

## **St Bart's Curriculum Vision Statements**

### Performing Arts

The Performing Arts are of vital importance. We need music, art and movement in our communities and in our lives, we need the moments of being together, whether that's in practice or performance. These moments make us feel human, feel special, feel connected. Humans have been making music for thousands of years. Singing and performing bonds people together, exercises a range of muscles, makes you feel happy and it's fun! The camaraderie of communal performance is of benefit to all children and all humans, this is why everyone enjoys singing en masse at football matches and religious gatherings and dancing at parties, with no thought of their own ability! You don't get the same feeling when singing along or dancing to a recording! We also believe music and performance and especially singing, and dance is good for your health. It lifts the spirits, it can improve self-esteem, confidence, fitness and discipline, help with team building and provide a sense of worth and achievement. We believe that music, drama, and dance is not just an optional extra, something that is not high priority and doesn't matter as much as other subjects. The Performing Arts is a subject that is sometimes only offered to children who have the time and inclination. This should not be the case. Children have a right to good quality Performing Arts education, and we believe that an exciting curriculum should create memories for the children for years to come. This is why we are committed to make The Performing Arts an integral and vital part of life at St Bart's for all our children.

### Phonics

At St Bartholomew's, we believe that all of our children can become fluent readers and writers. It is essential that our approach to teaching phonics and reading is accessible to all learners, regardless of background. Therefore, we teach reading through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Early Years, and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school. As a result, our children are able to tackle unfamiliar words as they read. At St Bart's, we model the application of the alphabetic code in shared reading and writing, both inside and outside the phonics lesson and across the curriculum. We have a strong focus on language development for our children because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.

### Reading

Our rigorous phonics programme ensures that by the time a child leaves our school, they read confidently for meaning and regularly enjoy reading for pleasure. From Early Years, right up to Year 6, children are immersed in high quality texts which equip our readers with the tools to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary. We value reading for pleasure highly and work hard as a school to grow the children's love of reading. We do this by reading to the children every day, in a variety of ways, such as: the reading of class novels, whole class reading, small groups, and the children sharing books together. The books we utilise are carefully chosen. We want children to experience a wide range of text

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types, including books that reflect the children at St Bartholomew's and our local community, as well as books that open windows into other worlds and cultures.

### Writing

At St Bart's, we aim to give our children a writing curriculum which enables them to become confident, creative and independent writers who are well able to articulate their own ideas. We support our children to develop transferable skills which they can use across the wider curriculum and throughout their lives. We use educational visits, high quality literature, film, art and music as stimuli for writing, which links learning to real life experience and provides a contextualised, meaningful curriculum. Our writers leave with a strong independent writer's voice and the technical skills necessary to communicate clearly in the modern world.

### Maths

Mathematics is at the core of the curriculum on offer at St. Bartholomew's and each year we strive to create the next generation of mathematicians. The basic skills of maths are fundamental, and this is instilled in our pupils from a young age. Through constant revisiting and relearning of key concepts, our pupils practise key skills on a daily basis so that they are fluent in mathematical concepts. Our aim is for our pupils to think mathematically, enabling them to work independently, solve problems and reason in different contexts. Thus, by the end of Year 6, we strive to ensure our pupils leave St. Bartholomew's with a detailed and broad understanding of mathematics, fully preparing them for the next stage in their education.

### Science

Our science curriculum at St. Bartholomew's Primary School has been developed as a practical, stimulating, and exciting subject, which fosters the children's natural curiosity of the world around them. It promotes respect for living and non-living things. Staff at St. Bartholomew's have a shared understanding of the importance and value of science. Our curriculum provides a continuing, progressive journey throughout the school, allowing children to develop a variety of skills and knowledge, giving them the foundations to explore and understand the science around them. We actively encourage every child to contribute to lessons and build on their prior knowledge. We ensure that the working scientifically skills are built-on and developed throughout children's time at school so that they can apply their knowledge of science when using equipment, conducting experiments, building arguments and explaining concepts confidently and continue to ask questions and be curious about their surroundings. We investigate the impact of significant scientists, and explore how scientific discoveries have shaped the beliefs, cultures, and politics of the modern world. Our aim is to give children the enthusiasm to explore, and the confidence to question, discuss and investigate the scientific world around them.

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### History

Our history curriculum aims to ignite children's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Through finding out about how and why the world, our country and local community have developed over time, children understand how the past influences the present. At St Bartholomew's, we have developed a progressive, language-rich curriculum, enabling children to grow their knowledge, skills and confidence. Through the study of history, pupils develop and embed a wide range of critical thinking skills which enable them to distinguish between subjectivity and the truth, as well as develop and argue their own judgement about the past. Our exciting curriculum provides all learners with the opportunity to ask and answer questions while building their own confidence to research and analyse a range of historical evidence. We provide opportunities for children to explore both connections and contrasts. This is reinforced by educational trips. By providing hands on experiences, children are enthused and engaged as in-class learning comes to life. Our history curriculum provides ample opportunities to work collaboratively, spark debate, (within the safe space of the classroom), and draw connections across other curriculum areas. This helps our children to become skilled historians.

