage pupils to take part in the community life of the school and provide opportunities to buddy and mentor one another. This is through sports leaders, reading buddies, lunch time buddies, the School Council and roles of responsibility.

The pursuit of Education is a life-long pursuit and should not be seen as an end or final destination. We seek to instil in our pupils a love of learning in which their natural curiosity is nurtured and encouraged.

Children leave Farington Moss St. Paul's Church of England Primary School with qualities of independence, confidence, resilience, ambition and a sense of knowing the love and care of a school family.

Life, abundant life, is God's gift to us and we encourage our children to receive and share this gift in order to **THRIVE**.