

## 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.

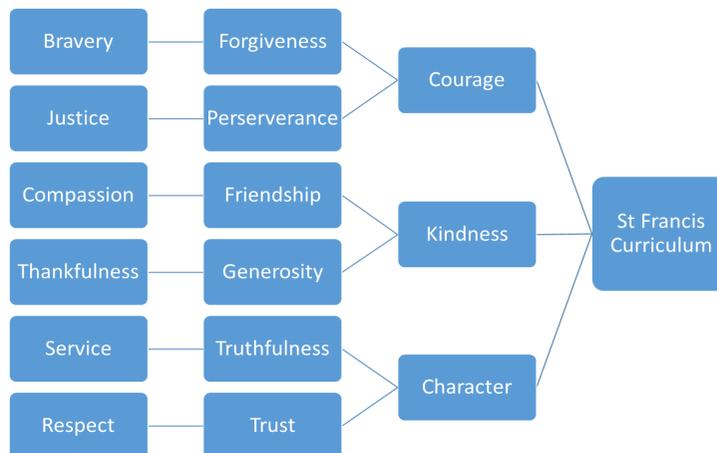
To make our school a welcoming community for all, where families are encouraged to participate in school activities and in their children's education.

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.



*Saint Francis*

# Curriculum Rationale

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Stfrancis' curriculum can be  
found at:

[www.stfrancis.swindon.sch.uk](http://www.stfrancis.swindon.sch.uk)

Courage  
Kindness  
Character

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

# Curriculum Rationale

## Intention

In our learning environment we strive to provide a curriculum which covers our values as a key element which underpin everything that we do.

We are continually reviewing and improving the curriculum we offer to our children to ensure it is knowledge rich and provides the Cultural capital they need to succeed.

A rich variety of experiences are provided using: artefacts, resources, encounter days, forest area, key national and world events and technology, visitors and trips to broaden their horizons and understanding of the world.

We encourage creativity which builds character in our children and develops their ability to work collaboratively.

We ensure our outside area is involved in our learning in a practical and exploratory way ensuring children are physically active.

Activities and experiences are selected to build independence and resilience; to develop a thirst for knowledge and encourage an enquiring mind.

We aim to challenge children to become independent learners and find enjoyment in their own learning journey.

We develop children's Characteristics of Effective Learning in the Early Years and promote their continual development throughout our school.

# Curriculum Delivery

## Implementation

At St. Francis many foundation subjects are block taught. This means that rather than the children participating in these lessons once a week, they are immersed in each subject for a number of consecutive sessions.

This enables a deeper understanding of each subject, and allows children to build upon prior knowledge resulting in less time spent recapping previous learning.

Throughout topics children are given the opportunity to welcome visitors which enhances their learning within the school environment, and broadens their understanding of the wider world.

Trips are an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum where the children have opportunities to experience learning first hand that relates to their topic. Examples include taking part in workshops, role play, handling relevant artefacts and visiting different environments.

Upper Key Stage 2 are given the chance to take part in residential trips which encourages them to apply their learning and social skills in a range of contexts while building confidence, independence and resilience.

# Curriculum Evaluation

## Impact

Through block teaching children acquire knowledge more rapidly as they are using and remembering the knowledge to support the following days learning. The teachers spend less time recapping prior knowledge.

At the end of a block of work (particularly in Geography and History) children are expected to complete an extended piece of writing about the topic they have been learning. This enables them to demonstrate the knowledge they have acquired and use context specific vocabulary to secure retention. This supports the assessment of the subject area.

The written work the children produce may not always represent the attainment of individual children in a particular subject, where written English is a particular challenge for them. This is taken into account when judgements are formed. Children demonstrate independence and enjoyment of their learning during these blocks of work and this is valued equally with the child's written work in the subject.

Teachers in individual year groups evaluate each topic to ensure that what is being taught is relevant and suitable for the cohort of children they are teaching.