

St Faith's provides full-time education for children from Foundation to Year 8. Children are taught in a safe and caring environment in line with the Christian ethos of the School, befitting a school which especially values its considerable local reputation for the friendliness and warmth of its atmosphere. Teaching is designed to build confidence, skills, understanding and knowledge, to stimulate creativity, curiosity and interest, and to foster a life-long enjoyment of learning. We aim to provide pupils of all ages and abilities with a broad, balanced, rigorous and engaging curriculum which will encourage all pupils to excel. We recognise and celebrate individual differences and aptitudes and aim to cater as closely as possible to both the needs and strengths of our pupils. Class sizes are usually no larger than twenty children, and it is recognised that teachers, children and parents need to work in partnership if excellence is to be achieved. As well as ensuring the acquisition of speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills, the curriculum is designed to develop more widely and richly the academic, cultural, technological, physical, spiritual and moral understanding, abilities and identities of our pupils. All subjects support the School's commitment to the creation of a collaborative and mutually supportive community, as demonstrated through the pastoral system and assemblies, and taught explicitly in PSHCE.

The curriculum in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 is coordinated by the Head of Pre Prep. The Foundation Stage is based on the seven areas of learning and the early learning goals identified in the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.' These comprise: Prime Areas of Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Specific Areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. In Years 1 and 2, Literacy and Mathematics form the core of the curriculum and further areas of learning are introduced in a cross-curricular manner. Subject specialist teaching is provided in Physical Education, Spanish and Music.

In Years 3 and 4 subjects taught include English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Spanish, Computing, Engineering, Art & Design, Drama, Music, PSHCE, PE and Games, with specialist teaching provided in at least Computing, Engineering, PE, Spanish and Music. From Year 5 Classics is added to the curriculum, and grouping of children by ability starts. In Years 6 to 8 French is also taught, and a carousel of introductory language 'tasters' is included for all Year 8 pupils.

Heads of Departments lead teams of subject teachers and are responsible for the curriculum from Years 3 to 8. The Departments offer courses which prepare for future school entry and scholarship examinations at the age of 13. Subject syllabuses provide material appropriate to pupils' ages and abilities; teaching is varied and differentiated as necessary to provide appropriate learning opportunities to pupils whatever their ability or level of attainment. The Learning Support Department provides additional input for those who need it, including supporting any pupils with an Educational Health Care (EHC) plan. Implementation of a 'pyramid of opportunity' and the school-wide practice of top-down excellence ensure that challenge is generously ensured within and across

Departments. All pupils take part in enrichment activities. The requirements of the Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum are covered, and exceeded; for most pupils the standards reached at 13+ are well in advance of the national norms. Pupils' progress is monitored and assessed carefully throughout the school by the teaching staff, Heads of Departments, the Deputy Head Academic and the Director of Communications. Children are assessed in Reading, Spelling and Maths using standardised tests during Years 1 and 2, and standardised tests in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Reading and Maths in Year 3 to 6, and in Maths, Reading and Spelling up to Year 8. Internal examinations are taken in all academic subjects in Year 7. Written reports and Parent-Teacher Meetings enable parents to be informed regularly of their child's progress, and Tutors (Years F to 4) or Heads of Departments (Years 5 to 8) can supply parents with additional subject-specific information if needed.

Homework is an essential part of the curriculum. It helps to develop the ability to work independently and extends and enriches the work completed in the classroom. Parents' assistance is appreciated in providing a quiet environment in which their child may work and in helping their child where it is felt to be useful and appropriate. In the Pre Prep all pupils are expected to read regularly. From Foundation to Year 2, spelling homework is set and other homework is given varying in duration and frequency across the year according to the needs of the pupils. From Year 3, pupils are given a diary in which to record homework for each evening. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 are set homework of up to 30 minutes each day, which includes reading and the weekly learning of spellings and times tables. As the pupils progress through the school the amount of homework each week increases and a timetable is provided.

All subjects are taught in such a way as to encourage the development and flourishing of the whole person. Nonetheless, some subjects may be seen to contribute particularly strongly to certain areas of development:

- Linguistic: English, Spanish, French and Classics
- Mathematical: Mathematics, Science, Computing and Engineering
- Scientific: Science and Engineering
- Technological: Computing and Engineering
- Human and Social: Humanities, History, Geography, Religious Studies and PSHCE (including Careers education).
- Physical: Games and PE
- Aesthetic and creative: Art & Design, Music, Drama and English

The curriculum at St Faith's is planned to enable children to move strongly, confidently and happily forward, intellectually curious, morally and spiritually aware, thoughtfully tolerant, and aesthetically sensitive. Our aspiration is that children at St Faith's will learn to be of benefit to society in due time, wherever in the global community they find themselves.