

# *The Curriculum at Cheadle Catholic Infant School.*

## *Our Mission*



## **Love • Respect • Shine**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we **love** and **respect** each other.  
We **love** to learn and let our inner light **shine** brightly in all that we do.

## Intention

Through our curriculum intent it is our ambition that:

*Children will know more, remember more and do more, leading to high academic success.*

Cheadle Catholic Infant School's curriculum is closely designed around our school mission statement and has been developed to support the needs of the child as a whole. We believe it is important that children encounter important ideas and concepts in an age appropriate way. Our Curriculum is carefully designed to make sure that the concepts the children are introduced to set them up for success throughout our school and into Key Stage 2.



### **Curriculum Aims:**

Our Curriculum is a knowledge- based curriculum. We make sure that teaching is geared towards learning key knowledge as its main objective. We do this through **enquiry led learning**. Enquiry led learning provides learners with **key questions** that are too big to answer in one go but not so conceptually large that our learners do not understand. Enquiry led learning emphasises a pupil's role in the learning process and asks them to engage with the idea or the topic in an active way, instead of sitting and listening. This learning approach is all about asking questions and being curious.

Teachers ensure that by the end of the topic, or unit of work, all of the key knowledge planned for has been learnt by the pupils.

**Our knowledge led approach ensures that pupils will master subject-specific knowledge and become 'fluent' in that knowledge. Pupils will then develop skills as an outcome of the curriculum.**

### **A knowledge rich curriculum at Cheadle Catholic Infant School;**

- **Places powerful knowledge at the heart of the curriculum**
- **Has carefully chosen content**
- **Is organised in a coherent way, ensuring it builds from year to year**
- **Is cumulative, constructing firm foundations from which children can build conceptual understanding and skills over time**
- **Is an entitlement for every child, regardless of background**
- **Is coherent and ensures that teaching does not jump from topic to topic, but enables children to develop knowledge and a love of learning**

Our Curriculum aims are based around our three core values:

### **Love:**

Cheadle Catholic Infant School provides the opportunity for our families to love and be loved:  
*'We love because He first loved us.'*

**1 John 4: 19**

**We do this by:**

- Creating a caring Catholic community in which all members can grow in love, trust and respect for one another.
- Providing a curriculum and learning environment where every child feels loved, safe and cared for.
- Providing a curriculum and learning environment where every child loves to come to school and loves to learn.
- Providing opportunities for children to show love for each other and God's world.
- Promoting a positive attitude towards learning.
- Ensuring equal access to learning for all pupils, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support.

## Respect:

Cheadle Catholic Infant School ensures that all children, families and stakeholders are respected and valued.

### We do this by:

- Ensuring that each member of our Catholic school community feels special and is given the opportunity to shine as a child of God.
- Providing a happy, safe school where everyone is respected and listened to.
- Providing a curriculum where children are encouraged to develop mutual respect and tolerance for each other.
- Encouraging children to challenge any discriminatory behaviour.
- Celebrating and rejoicing in our similarities and differences.
- Developing children's self-respect and encouraging children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others.
- Showing respect for all cultures and, in so doing, promoting positive attitudes towards other people.
- Enabling children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of a community.
- Helping children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

## Shine:

Cheadle Catholic Infant School encourages all children to 'shine' and achieve in all that they do.

### We do this by:

- Providing a curriculum will provide secure foundations for future learning.
- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum which enables children to fully develop their talents, gifts and skills.
- Enabling children to become confident, successful, enquiring and independent learners.
- Fostering children's self-esteem and helping them build positive relationships with other people.
- Having high expectations of every child and member of staff in school.
- Ensuring that our curriculum provides opportunities for our children to become confident, resilient and independent learners.

- Regularly celebrating the talents and achievements of all of our children.
- Supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Supporting pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enabling them to be active.
- Equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.
- Providing opportunities for our children to develop the skills that will help them to succeed in life.

## *Implementation and Impact*

### **Curriculum Overview:**

We are committed to promoting a 'CAN DO' attitude to all aspects of school life for ALL of our children. We build on existing strengths while bridging gaps to create firm foundations for future learning.

