



The Ark Federation, part of St. Christopher's Multi Academy Trust Curriculum Statement 2018 - 19

The Teaching and Learning Committee of the Ark Federation approved the Curriculum Statement on 15th November 2018

Signed.....Date.....
(Mrs J Smith, 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 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 along with our vision ‘Growing Stronger Together’ to enable us to *live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*.

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 courage, humility, friendship, truthfulness, trust and thankfulness, 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 ‘Growth Mindset’ in order to develop positive learning behaviours and foster a *can do* ethos.

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



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individual's needs. The Core Learning Skills that run through the curriculum ensure that children can acquire skills to become life-long learners.

Learning Behaviours

We aim to develop the children's ability to discuss their learning as well as the develop skills and attitudes children will need when facing challenges. These skills and attributes will not only support them to be successful in school but also in the wider world.

We will work with children to develop the following learning behaviours:

Resilience – we want to see children learning from mistakes and viewing them in a positive manner. Being able to re-think an aspect of learning is fundamental to improvement. Being able to 'pick themselves up' after a setback and being able and willing to give it another go is very important. Children need to recognise that learning can be a struggle. They need to stay focussed and show perseverance even if they find something challenging.

Independence – we want children to believe in themselves. We aim for children to believe they can help themselves when they are stuck but also to know when it is appropriate to ask for help/who to ask for help. Independence is also about children wanting to find out things; showing a curiosity for learning and being motivated to take the initiative for their own learning as well.

Reflectiveness – we want to see children actively evaluating their work and developing the ability to believe that they can always improve whilst taking pride in their own achievements as well as the work and achievements of others.

Risk-Taking – this is centred on children pushing themselves to try new things. They need to know and understand that learning can sometimes be uncomfortable – this may include making mistakes. Risk-taking is also about children questioning and asking "What if ...? And "What shall we try now?" for example. Children need to not be afraid of not knowing.

Creativity – we want children to use their imagination by letting their minds explore ideas. Creativity means they can come up with new ideas and link them to their previous learning. We hope children will think things through and believe they have the strategy to solve problems. The children can be creative in many ways – not just art and drama – and we encourage creativity in all areas of the curriculum including the sciences. It is also about linking with other areas of learning behaviours, especially risk taking.

Community – this is all about working well together. It is about working with others and being willing to take responsibility when doing so. We want children to ensure they are active learners and share the workload fairly. We also want them to ensure they manage distractions and listen to (as well as contribute to) discussions when working with others. We hope the children will share learning, knowledge and skills.

Respect – primarily, we want children to treat other as they wish to be treated. This is mirrored in the way the pupils talk to each other and the way adults and pupils speak to each other. Respect is linked to understanding and empathy, listening to and valuing the thoughts, opinions and ideas of



others. We want children to believe it is okay to think differently and know it is fine to change your opinion.

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 half termly/termly basis – a timetable is always available in the school office.

Further Information

If any current or prospective parents/carers would like further information in relation to our school curriculum, they are welcome to contact our Heads of School as follows:

All Saints CE Primary School – Mr R Giffard – 01297 32761 / allsaintsadmin@arkstcmat.org

Beer CofE Primary School – Mr R Evans – 01297 20077 / beeradmin@arkstcmat.org



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