

Catch Up Curriculum Strategy



St Catherine's Catholic Academy

September 2021

Our Mission is to behave in the way Jesus taught us. He said "I have set you an example: that you learn that you are all equal, that the Master is no more important than the servant, and that you should behave kindly and humbly towards each other."

At St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, we are absolutely determined that no child's education will suffer as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Wellness

Since the children returned to school following lockdown, we have focused upon their wellbeing and physical health. We have taught the children about how to keep safe and our new rules to do this, and prioritised activities to allow them to reflect on their time since we last met.

The intention has been to allow children to express themselves fully, to help teachers recognise any areas of concern, and to easily identify necessary support, if required.

We fully understand that children may need some time to settle down and become used to school routines as some of them had not been in school since March 2020, but children are often more resilient than we think. Over 450 children returned to St Catherine's in September; they settled brilliantly, are happy and are already working hard in RE, Phonics, Maths, English, Science, Computing and PE.

Academic Curriculum

We recognise that children will have accessed varying amounts of the school's remote learning offer during lockdown. Children in all year groups may have missed out on parts of the curriculum, so our initial task was to assess children's learning. What gaps, if any, do they demonstrate in their learning? What key skills and knowledge do they not have from the previous terms curriculum? What do they know and remember? What do they need to work on in order to progress their learning? What is the crucial knowledge that we need to build into our planning for this term and beyond?

Our approach has been to begin by focusing upon the core subjects first – to build up a timetable around the introduction of these subjects. Careful plans have been made by Senior Leaders on bespoke approaches based upon what our children need. This has been based on Quality First Teaching and Small Group Interventions led by staff in school.

It is important to recognise that each subject's catch up curriculum is different because the national curriculum is written in different ways depending on the subject. Some subjects are written for year groups and others are to be covered in upper or lower key stages (i.e. year 3/4 and year 5/6). Some subjects have a statement for elements that need to be covered over a key stage. Some knowledge, skills and understanding will be essential for next step learning and therefore will need to be taught prior to a new element in a new year group. Some key elements will be revisited as part of the subject's focus.

Overall Strategy Area	Specific Strategies
Teaching and whole-school strategies	Supporting great teaching. Pupil assessment and feedback. Transition support.
Targeted approaches	One to one and small group tuition. Intervention programmes. Extended school time for targeted pupils.
Wider strategies	Supporting parents and carers. Access to technology. Summer support.

Wider Foundation Curriculum Subjects

We have rapidly progressed to covering most, if not all, of the subjects in the first half term. We believe that children should continue to receive a full education and will do our utmost to keep it broad and balanced.

Regular Reviews

As part of our catch up curriculum, we have built-in regular opportunities to monitor and review how things are going which will inform our medium and long term plans. This is done through Pupil Performance Reviews and meeting with those leading the Catch Up Curriculum alongside teachers.

Catch Up Funding

The government have pledged additional money to support us in plugging any Coronavirus related gaps. This is based on assessments for the children and areas of need are prioritised. This is reviewed regularly and shared with Governors on a timely basis.