Curriculum overviews and schemes of work identify key end points based on the National Curriculum for EYFS and KS1, as well as identifying the progression of knowledge taught across the year groups. There is a strong focus on revisiting and building on prior knowledge within subjects. Half termly curriculum maps, displayed in year group areas identify the key knowledge across the subjects. This is shared with children and revisited across the half term.

Topics are enriched by meaningful opportunities including visits, workshops, visitors and inspirational role models wherever possible. A range of approaches help children to recall, retain and secure learning. Approaches include:

- Drama: **DEAL**:(Drama, Engagement, Active Learning). This approach ensures that our children are active in their learning. It ignites curiosity, provokes enquiry, demands critical thinking providing opportunities for cooperative and collaborative learning
- Tales Toolkit
- Collaborative opportunities such as 'flat chat' and talk partner work
- Self and peer assessment
- 'Can you still?'
- Enquiry triangles (I see, I think, I wonder)
- History Mystery boxes
- Recall quizzes
- Introduce new learning including new vocabulary - 'my turn, your turn.'
- 'Sticky learning' - rhymes, gestures and songs, school trips and workshops,
- Recording of new learning in a variety of ways
- Mini plenaries

Our 'language rich' approach includes use of high quality texts, extensive reading across the curriculum and whole school approaches to the acquisition and use of subject and wider vocabulary

## **Religious Education.**

Under the guidance of Bishop Mark we follow the Religious Education programme of “The Way, The Truth and The Life”. We develop spirituality in our community through:-

- Daily prayer and worship in class and in assemblies
- Liturgies
- The sacramental programme
- Sharing and exploring the gospels
- Care and respect for others both inside our school and parish communities and beyond

We aspire to relate the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Church to the everyday experiences of our children, thus making our school a setting for living, sharing and celebrating our Catholic faith. We place as much importance on the delivery of RE as that of English and Maths and apply the same rigorous standards and expectations in teaching and learning.

## **National Curriculum:**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, we seek to create opportunities for children to experience and excel in a range of activities that enhance and extend the National Curriculum. Children have opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, through themed weeks, whole school activities, and opportunities within and outside school which enrich and develop their learning. The outdoor environment and the local community are considered an opportunity for active learning for all our pupils.



## **Early Years Foundation Stage**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, we want our EYFS children to learn through an exciting and stimulation curriculum which enables a child to develop from their own starting points but reach their full potential. We use a balance of whole class teaching, independent challenges and structured play. Outdoor learning provides opportunities for collaborative learning, exploration and problem solving.

There are seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication & Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design

## **Reading:**

***‘The more you read, the better you’re going to become as a storyteller.’***

Stan Lee, Marvel Comics

***‘The more you read, the more you know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go,’***

Dr Seuss

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we encourage children to become resilient readers and confident communicators and reading is prioritised to enable all children to access the curriculum.

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want all children to **love** reading and to want to read.

### **Reading For Pleasure:**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we acknowledge that one of the most crucial ways of encouraging children to engage in reading and adopt it as a life long habit is for children to know that it is fun. Therefore, we have chosen to promote ‘reading for pleasure’ at every given opportunity. Throughout the year, children will be given regular opportunities to develop a love of reading such as; listen to books all the way through without interruption, discover new authors and illustrators, share their own favourite books, share books with their parents, see adults enjoying reading as a pleasurable experience, visit the school library, develop their own sense of what they enjoy in a book, dress up, ‘Drop Everything And Read’ and make positive associations between reading books and enjoying themselves. In doing so, we are giving the children the clear message that reading is fun, it is for everyone and it is something that they want to do.

As Mem Fox famously said

***“When I say to parents ‘Read to a child’, I don’t want it to sound like medicine, I want it to sound like chocolate”***

In the same way, we want reading for all of our children to sound like chocolate, not medicine.

Mrs Nelson is our School Librarian. She plans regular and exciting reading challenges, promotes new authors and supports teachers in the teaching of reading in our school. She also organises our school library. We subscribe to the Cheshire Library Service which allows us to borrow new, exciting books to keep the books in our classroom fresh and make sure that we can cater to all tastes- fiction, picture books, chapter books, non-fiction, poetry- and engage all children.

We are proud to have been awarded the;

**‘Farshore Reading for Pleasure Whole School Award 2022.’**

[https://twitter.com/OpenUni\\_RfP](https://twitter.com/OpenUni_RfP)

### **Phonics:**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, we use Read Write Inc as our phonics/ reading scheme.

