



# Curriculum Policy



***Northumberland  
County Council***

# **Tritlington C of E Aided First School**

## **Ethos**

Reflecting the Trust Deed, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school will aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all pupils.

These values include love, caring, sharing, forgiveness, tolerance, perseverance and goodwill to all people.

We aim to ensure everyone reaches their full potential by providing an education that stretches the mind, strengthens the body, enriches the imagination, nourishes the spirit, encourages the will to do good and opens the heart to others

## **Our Mission Statement**

As a Church of England school, we promote the Christian values of love, friendship, forgiveness, tolerance, perseverance and goodwill to all. Members of the school community are encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals; where every person really does matter; in a setting that respects and celebrates differences.

## **Our Vision Statement**

The school will develop its Christian character in accordance with the Church of England. We aim to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential by providing an educational environment that stretches the mind, strengthens the body, enriches the imagination, nourishes the spirit and encourages the will to do good and open the heart to others.

## Curriculum Content

Children in the Foundation Stage (Reception and Nursery) follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum;

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/335504/EYFS\\_framework\\_from\\_1\\_September\\_2014\\_\\_with\\_clarification\\_note.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335504/EYFS_framework_from_1_September_2014__with_clarification_note.pdf)

This builds on early learning that begins at home and prepares them for more formal learning in Key Stage 1 of the National Curriculum. At Tritlington the children are given opportunities to learn in many different ways with a strong emphasis on purposeful play and first-hand experiences provided in a safe and stimulating environment. Our children's learning is supported through direct teaching in small groups.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:-  
The three "prime areas of learning":

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development

The four "specific areas of learning":

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design

At Tritlington, children in the Foundation Stage are part of everything that we do in school; Forest School, taking part in assemblies, church services and performances for Christmas.

The children benefit from activities in the outdoor classroom which are set up to promote the seven areas of learning. Our aim in the Foundation Stage is to provide our pupils with a secure start to their education.

From Year 1 children follow the National Key Stage 1 Curriculum 2014 which builds on the grounding of the Foundation Stage;

([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/425601/PRIMARY\\_national\\_curriculum.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425601/PRIMARY_national_curriculum.pdf)).

Children follow the statutory programmes of study for the National Curriculum subjects:-

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Design Technology
- Computing

- History
- Geography
- Art
- Modern Foreign Language
- Music
- P.E.
- PSHE and Citizenship
- R.E.

From Year 3 children follow the National Key Stage 2 Curriculum which continues through Years 5 and 6 in the Middle School. We liaise closely with the Middle School to ensure continuity and progression throughout Key Stage 2.

## **The Curriculum**

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics is essential to everyday life. There is an emphasis on practical activities in the early years to develop a sound understanding of mathematical concepts and further up the school, there is a focus on developing mental skills through oral sessions, games, investigations, problem-solving and practical skills. Teachers meet the varying needs of the children through careful differentiation and set work appropriately. Pupils also have access at school and at home to a mathematics programme "Sumdog" via a password which enables them to consolidate and enhance their learning in mathematics. Progress of the pupils is monitored closely and the next steps for learning planned for.

Our teaching programme is Abacus Maths, based on the Primary National Curriculum 2014

### **English**

In studying English, pupils develop skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing. It enables them to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate effectively with others. Language is cross-curricular – it is an essential element of learning in all areas of the curriculum.

Talking is fundamental to a child's learning. Our pupils are encouraged and helped to talk clearly and confidently with expression in order to communicate ideas and feelings. Just as importantly is the need to listen carefully to others and respond appropriately. We provide opportunities across all areas of the curriculum for speaking and listening.

At Tritlington our aim is not only to teach our children the skills to read with confidence, fluency and understanding but also to foster a genuine desire to read for pleasure and purpose. We teach phonics using the Read, Write Inc scheme but all children are encouraged to take a wide range of books home. to reinforce the skills taught in school. We provide guidance to parents on how best they can support their children's learning in this area.

We believe it is important that children see their writing as having a purpose and provide opportunities to develop the necessary writing skills required for different

purposes and audiences. The link between reading and writing is strongly emphasised.

