

Whole School Intent

The curriculum intends to promote Christian values

Clearwell CofE Primary school is a church school that prides itself on teaching Christian values throughout its curriculum and the wider life of school. As a church school, the children learn about Christian values, as well as those of other faiths, in order to prepare them as caring and considerate members of society. All values are nurtured and highlighted throughout all teaching and are fundamental to the children's attitudes towards learning. They help support a growth mindset and also help build relationships and attitudes beyond the curriculum. Periods of reflection and worship support learning attitudes and the ability for children to understand how Christian Values can aid learning new skills; acquiring new knowledge and supporting others to do the same.

Children are also given the opportunity to re-tell Bible stories in writing in RE lessons. In PSHE, they consider Christian values such as responsibility and respect and may record their understanding in writing.

The curriculum intends to be experience based

It is recognised that children start school with a wide range of different experiences. The curriculum is planned to extend and enhance these experiences. An in-depth knowledge of each child allows staff to plan individual programmes and experiences to fill in any gaps in developmental progress. Staff ensure children's learning, where possible, is based on hands-on experiences; meeting visitors who can inspire children and visiting places of interest which ensure children have first-hand experiences.

Within planning, we intend to incorporate opportunities for writing to be inspired by or to lead to an experience. Key to this is ensuring that children write for a purpose – possibly writing a letter or writing a recipe prior to cooking.

The curriculum intends to use technology to enhance learning

We recognise that in a society that relies so heavily on technology, we have a duty to prepare our pupils to operate effectively and safely in the modern world. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about how technology can be used to enhance learning and awaken interest in the possibilities that exist now and those that might follow in the future.

The use of devices to publish written work is encouraged when it is appropriate to do so. Consideration of when this should be used is discussed with pupils.

The curriculum intends to raise self-esteem and self-confidence

Throughout all aspects of school life staff promote a can-do attitude and celebrate the successes, resilience, perseverance and progress of all children. This is particularly apparent at Clearwell as, due to our small numbers, all children are given the opportunity to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence. Clearwell recognises the opportunities that small school teaching can provide and promotes mixed age learning to support and challenge all pupils. The curriculum is structured to provide the children with the

Writing

Curriculum Intent



opportunity to experience their full entitlement in a supportive environment that celebrates perseverance and resilience to challenge. We recognise that some children may need support to maintain their well-being and we will seek to do this in a nurturing and positive learning environment.

Sharing and evaluating children's written work during the drafting stage and when published allows children's written work to be celebrated.

The curriculum focusses on the core skills of Reading, Writing and Maths

Staff recognise that for children to succeed beyond the classroom the skills of reading, writing and maths are crucial. Children start school with a range of levels of understanding and development for their age group. The school recognises some children will need extra support in order to close these gaps. Staff work closely with parents and carers to help children succeed.

The curriculum has a clearly mapped out progression of skills and knowledge

Staff recognise that in order for children to learn effectively, it is important that the taught curriculum is carefully mapped out. The rolling programme of three and four-year curriculum cycles allow children to acquire and develop these skills, revisiting them and reinforcing them continually. This ensures that long term acquisition of skills and knowledge is embedded. Each curriculum area has been considered to ensure that the benefits of mixed age teaching can be maximised whilst still providing adequate challenge and progression within each key phase of primary education.

Within the writing curriculum, the three elements of transcription, composition and handwriting have clearly defined expectations for all phases (end of infants, LKS2 and UKS2). This is detailed in the Progression document.

The curriculum has a focus on developing Speech and Language

Some children enter school with Speech and Language development below the expected level. As such, staff tailor the curriculum to prioritise this aspect and utilise opportunities both within formal and informal learning. From the first weeks at Clearwell, children are encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills through performance, stories, singing, rhymes and role play. The unique set up of multi-age classes means that the children have role models to imitate and learn from. The development of oracy skills is key in developing the ability to communicate in writing.

Before transcribing, there is a strong emphasis on articulating thoughts and feelings verbally. Talk for Writing is a key part of the writing process when planning a written piece and also when pupils evaluate and review each other's work before reviewing and editing takes place. Once complete, pupils are given opportunities to read their work aloud using appropriate prosody to enhance its meaning.