



Learning, Teaching and the Curriculum at St. Christopher's CEVC Primary School



Learning and teaching is at the heart of St. Christopher's CE Primary School. We aim to develop a love for learning within a creative curriculum where every individual is valued for his/her unique contribution. We wish to provide pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to become critical thinkers, ready to embrace local and global challenges. Learning in our school is a collaborative process between adults and children; between school and home. Assessment for learning lies at the heart of this process.

Our Learning Values:

In our school we ...

- Provide children with a high quality education; Christian values and ethos are at the heart of the school
- Develop every child's full potential and strive for the achievements of high standards
- Provide a safe, welcoming environment where everyone feels valued
- Nurture the personal, social and spiritual development of individuals into caring and responsible people
- Encourage good behaviour within a framework of mutual trust and respect
- Promote independence, encouraging children to take responsibility for their learning and behaviour
- Promote strong links between school, home and community
- Play a full and developing role in the local and extended community
- Inspire everyone to develop intellectually, physically and creatively
- Ensure that all children have equal access to broad, relevant and stimulating teaching and learning opportunities
- Have challenging but realistic expectations of each child
- Develop open and enquiring minds

Curriculum and Assessment

The curriculum at St. Christopher's CEVC Primary School gives children opportunities to learn, develop and master new skills which make them successful and confident learners. We aim to make it inspiring, stimulating and fun, mixing a rich cross curricular approach with the discrete teaching of specialist subjects such as computing, music and physical education. A range of enrichment opportunities are provided to broaden the learning of children such as trips, special curriculum days and inspirational visitors. Our curriculum is underpinned by high quality teaching delivered through a range of styles aimed at developing their curiosity, questioning skills and independence. Children are encouraged to develop their learning 'powers' and muscles. More information on how your child may be learning like 'Susie Spider' or 'Tommy Tortoise' can be found on this link. ([Building Powerful Learners at St. Christopher's Primary School](#)).

Teaching meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, the National Curriculum 2014 and the agreed local syllabus for Religious Education.

To find out more about the National Curriculum please click here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4/the-national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>

Below are the curriculum maps for the year, showing the breadth of learning the children will experience and the topics they will be covering. These include maps for each year group as well as overviews for each curriculum subject showing the how the skills the children learn progress from year to year. Termly curriculum newsletters are provided, giving more detail on what the children will be learning, and other information about activities and how learning can be supported at home. These can be found on the class pages.

These are aimed at giving a broad overview of what the children are learning and when however if there are any further questions, class teachers will be happy to help.

Curriculum Maps 2014-2015

By Year Group

- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year Five
- Year Six

By subject

- Suffolk County Council Progression of skills in writing – Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation
- Suffolk County Council - National Curriculum progression of skills in phonics and spelling – Key Stage 1
- Suffolk County Council – National Curriculum progression of skills in spelling – Key Stage 2
- St. Christopher’s Primary School Calculations Policy
- Long term plan - Science
- Long term plan – Religious Education
- Long term plan – History
- Long term plan - Geography
- Long term plan - Computing
- Long term plan - Design and Technology
- Long term plan - Art
- Long term plan - Music
- Long term plan - Physical Education
- Long term plan - P.S.H.C. E.
- Long term plan – Modern Foreign Languages (French)

Reading at St. Christopher’s

Our aim at St. Christopher’s Primary School is for all children to become fluent, confident readers with a passion for reading. Engaging texts are used with the whole class across the school, from Reception to Year 6 so the children become enthusiastic about reading; enhance and develop their vocabulary; recognise the range of opportunities being a reader gives them; and inspires them in their writing. We aim to teach reading to children through phonics, using pictorial clues and through their understanding of the text they are reading. Throughout the school we use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme to support the teaching of reading as well as enriching children’s reading experiences with a range of ‘real books’. Children are heard to read on a one to one basis, in small groups and sometimes in KS2, alongside the whole class.

All classes from Year One upwards participate daily in **Guided Reading**. During guided reading, children learn in small groups with other children who are working at a similar level text. Children work with the class teacher at least once a week and are taught a range of reading skills and how to interpret text. They are encouraged to share their opinions on a text, make predictions, and develop their vocabulary. When the children are not working with an adult, they participate in carefully planned and prepared activities which build on the work undertaken with the adult.

Across the school different classes use a range of reward systems and **‘Reading Challenges’** where children are awarded points for reading at home and this reading being recorded in their Reading Diary. It is important children are heard to read **at least** three times a week, whatever their level of reading. (See [homework policy](#)).

