



LORETO PREPARATORY SCHOOL
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Registered Charity No. 250607

CURRICULUM STATEMENT AND AIMS

Mission Statement

At Loreto Preparatory School
We are eager and inspired to do our best,
Meeting the challenges and opportunities of a changing world
With love in our hearts.

We are called to be joyful and prayerful,
Living the Gospel and the Catholic faith
And celebrating the values of Mary Ward
With our parents and the whole Loreto family.

Women in time to come will do much.
Mary Ward

This policy has been written with regard to and in the spirit of our school aims, in particular to enable children:

'To reach their full potential in all aspects of the curriculum.'
'To have a thirst for lifelong learning.'

This policy applies to the whole school, including the Early Years Foundation Stage, and before and after school provision and activities.

The aim of Loreto Preparatory School is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to enable every child, including the Early Years Foundation Stage, to reach her full potential, making at least good progress according to her ability. This includes those with an EHC plan. The curriculum will give pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative education.

This policy has been written with regard to our school aims and ethos.

As an independent school we develop our curriculum in the best interests of our children, including the Early Years Foundation Stage, and which fully addresses the requirements within Every Child Matters.

Religious Education and moral training are central to our teaching, which is based on the principles of the Gospel. Liturgical celebration, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic, is at the heart of life at Loreto Preparatory School. Assemblies, too, are an important feature of school life. There is a well-established Sacramental Programme in the school, enabling parents and teachers to work together to prepare children for the Sacraments of

Reconciliation and Eucharist. All children are required to follow the Religious Education Programme and appreciation, respect, knowledge and tolerance of other faiths is encouraged.

Academic excellence is highly valued. Our teaching schemes have been carefully chosen and we liaise with the principal publishers of educational materials to ensure that our resources meet the requirements of a modern, broad and balanced curriculum.

We formally assess the children each term, which allows us to monitor progress and give support where necessary. The results of these tests are reported to parents.

In Performing Arts, we offer many opportunities, provided by a team of expert staff, from classroom activities which includes drama, to instrumental tuition in recorder, guitar, piano and a variety of orchestral instruments.

Our musicians are encouraged to support each other. Our children find music making an enjoyable and rewarding experience, which is reflected in their enthusiasm and commitment.

All children leave us with an ability to perform at some level on a musical instrument and receive certificates of merit specially devised by school to reward their individual talents. Others achieve success in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examinations held annually at the school which has for some time been recognised as an exam centre.

Education of the whole person must include physical development alongside development in other curriculum areas.

In Loreto Preparatory School there is a well-developed programme of sports and physical education, which, in addition to promoting a healthy life-style, enables our pupils to accept success and failure graciously and to co-operate with others using their best qualities to contribute to the greater good of the whole group. Children are able to compete successfully against state and independent schools in a range of sports including swimming, netball and athletics.

We are developing Information and Communications Technology. The girls can use a range of digital technology including cameras. The pupils are taught programming skills using programs such as "Scratch". All children are taught to use the Internet safely and are aware of the importance of e-safety. The use of computers enhances work in all areas of the curriculum.

Children with a home language other than English are welcome in Loreto. We value this linguistic diversity and aim to provide opportunities for these children to develop their full potential. Some children may be bilingual from infancy because more than one language is spoken in the family home. Others may be acquiring English as an additional language. The needs of the children and the ability of Loreto to meet these needs will be discussed with parents before a place is offered.

Children with Statements, EHC plans, learning difficulties or disabilities are provided with appropriate differentiation or Individual Pupil Plans to support their learning and to enable

them to access the curriculum and reach their full potential. More able children are encouraged to share their expertise and develop their full potential.

We regularly review our teaching and policies in the light of guidelines and directions from professional bodies and from the Government. We ensure that our policies, plans and schemes of work promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act (2010). We aim to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

Curriculum Aims

Linguistic Skills

- Develop the children's self-expression and communications skills through the written and spoken word.
- Develop listening skills
- Promote the understanding and appreciation of the written word in all its forms
- Develop the skills of reading fluently and accurately.
- Develop the skills of writing appropriately for a variety of occasions and purposes.
- Develop a legible style of handwriting.

Mathematical Skills

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of mathematics will be developed in a variety of ways, including practical activity, exploration and discussion. This will enable them to

- make calculations,
- to understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space
- develop their capacity to think logically and express themselves clearly.

We strive to:

- Promote a positive attitude towards number and mathematics in general.
- Help each pupil appreciate the importance of mathematics as a life skill.
- Teach a range of strategies, including mental and practical strategies.
- Develop an understanding of mathematical language.
- Promote a positive ability to develop problem-solving, reasoning and investigative strategies.

