**Curriculum rationale**

**Our context**

We are a Church in Wales Primary School in Flintshire serving the community of Shotton.

Classed as a small school, our capacity is 107 pupils including part time early entitlement and nursery children.  Being a half form entry school, our yearly intake number is 15.

We are located close to the border with England and our pupils reflect a diverse range of nationalities with 22% of having English as an Additional Language.  Very few pupils at St Ethelwold’s speak Welsh at home.

We occupy a green site with a forest area, outdoor service space, separate infant and junior playgrounds, several allotment gardens, fully equipped foundation phase outdoor areas and a large playing field.

We have built strong community links with the local residents of Shotton, St Ethelwold’s Church, Airbus UK, The Cooperative, Aston Park Bowling Club and Surfers Against Sewage.

**Our school vision**

We have been reviewing the school's vision and values as part of an on-going process since May 2021. All staff in the school gave feedback on curriculum priorities and important learning focuses. Opinions from parents and governors were gathered through questionnaires. The children were engaged in activities linked to reviewing learning and rewriting the vision.

**Our school vision is:**

Christian values and high expectations will equip our school community with the resilience and skills required to be ambitious, enterprising, healthy and ethical members of society

**Our core purpose is:**

Together we create a healthy and positive environment to enjoy the challenge of exploring our world.

**Our values**

At St Ethelwold’s School we aim to:

Believe in ourselves

Show effort

Take part in our community

Be kind

**Curriculum Rationale**

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| **Area** | **Our behaviours** |
| **Core Purpose**  Together we create a healthy, positive environment to enjoy the challenge of exploring God’s world. | Offer a warm welcome to everyone – staff, pupils, visitors  Take opportunities to create a positive, supportive atmosphere, including the classroom environment, teamwork and collaboration  Be excited by lifelong learning  Enjoy challenge – move outside comfort zone to promote resilience  Learn from mistakes (purposefully make mistakes to illustrate the learning opportunity)  Provide for individual needs – meet them where they are! |
| **Vision**  Our Christian values and high expectations will equip our school community with the resilience and skills required to be ambitious, enterprising, healthy and ethical members of society. | Make sure all visitors know they are entering a Church school  Use appropriate and careful language when speaking to and about pupils  To create an inclusive school community and form good partnerships with parents  Make sure everyone knows our school values and ‘lives’ them  Make sure everyone knows the Four Purposes and understands how their ‘work’ fits into each of them |
| **Value**  Belief | Resilience  Growth Mindset  Belief in ourselves / themselves  Developing an ‘I Can’ attitude |
| **Value**  Effort | Engagement is crucial  Appropriate curriculum to encourage effort  Praising and rewarding effort rather than achievement  Recognise the effort of parents  Model failure and resilience – and reward supportive responses to the failures of others. |
| **Value**  Kindness | Recognise the needs of other people and show tolerance, courtesy and manners  Adults modelling kindness  Rewarding kindness and taking time to look out for it  Role play to model kindness |
| **Value**  Community | Part of the church community  Value the opportunities offered in the community  Respect individuals who visit our school  Work and play together |

**Non-negotiables**

Our learners are entitled to a range of non-negotiables that enhance their personal development – what are they in St Ethelwold’s School?

We provide for individual needs

We are nurturing and kind

We timetable outdoor provision across the school

We take our children out on trips

We run a pilgrimage for the upper junior pupils

We offer varied physical activity

We offer a well-resourced curriculum

We identify needs for good health and wellbeing and provide for them

We nurture a sense of Welsh identity and belonging – ‘Cynefin’

We understand the importance of and give regular opportunities for structured and non-structured play

We have a staff that is cohesive, positive, united and passionate about making a difference.

**What the four purposes mean to us:**

We have written our statements of learning intentions for each of the Areas of Learning. These statements have been created using the What Matters section of the Curriculum. The key elements of the Four Purposes have been included to develop “Ambitious capable learners, enterprising creative contributors, ethically informed citizens, and healthy confident individuals”.