Read, Write Inc is a phonics programme. It teaches children how to both decode and understand written language to become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers. This is achieved by a dynamic approach to teaching phonics that is consistent across the school using the Read, Write Inc phonics resources and fully decodable reading books.

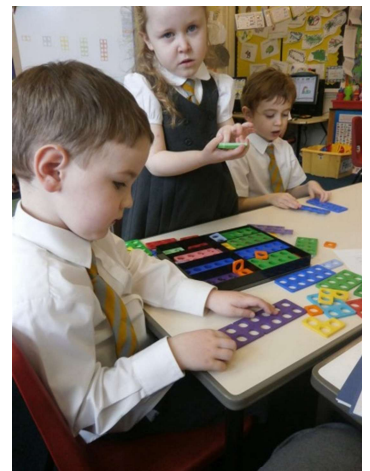
Children are grouped according to their ability in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to ensure that teaching is matched to their level. Phonics in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 takes place on a daily basis.

### **Writing:**

We teach writing using a range of quality fiction and non-fiction texts which link to topic areas. We aim to create purposeful writing opportunities across the Curriculum.

### **Mathematics**

We follow the White Rose Hub Scheme of Learning. All Lessons encourage children to explore concepts and develop their understanding through the manipulation of concrete resources and then apply this knowledge in problem solving and reasoning activities. We also use 'Maths of the Day' as a way of engaging the children in their maths outside of the classroom. We are part of the NW Maths Hub and are part of the 2021 'Mastery of Number' project.



### **Foundation Subjects**

We pride ourselves on the breadth of our curriculum and we strive to provide a broad, balanced, creative and highly enjoyable curriculum. The aim of our curriculum is to ensure that all pupils are motivated, engaged and enthused about their learning experiences, inspiring them to become lifelong learners.

The learning journey is mapped out year by year. Subject specific content ensures there is clear progression, consolidation and extension of skills and knowledge.

We ensure that all children in Year1 and Year 2 study the core subjects of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and Computing. The foundation subjects of History, Geography, Music, Art, PE, Design & Technology plus Personal Social and Health Education (including RSE) make up the rest of our curriculum. We plan across year groups in order that we have consistent approaches. We have high expectations throughout school.

For more detailed information please see our subject overviews.

[Curriculum | Cheadle Catholic Infant School \(cheadle-inf.stockport.sch.uk\)](http://cheadle-inf.stockport.sch.uk)

### **Inclusion:**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to our school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. We tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which celebrates respect for all.

### **Protected Characteristics:**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we provide a learning environment where all individuals feel a sense of belonging

We prepare children for life in a diverse society in which children are able to see their place in the local, regional, national and international community.

### **Race:**

We:

- Provide positive, non-stereotyping information about different types of people. Our books and displays in school illustrate a range of black/ white/ male/ female authors, scientists, composers etc
- Actively tackle discrimination & disadvantage in circle times and assemblies. eg 'Black Lives Matter,' Black History Month, Show Racism the Red Card

### **Religion:**

- Even though we are a Catholic School we welcome families into our school from other faith backgrounds. We include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality & diversity
- Through our RE curriculum we teach about Judaism and Islam. We involve parents and celebrate feast days/ special days

### **Gender:**

- Our books and displays in school illustrate a range of black/ white/ male/ female authors, scientists, composers etc
- We address any stereotypical views/ comments and we promote gender equality at all times through circle times, assemblies and daily school life.

### **Disability:**

- Cheadle Catholic Infant School is an inclusive school. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all of the children in our care.
- Teachers ensure that all children are taught at their level of understanding with appropriate differentiated input, completing multi-sensory, high quality tasks to secure knowledge and progress.
- The school building is fully accessible for children/ parents with disabilities and if adaptations are needed they are actioned by the Governing body.

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, diversity is seen as a strength which should be valued by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

### **Assessment:**

Assessment of learning is continuous and includes self review, feedback, discussion, learning walks, learning walls, quizzes, pupil voice, book looks. Our children take part in the following statutory national assessments, reported to the DfE.

