

# Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy

**Darwen St James'**  
C of E Primary Academy



**Foundation – Curriculum Statement**

**September 2017**

## Foundation Curriculum Statement

At Darwen St James Primary Academy we believe in providing a broad, balanced curriculum which offers first hand experiences and builds on children's prior knowledge. We develop children's interest, potential and abilities through creative curriculum scheme of work: Cornerstones, Statutory English, Maths, Science and the core subjects: ICT, Music, PE, MFL, Geography and History.

### Science

Science is taught using Twinkl units and follows the National Curriculum guidelines and objectives 2014 through a topic approach, providing a broad, relevant curriculum for all children. It is also taught through Cornerstones. Science is taught for one and a half hours in Key Stage 1 and two hours in Key Stage 2. In the early years Science is taught through people and communities, the world and technology. Focused activities are provided on a regular basis covering all of these areas. Through continuous provision, children are able to explore and experience all aspects of the Science curriculum.

### ICT

Children at St James Primary Academy have access to a broad range of ICT resources and learning opportunities. They have access to a bank of laptops, ICT suite in Key Stage 1, and an iPad per class. ICT skills in Key Stage 1 and 2 are taught through all subjects and through a skills based lesson 1 hour per week from the Rising Stars scheme of work. All ICT resources are available to early years children on a daily basis. This continuous access develops early ICT skills.

### Geography and History

These areas of the curriculum are delivered through Cornerstones (see curriculum statement). Cornerstones scheme of work embeds all National Curriculum objectives for Geography and History, in a way that encourages creativity and freedom of expression. History topics are taught in chronological order from Year 1 to Year 6. In the early years these areas are covered in Expressive Arts and Design. Any gaps are covered through discrete lessons or curriculum days.

### Music

Music is taught through Music Express and the Cornerstones curriculum. All children at St James Primary Academy have access to a wide range of musical instruments. These are used to enhance musical skills and create enthusiasm and enjoyment. Each week for 1 hour, Year 4 have a Wider Opportunities programme where musical skills, such as singing, samba drumming and steel pans are taught.

- Choir

At St James Primary Academy we have a choir in both Key Stage 1 and 2. Key Stage 1 choir includes children from Reception. This is to promote quality singing. The choir participate in various concerts throughout the school year; these include school, our school church and the local nursing homes.

- James Factor

At St James Primary Academy we celebrate the end of the school year by hosting the James Factor. All children within Key Stage 1 and 2 have the opportunity to audition and then perform in front of the school, local community and parents.

- Hymn Practise

Within hymn practise all children are given the opportunity to sing for enjoyment, learn values, respect and morals through a broad and balanced musical curriculum. This takes place each week through the singing assembly for early years children, Key Stage 1 and 2.

Through focused activities early years children build skills to enable them to create, express and perform, using various mediums.

- Nativity / Year 3 and 4 production / Year 5 and 6 production

Each year Nursery, reception, Year 1 and 2 tell the story of Jesus' birth through acting and singing. Year 3 and 4 produce an Easter play in church that tells the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Year 5 and 6 choose a play that they perform each year, as their end of year performance. Parents are invited to all performances.

### MFL - French and Spanish

In Early Years and Key Stage 1 settings, it is suggested that Spanish activities such as songs, classroom phrases and games become part of classroom practice. In Key Stage 2 teaching and learning in French follows the Twinkl scheme of work. Creativity in using the lesson plans is encouraged to suit the year group being taught. Oral work is key throughout and evidence will be video logged to evidence their progress.

### Physical Education

In EYFS Physical Education is taught as one of the Prime Areas of the Early Years Statements and Goals. Children are given the opportunity to develop both gross and fine motor skills on a daily basis and are able to gain an understanding of self-care.

During the Nursery years these opportunities are offered through varied continuous provision activities. Practitioners develop the physical skills of the children by providing targeted 1:1 or small group challenges.

In Reception Physical Education is taught as a discrete subject. Opportunities are given through teacher led activities and continuous provision, to develop knowledge and understanding of health and self-care and gross and fine motor skills.

In Key Stage 1 and 2 Physical Education is taught as a discrete subject. For this, teachers use lessons plans from the Blackburn with Darwen Scheme of Work. In addition to this, Blackburn Rovers deliver lessons on a weekly basis, alongside the class teacher, to enhance professional development.

Pupils have the opportunity to participate in interschool competitions and provision is made for extra-curricular opportunities which extend their experiences.