



## **The Ark Federation, part of St. Christopher's Multi Academy Trust Curriculum Statement 2016-17**

The Teaching and Learning Committee of the Ark Federation approved the Curriculum Statement on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2017

Signed.....Date.....  
(Mrs G McMenemy, Chair of Teaching and Learning committee)

Governing bodies are required to produce a curriculum statement annually. This replaces the requirement under the School Framework and Standards Act 1998 for a curriculum plan.

From September 2014, there was an expectation from the government for all mainstream primary schools to deliver the new National Curriculum. Therefore, we adapted our school curriculum accordingly to ensure that we meet the current aims and statutory requirements.

This statement sets out the principles underpinning the curriculum and reflects the federation's commitment to developing all aspects of their pupils' lives.

We aim to be innovative in our practice to provide contextualised, stimulating learning opportunities which allow all our children to access learning. We understand the many rich experiences that our local area and community provide and we seek to work in partnership with other organisations to enhance and strengthen the quality of our provision. We believe it is important to extend children's learning far beyond the classroom.

### **At the Ark Federation we aim to:**

- Ensure Christian values are central to the ethos of the federation and its teaching as Church Aided schools;
- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, social and physical development of pupils at our schools and of society;
- Develop lively, inquisitive minds together with a positive desire to learn, question and debate rationally;
- Develop a spirit of curiosity and a passion for learning so that children apply themselves intelligently to tasks;
- Embed skills to prepare children for further learning and productive adulthood;
- Equip children with the skills to fully participate in an ever changing world;
- Teach children to respect the religious, spiritual and moral values of others and to thoughtfully consider their own attitudes, values and beliefs;
- Develop a sense of self-respect and individual worth, a capacity to live as independent self-motivated adults and the ability to live and work in co-operation with others;

- Enable children to understand the history and present condition of their own society and the world in which they live as well as the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations;
- Prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- Promote habits of acceptable behaviour, courtesy and respect for others;
- Develop children to become reflective learners who have a sense of responsibility for their own learning and development;
- Enable children to use their acquired skills and knowledge to observe, question and think.

This is the philosophy of how we want to work and learn. These aims underpin all of the learning that takes place across our federation and are referenced in our Teaching and Learning Policy which overarches all of our curriculum policies.

### **Curriculum Provision at The Ark Federation**

Our curriculum aims to be broad and balanced to allow children to develop knowledge and skills in each curriculum area which reinforce and complement each other. The curriculum is relevant to the experience and needs of pupils and it is structured to promote progression in the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding. Every pupil, regardless of sex, race, physical disability or special educational needs and disabilities, has the opportunity to realise their full potential in across the whole curriculum. Our Core values of love, peace, patience, respect and truth, as well as British Values (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith), lie at the heart of our teaching to ensure that children grow into morally aware citizens.

We provide a thematic curriculum, whereby meaningful links are made between subjects. This enables the children to make connections in their learning; apply skills in different contexts and create a more holistic, relevant educational experience. Children are taught and encouraged to be active in their learning; to have a voice. This involves providing opportunities for children to question, discover, reflect and evaluate and, in doing so, we promote the ethos of 'Building Learning Power' (resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity, reflectiveness) in order to develop positive learning behaviours.

Our approach to teaching encompasses the four modes of learning:

Foundational learning requires the acquisition of core skills with emphasis placed on fluency and accuracy. Conceptual learning provides opportunities for children to articulate their thinking and connect ideas and skills in sophisticated ways. Collaborative learning involves embedding the knowledge and core learning skills whilst Personal learning is often target led and specific to individual's needs. The Core Learning Skills that run through the curriculum ensure that children can acquire skills to become life-long learners.

### **Curriculum Enhancement**

The curriculum is enhanced through visits to and visits from other organisations and individuals whenever possible to extend learning beyond the classroom. We aim for children to enjoy some form of theatre experience each year. There are also opportunities for children to take responsibilities within their class and school. The curriculum is further enhanced through allowing children to take ownership of their learning. They are encouraged to follow their own lines of enquiry and help create their thematic topic so that it builds on areas of interest; is relevant to their needs and promotes motivation and enthusiasm for learning.

**Focus Days and Weeks**

Some aspects of the curriculum are delivered or enriched through focus days and weeks. The timetable is suspended and activities are focused on a key theme.

**Extended School Opportunities**

The federation offers a variety of clubs for children to participate in during and after school. These are set on a termly basis – a timetable is always available in the school office.