- Reception Baseline Assessment
- Year 1 Phonics Assessment
- Year 2 KS1 SATS

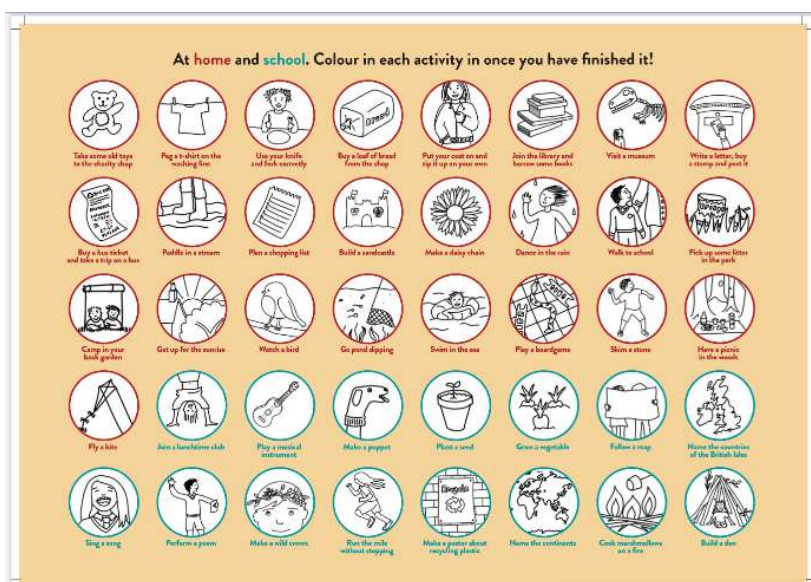
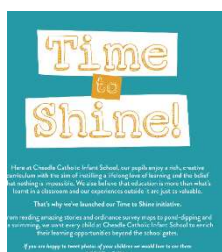
## Our Wider Curriculum:

School provides a range of opportunities to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles, such as Smile for a Mile, 5 ways to well being, Veggie Power.
- Provide experience of arts such as theatre groups and workshops.
- Broaden religious and cultural awareness such as Divali workshops, ethnic diversity speakers, celebration of Black History Month, Show Racism the Red Card
- Promote a love of language & literacy including a subscription to the Cheshire Library Service, 'drop everything and read,' reading suitcases, development of our lending library, visits from authors and poets, reading sessions with our school librarian, reading champions.

Our parallel learning curriculum; '**Time to Shine**' identifies opportunities and experiences that we believe all children should have during their time in our care. Experiences will be planned to strengthen our curriculum offer and will include:

- Following a map
- Build a Den
- Recite a poem to your class
- Learn a new song
- Make a healthy sandwich



## **Forest School:**

Forest School offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and complements the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, our Forest School provision provides nurturing, positive outdoor learning experiences to support our children's wellbeing and personal development.

Children learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and how to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Children participating in Forest School have the opportunity to explore, play, learn boundaries of behaviour and develop life-long skills such as confidence, resilience, independence and motivation, whilst making links to the curriculum.



All of the children in our school take part in Forest School on a 3 week rolling programme.

### **Physical Literacy:**

**Physical Skills + Confidence + Motivation + Lots of opportunities = Physical Literacy.**

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we promote positive physical experiences and opportunities allowing children to build an intrinsic motivation, along with a confidence in their ability, to always want to be physically active.

Our aim is to help our pupils to develop into adults who have the necessary skills to participate and enjoy sport and physical activity throughout life at whatever level they chose, whether recreationally or competitively

We are passionate about developing happy and healthy children who will go on to thrive and build their physical literacy. We encourage healthy lifestyles and promote exercise and fitness in school.

We are a 'Smile for a Mile' school and every day our children run a mile. We have won numerous sports awards this year due to our commitment to sport and fitness and we are the proud winners of, 'Stockport Smile for a Mile School 2020,' runners up in 2021 and winners again in 2022 and 2023 !

### **2023 Awards:**

As a school, we won awards in the following categories:

- Commitment to High Quality PE
- Commitment to Participation in PE
- Sport & Physical Activity
- School Innovator of the Year
- Commitment to Leadership & Volunteering
- Key Stage 1 PE Quality Mark Gold Award.

In addition to the school's six awards, nine of our pupils also won individual titles including:

- Key Stage 1 Young Ambassadors award
- Active Child of the Year Award
- Spirit of the Games Awards in the categories of Determination, Passion, Self-Belief, Respect and Team Work.