## **Religious Education**

We are a Church of England aided school and have a strong commitment to teaching the principles of Christianity. We have strong links to our local parish church at Hebron and the wider community. RE is provided in accordance with the Newcastle Diocesan framework for RE. We are inclusive in all we do. We have a positive and sensitive approach to the children themselves and encourage them to apply this attitude to others in the world in which they live.

Through the whole curriculum we explore social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues and concerns both as planned incidence and as they arise. In this way opportunities are provided for the children to explore and discover, wonder and question the nature of things, respond to and make links with their own experiences. Our R.E. curriculum also explores and celebrates the major Christian festivals and their related themes. We also study aspects of Judaism and Islam. Learning about and from religion are equally important. The children are expected to behave in socially and morally acceptable ways within a Christian framework.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons. If you wish to do so please speak to the Headteacher so that alternative arrangements can be made.

## **Science**

At Tritlington science is usually the focus of our topic-based work, though it is often taught as a discrete subject where appropriate, to ensure that the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding are continuously developed. We aim to provide our pupils with a science knowledge base, and encourage them to ask questions, make predictions and then test these out to find out more about the world around them. We hope to foster responsible attitudes towards the environment and living things

## **Design Technology**

Design and Technology helps to prepare pupils to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing world. It is often linked to topic work where the children are helped to develop the skills that enable them to think creatively and imaginatively to design, make and evaluate products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. The children are taught the principles of nutrition and healthy eating; they learn about good food and enjoy practical cookery lessons. These are all valuable skills that will prepare them to lead healthy, productive lives.

## **Geography and History**

Geography and History are integrated when appropriate with other areas of the curriculum and often form the basis of topics. At Tritlington children are given opportunities to develop an awareness of their immediate surroundings, other places and how people have used their environment.

History fires pupils' curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like and what

beliefs and cultures influenced people's actions. They develop their chronological understanding of significant events and people through conducting research and discussing evidence – skills which prepare them for adult life.

Geography engages children with their world; introducing them to the concerns of World Communities around the environment, as well as providing an understanding of place vocabulary, mapping and knowledge of different locations.

## **PE and Games**

Physical Education is concerned with the promotion of positive attitudes towards physical activity and well-being. At Tritlington children are helped to acquire the skills needed to participate with confidence and enjoyment in a range of individual and team activities, and to appreciate the place of regular exercise as a way of keeping fit and healthy.

Tritlington belongs to the Morpeth School Sports Partnership and benefits from high quality PE and sporting activities each week provided by specialist sports coaches who work alongside our teaching staff.

Children have the opportunity to take part in sporting activities both within the school and with other schools, including local tournaments and competitions.

PE is enriched through a range of well-attended extra-curricular clubs and activities. These opportunities enable pupils to develop personal and social skills as well as preparing them for leisure activities in adult life.

In Year 4 all pupils have the opportunity to take part in a 3 day residential visit at an Outdoor Activity Centre. A range of activities are offered including; climbing, kayaking, orienteering, grass sledging and gorge walking. We believe these opportunities enable our pupils to challenge themselves in an unfamiliar environment and make an important contribution to children's personal and social development. In September 2015 we achieved the Sainsbury School Games Bronze award, and in September 2016 the silver award.

## **Music**

At Tritlington we aim to foster an awareness and appreciation of a wide variety of music, to enjoy singing songs and to develop a sense of rhythm. If asked, we can provide our pupils with a variety of music opportunities which are provided by peripatetic music teachers and require payment from parents. The school is well resourced with a range of pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. All pupils also participate in regular services at Hebron Parish Church and also our annual production which is a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their talents.

## **PHSE (Personal, Health & Social Education)**

Personal, Health and Social Education is an important part of the curriculum that helps children grow and develop as individuals and as members of families and communities. Through PSHE pupils will have the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

The personal and social development of pupils is a central aim of our curriculum. Through "Circle Time", drama and assemblies we explore our Christian values and how they link to the children's personal beliefs and experiences. Topics across the curriculum provide further opportunities to support the children's personal development and social skills; we encourage politeness and good manners at all times as well as care and respect for other people and their property.

We have a School Council recognising the importance of pupils having a voice in decisions which affect them. All children in school are members of the Council and are encouraged to put forward new ideas, suggestions and ways of solving problems.

In July 2016, we achieved the Healthy Schools Award.

