

St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Curriculum Statement of Intent

*Transforming lives by living and learning
together in God's love*

Vision

We believe that all children are unique gifts from God, and as such they are entitled to the highest quality education, regardless of their background, delivered through an ambitious and creative curriculum. The curriculum we teach at St Margaret's enables pupils to develop within them the skills, understanding and knowledge, in order that they can lead fulfilling lives within the world that God has given them. We particularly acknowledge the intent, implementation and impact of our curriculum, leaders focusing periodically on why we teach topics and themes, the execution of our planning and checking the progress and quality of what we teach.

The statutory curriculum for maintained schools consists of

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework 2021
- The National Curriculum (2015 statutory guidance)
- Religious Education (following the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus SACRE)

Aims

At St Margaret's we aim to teach the curriculum in an exciting and stimulating way. Our curriculum is sequenced and planned to promote learning, personal growth and inspire ambition. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also a range of further opportunities designed to enrich the learning experience and to increase cultural capital opportunities. There is also a 'hidden curriculum' which includes what our pupils learn from their school environment, the way they are treated and how they are expected to behave towards one another.

We aim to teach our children how to grow into confident, independent and responsible young people who are able to communicate effectively, work and co-operate with others, and aspire to achieve their very best.

Values

Our Christian values are integral to all we do at St Margaret's, from teaching to pastoral care, and they underpin our Curriculum. They include:

- Respect for the views of each individual child;
- The spiritual and moral development of each child, as well as their intellectual and physical growth;
- Co-operation, respect and understanding between all members of our school community;
- Aspiration, success and equality of opportunity for all the children in our school;

- Acquiring a set of moral values including honesty, sincerity and personal responsibility on which to base their own behaviour;
- Respect for our world, consideration of ethical issues and how we should best care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

Organisation – A thematic approach

At St Margaret's we teach the National Curriculum through a mostly thematic approach. This allows us to link subjects together under common themes, gives the learning a context and motivates the children by providing stimulating learning opportunities which enables pupils to develop and apply their skills and creativity. In this way Geography, History, Art & Design, Design Technology, Music, Computing, PE, Languages and often English can be taught through a common theme or topic. Maths, PE, RE and PSHE are taught as discreet subjects.

The Curriculum at St Margaret's is designed to be accessible with opportunities for all children who attend the school. Our school does all it can to meet additional, individual needs, including provision of additional support and resources for all. We comply with the requirements set out in the SEN Code of Practice in providing for children with special needs. Pupils who have English as an Additional Language (EAL), pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Academically More Able (AMA) pupils receive a tailored bespoke package when required. Senior leaders monitor the progress of all vulnerable and minority groups termly.

For children working at the extension level of development and understanding, teachers plan in open-ended tasks and questions requiring a deeper level of thinking to encourage the child to follow lines of thought independently. There are also opportunities to attend workshops organised across the local pyramid of schools.

For more information please see the EAL policy, Pupil Premium Policy, SEN Policy and Equalities Policy.

Extra-Curricular Clubs, Theme Days and Other Activities

In addition to the school curriculum we aim to provide a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities. These include but are not limited to; Judo, Basketball, Multi Sports, Tennis, Football, Gardening Club, Chess Club, Singers, Recorder Club and Creative Writing. Our music curriculum is enhanced by offering small group music lessons by specialist visiting music teachers (woodwind/brass/strings) for a charge. We aim to participate in local activities and inter-school tournaments when the opportunity arises. We offer Cycling Proficiency courses to our older pupils and swimming to Years 4 & 5. Our older children have the opportunity to participate in residential field trips which include numerous educational, social and personal experiences including outdoor and adventurous activities which cannot be provided on site.

Wellbeing Days are a recent addition to our curriculum and are held 5 times a year, with a selection of wellbeing activities, sometimes pupil led, for all pupils to enjoy and promote self-esteem and confidence.

Teachers are given the autonomy and are encouraged to use all the facilities that Ipswich Town has to offer in terms of sport, art, cultural and other local events. The Educational Visits Co-Ordinator

(EWC) oversees these and links with the curriculum lead to ensure visits out and hosting high quality experiences in school are provided across the school.

Monitoring the curriculum

St Margaret's Governing Body has a Learning & Standards Committee which meets termly. Its responsibilities include:

- To consider and advise the Governing Body on standards and other matters relating to the school curriculum;
- In conjunction with the Headteacher and SLT to analyse the results of pupil progress and performance on a regular basis;
- To establish and review school policies relating to the curriculum.

The Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) currently use an autonomous leadership approach ensuring staff have creative space and are empowered and resourced to meet the needs of the learners. Samples of planning are scrutinised as part of the school's ongoing procedures to monitor the delivery of the curriculum, and to form judgements on the quality of the teaching which the school provides. The class teacher remains responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum in their class and this includes liaising with any staff employed to cover non-contact time. Phase leaders and SLT are available for support, advice and discussion.

The Head Teacher, Jo Gunn and curriculum lead, Kelly Brown have responsibility for development of the curriculum. For further information on curriculum content, refer to the curriculum maps on the school website.