

Our Mission, Vision and Objectives

Mission

We believe that all children are a gift from God.

They are all special and should be allowed to develop and grow in a nurturing environment secure in the knowledge that they are cherished.

All of our children will leave the school with special memories and having achieved personal success, whilst being equipped to take their next steps in the journey of life.

Our Christian beliefs and values inform everything we do and achieve, and we encourage our children within an ethos of trust to reflect on their own values and faith in a supportive environment.

Vision

We believe every child is a gift from God, so we aim to give each child the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential by:

Offering a broad curriculum

Improving educational outcomes

Managing the budget effectively

Working collaboratively with other schools

Building on examples of best practice

Being a school that children love to attend

Our objectives are . . .

To challenge all children to reach their full potential, spiritually, intellectually, physically, creatively and socially

To develop relationships where we all respect one another's beliefs, differences and ways of life, recognising each other as unique individuals.

To enable children to develop high self-esteem and encourage independence.

To enable children to take a responsible part in their own learning and become self-motivated to attain their goals.

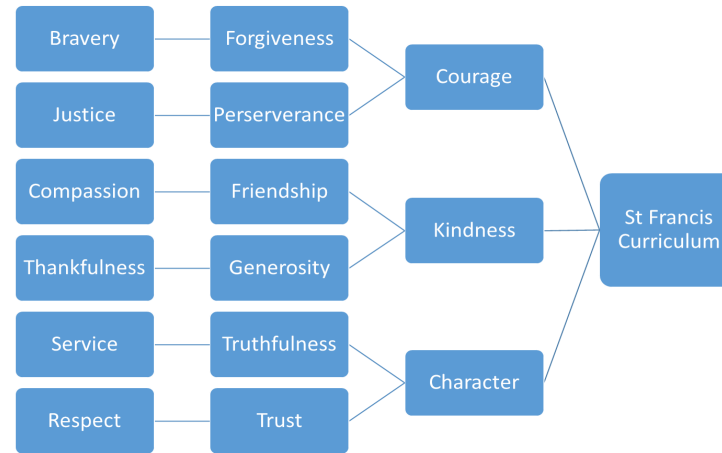
To make our school a welcoming community for all, where families are encouraged to participate in school activities and in their children's education.

Within the budget available, to provide a balanced curriculum that is stimulating, creative and of the highest quality; that is delivered by a committed team who ensure that learning is an enjoyable experience for all.

To provide a supportive environment for our members of staff.

That our Christian beliefs and values inform everything we do and achieve.

To encourage children within an ethos of trust to reflect on their own values and faith in a supportive environment.



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Further information about
Stfrancis' curriculum can be
found at:

www.stfrancis.swindon.sch.uk

Saint Francis

Curriculum

Rationale

Science

Courage

Kindness

Character

Where God's gifts begin
their journey to gain,
attain and grow...

Curriculum Rationale

Intention

At St Francis, Science learning is practical, relevant and creative and is celebrated through whole school enrichment activities as well as year-specific experiences. We interweave our Christian ethos into developing the children's scientific knowledge, questioning and application, embedding our core principles through critical and reflective evaluation of what is being learnt; we aim to develop their curiosity and enthusiasm about the world as well as encourage them to foster an appreciation of our environment. Through studies of scientists and their work, children are enabled to identify the place of science in the context of today's and the future's increasingly scientific and technological world. Children's self-confidence in learning independently encourages them to grow, have the courage to pose questions and attain their full potential. This learning in Science should be in parallel with developing their social skills working cooperatively and learning collaboratively with others.

Curriculum Delivery

Implementation

In KS1 and KS2, the Science units are delivered in blocks so that the children can dig deep into the subject matter and develop their scientific reasoning skills. The units have been chosen to compliment the overarching topic, although they may not be directly linked whilst ensuring that the children are given the chance to develop their skills and understanding in a broad and balanced way.

Within each Science unit, the children will be taught the appropriate vocabulary and how to use that vocabulary to explain their understanding. The children are also given opportunities to explore the subject through experimentation. This allows them to gain a thorough and personalised understanding as they apply skills from previous learning and gain knowledge through careful observation. These practical activities are carefully designed to allow all styles of learners to fully engage in their Science learning. Once they have completed their exploration, they are then expected to record their findings in a variety of different ways such as tables, posters, observational drawings or graphs.

Curriculum Evaluation

Impact

It is important that children are aware of their own progress and their appropriate next steps, both in the skills involved in all Science learning and in the knowledge they acquire in each of the three aspects of Science. At St Francis, children are involved with the ongoing assessment of their understanding by evaluating and recording which 'Working Scientifically' objectives they have been covering as they learn in each lesson. This is recorded using age-appropriate statements and in a suitable manner in their Science books.

Progression of the skills involved in all Science is monitored by the class teacher termly, through the use of the school's assessment tool (Target Tracker) and the assessment of scientific knowledge is undertaken during and at the end of each topic taught, using the National Curriculum objectives for each unit. Evidence of these is monitored by the Science team through regular book scrutiny, learning walks and evaluation of progression from year to year by analysing Target Tracker data. Additionally, formal assessment at the end of each Key Stage involves the assessment of knowledge gained in previous years; this is through verbal assessments and, in Year 6, more formal assessment using sample statutory tests.