**Languages, Literacy and Communication Statement of Intent for learning**

At St Ethelwold’s VA School learners are given opportunities to have authentic language experiences to encourage a sense of identity and belonging to Wales and to become multilingual. They will be given opportunities to experience languages and images in a range of forms and genres helping them to become unbiased and critically aware interpreters of what they hear, read and see, as well as being open to the opinions of others.

Our aim is for learners to become effective communicators and to be able to use and adapt language, to express themselves effectively in both speaking and writing so that they develop positive relationships with others and lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society. Language is key to social cohesion, which promotes better local, national and global understanding so if our pupils are to become ethically informed citizens then their language skills will be key.

Literature expands horizons. In all its forms it can inspire and motivate us, while also helping us to learn more about language and communication.  We will provide learners with meaningful literary experiences that can engage them as listeners, viewers, readers, narrators and creators. They will have exposure to a variety of diverse literature to gain understanding of different experiences, beliefs and cultures and develop empathy for others.

By igniting learners’ imagination and creativity they will develop a lifelong love of literature.

**Science and Technology Statement of Intent for learning**

At St Ethelwold’s we will provide a curriculum that inspires the pupils to be curious. Curiosity about science and technology leads us to ask questions about the world around us.

Learners are encouraged to use logic, evidence and their creativity within Science and Technology. They are supported to enquire about and make informed decisions about changes in the environment and to understand the impact of their actions. Learners will develop the ability to evaluate scientific claims so that they are able to become ethically informed citizens.

Learners will be given opportunities to design and create solutions to real life problems.  The design process opens up a range of opportunities that encourage creativity and minimise complexities. Learners will apply their skills and knowledge and be motivated to develop ideas, whilst mitigating risk. When engineering products they will develop accuracy, precision, dexterity and craftsmanship, helping them to become the enterprising problem-solvers of the future.

Learners will study living things and how they have evolved. Developing an understanding of the factors which affect the health and success of organisms will allow learners to make informed decisions about their own physical health.

Their scientific aptitude will allow learners to understand forces and energy and to use our planet’s resources effectively and sustainably, helping them become responsible citizens of Wales and the world.

Learners will create and use digital technologies to their full potential, whilst being aware of its limitations and make informed decisions regarding their application of technology. It is important to us that learners become aware of the legal, social and ethical implications and consequences of their use of media.  They will develop their computational skills by using a range of hardware and software during their time with us at St. Ethelwold’s.  They will appreciate how computational processes have changed the way we live, work, study and interact with each other and our environment.

**Mathematical Development** **Statement of Intent for learning**

Maths is a skill we use daily and is an essential part of everyday life. Therefore, mathematics forms an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum where we will endeavour to ensure that children develop an enjoyment and enthusiasm for maths that will stay with them throughout their lives and empower them in the future. Our aim is to enable confident participation in problem solving activities as well as providing a foundation for the essential skills that are required to succeed in the real world.

At St Ethelwold’s VA School our aim is to develop a positive culture of deep understanding, confidence and competence in maths that produces strong, secure learning. We aim to prepare our pupils for the range of careers that are available to them. As a school, we recognise that the key to unlocking the potential in our children is through the development of basic mathematical skills and the understanding of mathematical concepts. We therefore place great emphasis on the use of concrete resources and pictorial representations, to enable children to fully understand the concepts and principals when presented with abstract calculations and questions as they move through the school. Learners will be taught to be critical and analytical in the use of statistics and to test hypotheses, draw conclusions and make predictions, all of which are fundamental to enabling learners to make ethical and informed decisions.

Our Maths curriculum is progressive, covering the number system, algebra, geometry and measurement and statistics and takes in a wide range of real-world contexts. From the Early Years children will be educated in a Maths rich environment and will develop their skills through play and playful learning. As they move through the school, they will be introduced to more complex Mathematical concepts. Our learners will be encouraged to see the range of applications of Mathematical skills through the fields of art, construction, science and technology, engineering, and astronomy.

