

## Curriculum Intent



At Sunningwell we believe in developing education for lifelong learning and in the idea that both children *and* adults can learn meaningful new things every day. We maintain that learning should be rewarding and enjoyable for everyone; it should be fun! Through quality first teaching and showing care and respect we will equip children with the skills, knowledge, attitudes, values and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and useful lives. As a church school these aims are underpinned by our Christian ethos and values of perseverance, friendship, forgiveness, trust and TOBY (Thinking of Other Before Yourself).

Sunningwell is a small school in a beautiful rural setting. We often use the locality, including woodlands, an ancient church, and a small village to begin children's learning journeys. We serve a community which includes children from many cultures and faiths and who have a range of life experiences, including living as a child in a family in which one or both parents are in the military. We draw and build on the rich heritage of our families to ensure that learning is rooted in the familiar and extended to the wider world.

Over a half term children will experience a curriculum rich in activity. They will have daily English and Maths lessons. A range of rich texts, often drawn from the Power of Reading programme, will be used to encourage a love of reading and drawn upon to enable the development of oracy, spelling and grammar and high-level writing skills. Maths will be supported by programmes including those from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Maths, White Rose and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Maths Hub. Music, Physical Education, Art, Religious Education, Personal Social Health and Economic learning, Computing and Spanish will be taught weekly either through discrete lessons or as part of a broader whole-school topic related to History, Geography or Science. Ideas and concepts will be reinforced through cross curricular opportunities and whole school worship and assemblies. As a small school we have mixed age classes. Consequently, we have a two-year programme to ensure that learning covers all areas of the National Curriculum. Through this curriculum, which cycles through twelve themes every two years, children will encounter skills and knowledge which build on their existing and previous experiences and enable deep learning.

Whilst academic learning is key to children's life chances, we recognise that to learn successfully children must feel settled and happy. Nurture and care, including safeguarding, around our children's wellbeing is very much part of our ethos and is supported through the curriculum and through programmes and activities which we run to enable all children to access learning and build good social relationships. Children who have additional educational needs are supported by teachers, with the help of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and external agencies. We strive to ensure that our children grow into well educated, respectful and active members of the community; children who will go on to the next phase of their education and out into the wider world to make a positive contribution. We hope that all will 'show their faith by their works' James 2:18