More useful information about Reading

- [Phonics at St. Christopher's booklet.](#)
- [Reading at St. Christopher's.](#)
- [Recommended Reading list.](#)

Writing at St. Christopher's Primary School

The use of engaging, relevant and high quality texts is central to our writing curriculum. These act as stimuli for children to develop and explore their writing skills. Children write for purpose wherever possible, on a theme linked to the half termly topic. Opportunities for writing across all subjects are actively planned for and the importance of quality writing in all areas is stressed. Teachers model how to plan, draft, rehearse and edit texts, using Pie Corbett's 'Talk for Writing' strategies which preparing them to write confidently, ambitiously and make choices as a writer. Children are provided with a range of ways to practice these skills and also with opportunities to write independently and at length, on a regular basis. Children learn how to debate and present: to reason and justify their answers. Grammar is integrated into our English curriculum and is taught discretely and in context.

More useful information about writing

- [Suffolk County Council Progression of skills in writing – Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation](#)

Phonics

We strive to ensure all children become fluent and enthusiastic readers by the end of Key Stage One. Phonics is the beginning of the body of knowledge, skills and understanding that are an essential part of how children learn to read and write. To ensure a consistent approach to learning, the DfE Letters and Sounds Scheme is followed.

Spelling

Following the Letters and Sounds phases, year groups follow the 'Support for Spelling' guidance from the DfE. From Reception, children are encouraged to use their knowledge of the sounds (phonics) to spell (encode) and read (decode) regular words. Children are taught a range of spelling strategies to make them independent and have access to a range of resources in the classroom to support them with their spelling, including personal word logs or dictionaries, word banks and sound and spelling mats. In order to develop their understanding and consolidate their knowledge of the spelling rules and strategies weekly spelling homework is provided. This may be in the form of a list to learn and be but will frequently be a spelling challenge or activity. ([See Homework policy](#)).

More useful information about spelling

- [Suffolk County Council - National Curriculum progression of skills in phonics and spelling – Key Stage 1](#)
- [Suffolk County Council – National Curriculum progression of skills in spelling – Key Stage 2](#)

Handwriting

At St. Christopher's, joined up handwriting is taught with a sequential and progressive approach. We believe that children's self-esteem and pride in their work can be raised by good quality presentation.

Cambridge Pen Pals handwriting scheme is used throughout school, ensuring there is a continuity and progression across classes. Handwriting is taught alongside phonics and spelling on a regular weekly basis as a class, in all year groups and teachers and learning support staff model the handwriting style.

Mathematics at St. Christopher's Primary School

At St. Christopher's Primary School the 2014 National Curriculum for Maths is followed. Materials and resources from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) are used in planning, to support progression across the school.

Children are taught basic skills which are then developed through applying them in real life contexts, investigations and problem solving situations.

Talking about Maths and using correct mathematical vocabulary is a major focus. Each class room has a 'Learning Wall' on which key vocabulary is displayed in order to reinforce and support the development of Maths vocabulary. Also reasoning and talk opportunities are planned into each lesson when 'talking like a mathematician' is encouraged.

Regular maths homework is sent home in order to support the learning children are doing in class. ([See Homework policy](#)). Teachers recognise that maths is taught very differently to the way many parents were taught and so parents are welcomed and encouraged to seek advice. A maths calculation afternoon is planned yearly for parents when they are invited to come into school, work alongside their child and discover how children learn about maths now.

A parent's leaflet on how to support child at home with maths and copies of the Calculation Policy are available through the school office or on the links below. We welcome visits to Numeracy lessons (by appointment) and have also created parent's leaflets explaining the written calculations that we use at school so that you can help to support your child further. As always, class teachers are on hand to support you with supporting your child.

More useful information about maths

- [St. Christopher's Primary School Calculations Policy](#)
- [How to support your more able child in maths](#)

Early Years Foundation Stage at St. Christopher's Primary School

At St. Christopher's, pupils in our Reception Classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. (<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00213120/eyfs-statutory-framework>)

This curriculum is play based, and involves children self-selecting activities, whole class activities and small adult led activities by the teachers and support staff. Adults very carefully observe the children and plan progress for each of them by intervening in play and also planning targeted teaching to move learning forward.

Government guidance called Letters and Sounds is used to help teachers plan progression in phonic skills. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

- [EYFS Curriculum map](#)

Curriculum Enrichment at St. Christopher's.

At St. Christopher's we believe it is important for children to experience a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom, broadening and enriching the curriculum. Trips, visits, inspirational visitors and Special Days play an important part in children's learning and development. During their time at St. Christopher's all children will have the opportunity to take part in a number of enrichment activities, at school, within the local community, and further afield.

- [Curriculum enrichment experiences map – Whole school](#)

Due the importance placed on trips and other enrichment experiences, all children are encouraged to join in we are able to offer support in cases of financial difficulty. Parents are encouraged to speak to Mrs. Lucy Smythe, School Business Manager, in complete confidence, about help with paying for trips.