**Humanities Statement of Intent for learning**

At St Ethelwold’s VA School we encourage learners through the Humanities AoLE to form their own informed viewpoints and recognise those of others, as well as developing self-awareness. This is achieved through the nurturing of curiosity, encouraging questioning and reflection upon a range of evidence.

We will enable learners to realise their rights to participation, freedom of expression and information. Importantly it also supports children to know and understand their rights under the UNCRC and to develop an understanding of the human rights of others, including those with disabilities. Learners will be encouraged to develop a tolerant and empathetic understanding of the diversity within their own locality and the world beyond.

Learners will develop their spirituality and well-being through experiencing the wonder of the natural world.  They will learn the importance of their role in shaping the communities in which they live and respond to challenges, taking opportunities for social and sustainable action.

We will provide an environment which supports enquiry and discovery and will encourage children to be curious and critical thinkers. Our approach will include local, national and global contexts. We will seek to awaken a feeling of awe and wonder at the world around us and cultivate a sense of *cynefin.*

Through enquiry learners will make connections between the past and the present and how they as individuals can help to shape the future in Wales and the wider interconnected world.

**Health and Well-being** **Statement of Intent for learning**

At St Ethelwold’s VA School it is our priority to promote the Health and Well-being of all stakeholders to create an environment where everyone thrives. We will help learners to understand the important role of social influences on their lives and they will be encouraged to recognise that rules, social norms, attitudes and values are created and reinforced by different social groups. Learners will be taught to engage critically with these social influences within their own culture, as well as those of others, in order to understand how norms and values develop.  We will relate learning experiences to the world of work and help learners to recognise the range of career pathways that are open to them.

We will seek to encourage health promoting behaviours as well as helping learners identify health harming behaviours. Through regular physical activity, learners will acquire both confidence and competence, as well as the ability to assess and manage risk.  At St Ethelwold’s we will offer a range of physical activities, including outdoor and adventurous activities.

Learners will develop an awareness of their own feelings and emotions, how to communicate them and to recognise that these feelings are not fixed and can be changed. Our aim is to create a culture where talking about mental health is the norm. We will support learners to develop strategies which help them to regulate their emotions, contributing towards good mental health and emotional well-being.

We place a great deal of importance on respecting ourselves and others and learners will be encouraged to form, nurture, and maintain healthy, positive relationships with others, while recognising when relationships are unhealthy and understanding when they need to seek support and how to access it.

In promoting learners’ confidence to lead healthy and active lifestyles, we will empower them to make informed and considered decisions.

**Expressive Arts Statement of Intent for learning**

At St Ethelwold’s VA School we aim to nurture all children’s talents, and we work hard to promote the expressive arts across the age ranges. Learners will be supported to develop their imagination and become curious and creative individuals. We will engage learners in genres, techniques, tools, materials and practices from a diverse range of cultures and countries so their curiosity and enthusiasm for the arts is nurtured from an early age.

Learners will be encouraged to be critical and bold; engaging their emotions and intellect and develop their own identity as artistes. They will embrace a range of activities including planning, drafting, designing, making, choreographing, shaping, composing, and editing. They will be encouraged to communicate their creative processes through a variety of art-forms or disciplines.

Learners will explore forms through experimentation, play, formal research, and enquiry and their response to such work may be a sensory reaction or a critical analysis. They will also appreciate how expressive arts can shape ideas and feelings and how these are individual and unique to them.

Pupils will be given opportunities to receive feedback on their work from both staff at school and their peers.  This will give learners a vital opportunity to develop their resilience when responding to this feedback. They then will learn the important skills of refinement and analysis.

**Enabling Learning Statement of Intent**

At St Ethelwold’s School it is our intention to implement a pedagogically appropriate, holistic, and meaningful curriculum for all learners, including those working towards Progression Step 1. A key feature of this period will be play and playful learning as it is central to physical, intellectual and creative development, but also provides a means for learning through perseverance and collaboration.