Science

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces will be developed as well as the skills associated with science as a process of enquiry: for example, observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording their findings.

We will:

- stimulate and build upon children's sense of awe and curiosity about the natural world in order to foster their interest in and enjoyment of Science.
- broaden the children's scientific view of the world around them by exploring, discussing, fostering and developing ideas about everyday phenomena.
- encourage children to use their own first-hand experiences and knowledge to help them investigate and tackle problem solving situations.

- develop the children's ability to investigate accurately, carry out fair tests and observe changes over time, presenting their findings clearly and accurately.
- bring children to an understanding that allows them to acquire knowledge and scientific skills.
- introduce children to scientific vocabulary and to provide opportunities to apply it.
- promote a healthy lifestyle.

History

- Encourage an understanding and appreciation of the past and its effect on our lives today.
- Develop an understanding about famous people from the past, their lives and their culture.
- Develop an understanding about events from the past and how they have affected our lives.
- Develop and encourage research skills using historical resources in order to be able to make informed judgments.

Geography

- Develop in the children an interest in their own surroundings and in other parts of the world.
- Enable an appreciation of the effects of human influence on various environments.
- Compare and contrast various environments and surroundings.
- Develop mapping skills and understand the importance of representations, signs and symbols.

Design and Technology

- To develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently, working with tools, equipment, materials and components to produce good quality products which will enable them to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world including
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- To build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users.
- To critique, evaluate and test their ideas, processes and products and the work of others.
- To understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Computing: use of information and communication technology (ICT); developing, planning and communicating ideas

- Stimulate and promote the use of ICT in order to support, enhance and extend learning opportunities.
- Develop pupils' awareness of the use of ICT not only in the classroom, but in everyday life.
- Allow pupils to evaluate the potential of ICT and also its limitations, including awareness of E-safety across the curriculum.

- Help both pupils and staff to develop confidence and competence to use ICT in a range of contexts and be able to make decisions about its suitability for a particular task.
- Ensure ICT resources are used to their full extent.
- Ensure ICT resources and equipment are kept up to date as much as possible.

Aesthetic and Creative Education

- Provide opportunities to develop creativity, practical skills and an appreciation of art in all its forms.
- Encourage personal, imaginative, and practical responses.
- Encourage the enjoyment and appreciation of art, music, dance, drama and literature.
- Develop an understanding of art, craft and design through a range of activities and by using a variety of materials, referring to a range of artists as a starting point
- Provide opportunities to explore the use of colour, pattern, texture, shape, tone and form.
- Introduce children to a range of musical instruments; know how they are played and the sounds they make.
- Develop listening and performance skills.
- Provide access to a variety of dance and drama styles and genres.
- Allow the children to express themselves freely through music.
- Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

- Enable the children to develop a responsible approach to life.
- Promote awareness that we should treat each other with respect, with particular regard to the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010).
- Develop an understanding about creating a healthy and happy life style.
- Develop a sense of citizenship, community and Fundamental British values.
- Develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident and independent lives.

Religious Education

- Develop in the children a love of God an understanding of the principles of the Gospel in the tradition of the Catholic faith.
- To develop the appreciation of different faiths, cultures and beliefs.
- To help each child to develop an awareness of how Jesus wishes them to live through the study and appreciation of the Gospel, fostering a caring and respectful attitude towards others.

Physical Development

- Develop the pupils' physical control and co-ordination.
- Develop the pupils' tactical skills and imaginative responses.
- Help the pupils to evaluate and improve their performance.

- Promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.
- Develop a general fitness through a variety of activities.
- Develop a sense of good sportsmanship and fair play.
- Be aware of good practice and safety when working with others and using equipment.

Modern Languages

- Give the children an interest in and an understanding of language and culture of France and China.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Where children are below compulsory school age, a programme of activities is followed which is appropriate to their educational needs within the Areas of Learning as described in the EYFS 2012 curriculum.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities

Appropriate support is given to children with special educational needs or disabilities. The staff are made aware of these children through the SEND register.

Times of the school day

Children may arrive in school hall from 8am. At 8.45am there is a short assembly and teachers collect their class for registration

The total hours each week (not including breaks) are:

EYFS (Nursery and Prep 1)	22 hours 30 minutes
Key Stage 1 (Preps 2 and 3)	22 hours 30minutes
Key Stage 2 (Preps 4 – 7)	25 hours

Last reviewed Spring 2017

Next Review Spring 2020