**Curriculum Policy at Elworth CE Primary**

Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.
**Native American Saying**

**Aims and Objectives**

At Elworth CE we believe that the curriculum is a powerful tool that promotes a love of learning and willingness to explore and the time to have fun. We are proud to use the New National Curriculum as a starting point for a wide and varied learning experience for our children. We enrich it by our strong Christian ethos based on respect for ourselves and others, equality and a sense of wonder at the world we live in. We are committed to developing the whole child. Our children will have the opportunity to be creative, to be physically active and to be academically challenged.

Across our school the expectation is that all pupils are provided with high quality learning experiences that lead to consistently high levels of pupil achievement.

As a whole school staff we have updated our schemes of work to reflect the content and challenge of the New National Curriculum and our teachers have received training in the key areas of curriculum change and are ready to provide an outstanding curriculum for all pupils.

**New Curriculum Changes**

From September 2015 all children will be assessed without using the previous National Curriculum levels, in accordance with the New National Curriculum. Pupils within each year group will be assessed in relation to age-related expectations, where they will be graded as being at Emerging, Expected or Exceeding according to their individual achievements in English, Maths and Science. Other main changes are as follows:

* As of September 2015 there will be an accredited National base line in the Foundation Stage
* From September 2015 years 2 & 6 will be assessed on age –related levels as explained
* Year 2 & 6 will continue to sit externally marked tests in English (reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling) and Maths
* Writing will continue to be assessed by school staff with external moderation by the Local Authority on a random basis.
* Writing Assessments and SATs are reported to parents in July and nationally in the autumn term.

 From the start of the academic year 2014-15, years 1 to 5 will be taught the new curriculum. Years 2 and 6 continue their learning under the old curriculum as required by Government. However, within this, we have incorporated aspects of the new curriculum that we believe to be more challenging and, therefore, offering higher aspirations to our pupils. From September 2015 onwards, the New National Curriculum will be followed by all pupils.

**Content**

Compulsory subjects for Key Stages 1-2 are: English, Maths, Science, Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Languages (KS2 onwards), Geography, History, Music, RE, SMCS (Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social development)/British Values and Physical Education.

Within our curriculum aims to develop caring and responsible citizens who:

* are secure in their values and beliefs
* respect others
* recognise responsibilities as a global community
* have a sense of worth, purpose and personal identity
* are able to challenge justice
* make informed choices
* can handle conflict
* have enquiring minds
* can communicate well
* are able to learn independently and with others
* have essential learning skills in literacy, numeracy, science and ICT
* are creative and resourceful
* work co-operatively
* develop problem solving skills
* use and apply and transfer skills to differing situations
* are confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
* can relate to others and form good relationships
* know how to sustain and improve the environment and take into account the needs of present and future generations when making choices.

**Topic-led Learning**

Primarily, we teach through a topic-based, creative approach, making links across the subjects under each topic theme. Learning in all areas is differentiated, according to each child’s current attainment and potential ability with clear learning outcomes and success criteria. Occasionally, we move away from topic-based learning where we feel this will be beneficial. For example, in our daily maths teaching, we link to a topic only if it is appropriate to do so. We strive to provide a curriculum that motivates and challenges every pupil to achieve their best. We aim to provide an engaging curriculum through which children look forward to coming to school every day, celebrating their success and telling others of their experiences and learning.

Beyond the statutory requirements, we also provide opportunities for pupils to develop as part of a school community through representing the school through an elected School Council, Worship Council, House Captains, Prefects and Play Leaders. Elworth CE places great emphasis on the acquisition and development of the 5 Rs (Resilience, Reliability, Reflection, Resourcefulness and Readiness). We also offer many varied extended curriculum opportunities for our pupils, via extra-curricular clubs and activities run by staff and specialist teachers.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The Head Teacher, Subject Leaders/Class Teachers and Governing Body have overall responsibility for the curriculum. The Head Teacher and Subject Leaders are responsible for overseeing the delivery of the curriculum through:

* Regular formal and informal discussions with staff.
* Monitoring planning to ensure curriculum and key skills coverage.
* Carrying out book scrutiny alongside planning and to ensure cross-curricular links are optimised.
* Observing learning and teaching to ensure progress is being made within the topics.
* Regular reviews of the curriculum through pupil discussion and open dialogue.
* Making changes where necessary.
* Formulating an action plan to move the school forward.
* Speaking with the children about their learning.
* Sending out curriculum information to parents termly.

The Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher have the responsibility for the leadership of the curriculum and delegate responsibility to key staff:

* The Senior Leadership Team co-ordinate the work of the subject leaders and ensure that the curriculum demonstrates progression and appropriate coverage
* Class teachers ensure that the curriculum is taught and that the aims are achieved for their class. They plan collaboratively to ensure parity across the year groups
* The Assessment Manager/Assistant Head Teacher ensures that the progress of each pupil is tracked and that there is appropriate challenge support and intervention
* The Governors monitor the success of the curriculum at committee level, through regular meetings with Subject Leaders and at whole Governing Body meetings through the termly Head Teacher’s report

All teaching staff are responsible for the planning and delivery of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis and for making cross-curricular links where appropriate.

Staff make amendments to planning in order to optimise learning opportunities as they arise.

Teaching staff are encouraged to enthuse the children and broaden their experiences through the ‘WOW’ factor e.g. off-site visits, visitors into school and shared experiences of the wider school community. This works really well at the beginning of a topic but can be used anywhere.

Children’s achievements are celebrated regularly in the school through displays in classrooms and shared areas and in weekly assemblies where children are encouraged to share their success with the rest of the school.

**Inclusion**

We value the diversity of individuals within the school. All children have equal access to the curriculum and are treated fairly regardless of race, religion or ability.

Children learn best when they can see links and have reasons for learning. Our curriculum promotes enjoyment of learning through debate, creativity, purpose and relevance. We hope that pupils are motivated by achievement both now and in the future and have a positive attitude towards themselves, others and their environment.

**Monitoring and Evaluation and Assessment**

The SLT monitor the progression, continuity and effectiveness of the creative curriculum together with the governing body. Learning and Achievement Committee meetings are held regularly.

Assessment For Learning (AFL) is a key aspect and forms a large part of our daily teaching and we use this to inform next steps whilst working through a topic/theme.

**Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be monitored by the school’s Senior Leadership Team and the

Governors’ Learning and Achievement committee will evaluate the policy. It will be reviewed annually.

We are proud of our Creative Curriculum and are continually looking for new ways to improve/adapt it to provide our children with the best education possible. If you require further information regarding your child’s curriculum within a specific year group, please see the Class Pages and Policies section of our website or contact me if there is any extra information you may feel would be useful.

SM Mace May 2015