## **Computing**

A computing education prepares pupils to participate in a digital world in which work and other activities are increasingly transformed by access to varied and developing technology. Pupils use ICT tools to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information responsibly, creatively and with discrimination.

Each classroom has up-to-date computers which are in daily use. We also have a set of laptops, ipads and interactive whiteboards in all classrooms; an Internet connection is available to all children. We use the County Council's School 360, an e-learning platform which has enabled us to utilise a huge variety of software and all children have access via a password. Tritlington has its own website which is updated regularly. The children are aware of the potential dangers of the internet and participate in e-safety lessons.

## **Modern Foreign Languages**

Learning a language enriches the curriculum. It provides excitement, engagement and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning through life. Spanish is currently taught to children from Year 2 to Year 4 with the emphasis on active learning to engage motivation and develop oracy (listening, speaking and spoken interaction).

## **Art and Craft**

Art, Craft and Design is a natural form of expression and can be a source of great pleasure for children. We encourage children from Nursery onwards to express themselves in their own individual way. Teachers provide interesting stimuli and exciting materials, together with teaching the children skills and techniques which allow them to explore new areas of experience. Children are encouraged to carefully review the results to see if they have satisfied the design brief or if improvements or refinements can be made. Pupils learn to appreciate works of art and use artistic language to describe paintings, sculptures and other artefacts.

There are always a variety of Art and Craft displays around school, which give all children and visitors the opportunity to review and appreciate work carried out by pupils.

## **Forest Schools**

Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. Through play, children have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and how to cooperate with others.

At Tritlington we run our own Forest School with programmes throughout the year whatever the weather! We have all-weather suits and wellies for our pupils in school. Our Forest School is situated within the school grounds in the natural woodland to the rear of the school. We have a log circle complete with fire pit where much of the teaching and learning takes place. The wide variety of activities that are delivered are designed to develop the following:-

- Empathy
- Good communication skills
- Self-awareness
- Self-regulation
- Independence
- Confidence
- A positive attitude
- Self-esteem

## **School Visits and Year 4 Residential**

Enhancing the school curriculum is something we strongly believe in at Tritlington.

We strive to provide further learning opportunities for all our pupils; we invite guests into school and enjoy a wide variety of experiences outside of the classroom.

We also offer a residential trip for our Year 4 pupils which is an important part of our transition programme. The visit not only enhances the curriculum, but also allows our children to develop their self-confidence, independence and social skills when they meet with their peers from our partner schools.



## **Catering for the Needs of All Children**

We believe that every child is unique and special, and we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. We are committed to developing cultures, policies and practices that are inclusive and many parents chose to send their child to our school because of this.

When children have barriers affecting their learning, we tailor specific interventions to overcome these barriers. This practice of personalising learning applies to all pupils across the learning spectrum, including those who are identified as academically able. Programmes are monitored through termly meetings where progress is discussed and targets adjusted. Parents are encouraged to work closely with staff to support children through any problems they may have.

Where children are identified as having additional learning needs or medical conditions that require additional support, we will adhere to the good practice guidance of the 2014 New SEND Code of Practice and our own policies. We ensure that each child's needs are individually and appropriately catered for. Any relevant outside agencies are involved in providing guidance, support or staff training on an individual basis, as needed.

Our policies for Special Educational Needs and Disability and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions can be accessed via the school's website.

## **After School Activities**

At Tritlington we strive to offer varied after school activities for our pupils to enhance and extend their learning and life experiences. Activities which take place after school or during lunchtime are enjoyed by many of our children. Activities vary from time to time and some are seasonal. During the last school year we have offered a Multiskills club, Rainbows and Football.

## **Assessment**

At Tritlington the teachers are continually assessing individual children in Mathematics, English and Science, and regular assessments are made in all areas of the curriculum. We use information from our assessments to plan "next steps" and work out individual targets for the children.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile introduced in 2012 sees children being assessed throughout their Reception year in each of the seven areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum, producing a profile of their achievements by the end of Reception.

There is a Phonics test in Year 1 and SATS tests in Year 2 for reading, writing, spelling, grammar and mathematics.

Assessments made in Year 2 and Year 4 provide us with invaluable data which enables us to monitor the school's success. This, along with other data, helps us to set ourselves challenging targets each year as we strive for continuous improvement.

Any queries about our curriculum can be discussed with the Head teacher or class teachers.

