



**Mark First**  
C of E Academy

## Curriculum Intent

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values to which we aspire. These are the main values of our school, upon which we have based our curriculum:

**We create a love of learning where everyone is respected and encouraged to reach their full potential.**



We value the way in which all children are unique, and our curriculum promotes **respect** for the views of each individual child, as well as for people of all cultures. We value the spiritual and moral development of each person, as well as their intellectual and physical growth.

We value the importance of each person in our community. We organise our curriculum so that we promote co-operation and understanding between all members of our community whilst encouraging excellence and enjoyment.

We value the rights of each person in our society. We respect each child in our school for who they are, and we treat them with fairness and honesty. We aim to enable each person to be successful, and we provide equal opportunities for all the children in our school.

We value our environment, and we aim, through our curriculum, to teach respect for our world, and how we should care for it for future generations, as well as our own.

We value and encourage our children to reach their full potential through a stimulating environment that provides challenging learning opportunities for all.

All staff at Mark First School understand the importance of having high expectations of themselves and of all children to ensure that they can reach their full potential. Quality First Teaching by all adults is key to enabling children to be the best they can be in all aspects of school life. We intend that the percentage of children attaining the expected and higher standard at the end of each year, is at least in line with national attainment as well as progress measures being above average for all pupils, and that of specific groups. We do not place a ceiling on the potential of any child based on their prior learning, but aim to support, challenge and nurture, so that their full potential can be reached.

Our overarching aim, and central to our vision, is to ensure that all children have CREATE (Courage, Respect, Enthusiasm, Aspiration, Trust and Empathy) and we compliment this with the teaching of termly values, alongside British Values, in class as well as through focused Collective Worships.

We plan our themed knowledge based curriculum in three phases. We have agreed long-term plans for both the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. These indicate what parts of the programmes of study are to be taught in each term, and to which groups of children. We review our long-term plan on an on-going basis and as is required by changes in national or local guidance or by legislation.

With our medium-term plans, we give clear guidance on the objectives that we use when teaching each unit of work. We use the Somerset Agreed Syllabus and supporting guidance to teach Religious Education.

We are developing skills and knowledge progress trackers to ensure a balance to the teaching of all subjects and clear progression from one year group to another.

Our short-term plans are those that our teachers write on a weekly basis. Teachers plan weekly. We use these short term plans to set out the learning objectives for each subject or area of study, and to identify what resources and activities we are going to use in the lessons. We use some material from purchased schemes to support short term planning.

In the Foundation Stage we adopt an inter-disciplinary topic approach to curriculum planning. We plan the curriculum carefully, so that there is coherence and full coverage of all aspects of the Early Learning Goals. Through detailed joint planning with the on-site Pre-school, there is planned progression across the full Foundation Stage. (See Foundation Stage policy and planning).

At Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 the curriculum in our school places a great emphasis on the core subjects, particularly English, Mathematics and Science. This is reflected in our time allocations for English and the other core subjects of Mathematics, Science, ICT and RE. However, we do provide a broad and balanced curriculum through high quality teaching in the foundation subjects and in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship. We have a topic based 'Curriculum Map' for the non-core subjects to develop children's skills, enjoyment and achievement in all curriculum areas. Our aim is to teach all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Somerset Agreed Syllabus for RE in a relevant, interesting, dynamic and cohesive manner.