

Our Curriculum Intent and Rationale

Barriers to Learning Faced by our Pupils

- High number of pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium. National statistics show that disadvantaged children tend to perform less well than their peers.
- Children enter school with low levels of vocabulary (Research shows that this is common for children from disadvantaged backgrounds).
- Some lack of parental involvement in their children's learning (possibly due to their own educational experiences) and low aspirations for their children for the future.
- Pupils tend to have a lack of life experiences beyond the everyday and outside of Billingham.



St Thomas

We are inspired by the life of St Thomas and like him we are on a journey with our values supporting us as we travel.

St Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. He encouraged others to follow Jesus on his journey (John 11.16), both physical and of faith. He also had the courage to challenge his friends when they told him that Jesus has resurrected from the dead; he did not take their words on face value, but asked questions with curiosity (John 20.24-29). Thomas was an important member of the early church community, taking Jesus' good news for a hopeful future to people around the world. According to traditional accounts he travelled to India, building Christian communities across the region. This is a journey that would have required great resilience. St Thomas empowers us to learn from past and current events to be able to shine bright with hope and raise our aspirations to go out and change the world.



Our School Motto

Believe to achieve, empowering a community of hope and aspiration

Our motto reflects the firm foundations we believe we give to our children. Children know that with God's help their aspirations can be reached alongside their hard work and determination. It links to the barriers to learning faced by our pupils and reflects 2 of the key pillars to Christian Vision. The pillars of hope (aspiration) and community.

Life is full of openings, windows that allow us to look out, mirrors which allow us to reflect and doors which allow us to move on. Our biblical quote and motto reflect the importance for our children to not just look out into the world and become aware of its wonders but to reflect, ask and explore those big questions and journey through 'doors' with intentionality.



Biblical Quote

'Ask and it shall be given, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.' Matthew 7.7

For our community this simply means that with God's help we can open doors to a brighter future. This is something that school aims to provide; the opportunity, confidence, ambition, curiosity and resilience amongst our community to do. Jesus commanded his followers to continually ask and seek with confidence that they will receive and find. For our community we aim to give them the confidence to ask questions, be curious, resilient and ambitious, knocking on the door to opportunity and it will be opened. We are to ask our Heavenly Father for the things we need and to keep asking with full assurance that He hears. We are to seek and keep seeking and to knock and keep knocking as He has promised that the door will be opened.



Our Vision Statement

Working together to raise aspirations, empowering a community of hope. We seek to develop resilient, curious and creative minds, inspiring everyone to shine bright and be positive members within our church school community.

Our pupils will learn to love themselves, believe in their potential to achieve (their aspirations) and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges. Whilst full of love and compassion for the marginalised, Jesus was also courageous when he needed to be. We want our children to be willing to take risks and reflect, to learn and grow from experiences, demonstrating curiosity and open mindedness.

In developing curiosity our children will learn from Jesus' readiness to use questions to make people think, to challenge assumptions and enable them to come to their own conclusions. Luke 9 18-20. "Who do the people say I am?" "But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?".

Our vision statement is rooted in the 4 pillars of what is a Christian world view. It incorporates the 4 basic elements which permeate the Church of England vision for education: wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

Pillar of wisdom: Have the capacity to reason, be curious and to question. Wisdom is how we act on knowledge.

Pillar of hope: Raise aspirations and empower all to go out and change the world.

Pillar of community: We show how we unite in shared community beliefs and values but recognise unique beliefs and values of people.

Pillar of dignity: All humans are valued and treated with dignity and respect.

With resilience, curiosity, hope and with God's help, everyone in the community can open doors to the future.



Our Curriculum Intent

We recognise that progress means knowing more and children remembering more as a result of their time with us. We aim to give our children the cultural capital they need to make aspirational choices and experience success beyond their time at our school. We care for each and every child to enable them to grow, flourish and realise their potential in future life.

Our curriculum is one that is broad and balanced and ambitious for all. It enables all to shine academically and flourish socially, emotionally, morally and culturally. Our curriculum enables our pupils to develop a strong moral conduct through fostering British Values.

Permeating through our curriculum are the Christian values of our school (Friendship, Courage, Respect, Perseverance, Service, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Compassion, Trust and Justice). These values link to a learning behaviour which will help our pupils to succeed in later life/the future which form the basis of our curriculum intent. These link to our school motto and vision statement which focuses on overcoming the barriers to learning faced by our pupils.

Our curriculum intends to enable all our children to become effective learners for life, through the fostering of our 6 key learning behaviours, ensuring children are ambitious for their futures, broadening their horizons and experiences beyond Billingham.

6 Key learning behaviours (these directly link to our Christian values)

- Courageous – children to have the courage to aim high and be ambitious.
- Resilient – children to persevere to overcome challenges.
- Inquisitive – children to be curious about the world they know and beyond and to be agents of change.
- Collaborative - children to be able to work together, discuss and communicate effectively to contribute positively to society.
- Respectful - children to develop compassion for others and celebrate diversity.
- Adaptable – children to be able to accept change and develop a growth mindset.