### Geography

Geography can inspire children to think about their place in the world, their values and their rights and responsibilities to other people and to the environment. Through a rich and stimulating curriculum, children can develop life skills which will shape their thinking, not just about their local environment but about the wider world. At St Bartholomew's, we aim to develop children's curiosity in their surroundings, as well as inspire them to care and consider the world around them with courageous advocacy. We provide opportunities for children to undertake geographical enquiry and develop skills, whilst investigating and expressing their own views.

### Computing

At St. Bartholomew's, our computing curriculum reflects today's modern technology-centred lifestyle and society. It is essential to us that our pupils gain confidence and independence, preparing them for a constantly changing and evolving technological world. Our curriculum is progressive and taught from EYFS through to Year 6, where key skills are built upon at a deeper level each year. E-safety is at the core of our computing framework, and this is explored both in the classroom and in the computer suite. Through discussion-based learning, our pupils are able to share their own experiences with technology outside of school in a safe, supportive learning environment. Pupils throughout the school visit the computer suite once a week, and also have access to iPads and laptops in the classroom. Staff at St. Bartholomew's are highly passionate about computing and ensure that, where possible, cross-curricular links are made allowing our children can apply their computing skills in other subjects.

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### MFL (Spanish)

At St Bartholomew's, we want every pupil to move onto secondary education with a rich experience of language learning, built upon enjoyment, confidence and resilience. Our curriculum resources equip children to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of sources. As our pupils move through the school, they refine their understanding of Spanish vocabulary, language forms and structures through engaging lessons and a variety of resources. Pupils will learn to Spanish speak with increasing confidence, enabling them to communicate what they want to say through discussions and asking questions. As children move into upper Key Stage 2, the focus on reading and writing increases, giving children the opportunity to practise writing at varying length. We aim for the children to experience the awe and wonder of understanding and communicating in a language other than English. A firm foundation in a modern foreign language helps prepare our pupils for life in a world where many languages are spoken.

### Music

We believe that studying music improves children's IQ. It nourishes general faculties such as memory and co-ordination as well as encouraging self-discipline. Recent research points out, that thanks to the brain's ability to 'rewire' itself, musical training sharpens our sensitivity to pitch, timing and timbre. As a result, our capacity to discern emotional intonation in speech and to learn foreign languages improves. Studying music can open the door to a life-long appreciation of the arts. In essence, music makes the world better!

### PSHE

St Bartholomew's is a nurturing environment in which each child is encouraged to reach their full potential. As a school, we believe that children are all individuals and, therefore, we aim to encourage mutual respect, responsibility and foster a positive self-image in a happy and caring atmosphere. The teaching and learning of PSHE supports and upholds our ethos and vision. PSHE deals with the diverse beliefs, values and attitudes that individuals and societies hold. They help pupils to develop themselves, their understanding of the world, and their ability to communicate their feelings. PSHE helps children to acquire British values and attitudes which are necessary if they are to make sense of their experiences within school and life itself, value themselves, respect others, appreciate differences and diversity, and feel confident and informed as a citizen of the world. We aim for every child to be enabled to reflect on and clarify their own values, attitudes and feelings, by exploring those of others. This will equip them in their own lives and for their future. By linking our scheme to our core values, we aim to instil a sense of purpose, deep-rooted with humility, determination and excellence, so that our children can grow to be confident and well-equipped members of society.

### Physical Education

Physical Education at St Bart's strives to provide children with a solid foundation of basic movement (including fine and gross motor skills) and simple sport-specific skills, ensuring that all children are confident and competent in trying

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new sports, whatever they may be. Our approach to physical education provides a vital contribution to every child's physical, social and emotional wellbeing. With a low entry, high threshold approach to PE lessons, we make physical education accessible to all children. We have adopted a four-corner approach to the delivery of PE lessons, considering the technical, social and psychological outcomes, as well as the physical ones. A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used and applied in lessons, through a balance of individual, paired and group activities. This provides the children with a PE curriculum that inspires them to work creatively, problem solve and communicate, manage risk and avoid conflict. It also encourages children to continually evaluate their own performance and share feedback with their peers. We endeavour to use physical education as a foundation, where children can build a positive relationship with sport and exercise, establish lifelong friendships, develop intrinsic emotional regulation, and create memories that will last a lifetime. By developing basic movement and simple sports skills, children can develop a passion for sport and begin to participate in after-school clubs and competitive fixtures. This further supports their development of skills, confidence, and motivation - leading to more regular physical activity outside of school. In turn, children learn their own worth, and the value that physical education can play in helping maintain good social, emotional and mental health - living a life with greater fulfilment.