

Our Curriculum

Art

At St Margaret Mary, we provide an enriched and bespoke art curriculum to our pupils by aiming to inspire, fuel their imagination and ignite their creativity. We want to broaden and promote our pupils love of art by nurturing their own talents and providing them with new key skills. We guide the pupils to develop their confidence and create their own art work that is inspired by a variety of artists, including many local artists from Birmingham. Art is fluid and dynamic at our school, which allows for everyone to access the skills, as well as challenge them.

Computing

Children in St. Margaret Mary's School are exposed to a wide range of technology and experiences to prepare them for life in an ever-changing world. Our children love computing and enjoy learning the knowledge and skills in digital literacy, information technology and computer science. We want our children to not just be users of technology, but to be creators! From digital artwork to coding pocket-sized computers, all our children have regular opportunities in a hands-on approach to computing. Alongside our exciting computing curriculum, the use of our Hope Suite, iPads and laptops allows children to utilise technology in all areas of their studies. All children will leave St. Margaret Mary's feeling safe, confident and creative with their use of technology.

Design & Technology

In Design and Technology lessons at St Margaret Mary's School we provide the children with a variety of skills and knowledge to enable them to become successful adults to gain employment and live a healthy lifestyle in the future. Through our process of design, make and evaluate, the children are encouraged to take creative risks; solving problems and evaluating the effectiveness of everything they make to ensure it meets their intended purpose. In D&T lessons, children develop their resilience and perseverance, learning from their mistakes and tailoring their innovations and creative skills with consideration of the future and how we can improve and make things better.

Geography

At St. Margaret Mary's, our Geography education aims to ignite the geographer in each child and stimulate their curiosity and imagination about our local, global and national community. Through our spiral curriculum, we want to ensure our children embed and develop a range of geographical skills as they progress throughout our school. Lessons will see children develop their knowledge of place and location, human and physical features and changes in perspective (scale/distance) in a vocabulary-rich environment. They will develop skills of enquiry, direction and navigation, drawing maps and keys and using a variety of maps. Children have access to cross-curricular opportunities, using subjects like mathematics and computing to further their research, alongside a variety of trips to widen both their orienteering skills and knowledge of Birmingham. Inspired by faith, we aim to

promote analytical thinking about God's creation and how we can live simply, sustainably and in solidarity to preserve our ever-changing world.

History

In history, children develop chronological understanding of key events in the past from the stone age to World War II and beyond, with Birmingham at the centre of the curriculum. Children learn a range and depth of historical knowledge, use primary and secondary sources to gain a greater understanding of what life was like in different time periods. Children are taught to think like a historian with enquiry skills, observing, comparing, research and analysing evidence from the past. History is brought to life with visitors and trips across the local area and a variety of historical topic books in classrooms which encourages children to build on their historical vocabulary. By Year 6, children at St Margaret Mary will have looked at history in a variety of ways and have the skills they need to continue to think and grow like a historian!

Music

At St Margaret Mary's School we strive to cultivate a real enjoyment of music and aim to deliver high quality music teaching, supporting and encouraging all children to achieve their full potential. We believe that Music is a unique form of communication and is an integral part of our culture. It provides an important medium to help children understand themselves and relate to others and the wider world. Our children enjoy a wide range of musical opportunities which include: listening to music from across different cultures and genres; developing and creating music of their own; sing and perform with both confidence and enjoyment. Using specialist musicians partnered with school staff our children have a wide range of opportunity to explore, create and enjoy the musical curriculum that is offered at St Margaret Mary.

PE

In St Margaret Mary's School our aim to provide all of our pupils with a high quality, inclusive and comprehensive PE curriculum that promotes and fosters a love for physical activity and begins the start of a lifelong commitment to health and wellbeing. Through detailed planning, linked with other subjects and based upon the National Curriculum, we believe that PE contributes significantly to the pupils physical, social, emotional and cognitive development which in turn helps them to become successful across all of the curriculum and indeed into later life. The building of partnerships with other providers both within school and outside, allows for further signposting of children who display talents and interests allowing them to develop skills, attitudes and friendships outside of school.

Science

Science at St Margaret Mary's is an integral part of the curriculum that stimulates and excites children's curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them. Our science lessons link direct practical experience with ideas to engage learners and develop a better understanding of themselves and the world we live in. We explore scientific concepts through our enquiry skills: identifying, grouping and classifying; research; comparative fair testing; observation over time and pattern seeking. This encourages students to ask questions, think critically and work collaboratively on projects. Our vocabulary rich curriculum means that children have the opportunity to appreciate scientific facts and concepts to experience scientific discovery. From studying plants and animals to exploring the principles of physics, our science curriculum fosters curiosity and a love for discovery, helping young learners become confident and informed individuals in a rapidly changing world and to create scientists of the future!

Spanish

Learning Spanish at St Margaret Mary ensures we are equipping our pupils to become global citizens, giving them exposure to the wider world. Our language learning provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience not only in preparation for their move to secondary school but for their futures. Our pupils are taught in a fun motivational way to nurture each to have an active engagement with Spanish through games, role plays, presentations, dances and songs. Resources are used from many Spanish speaking countries and cross curricular links are embedded throughout as are the main strands used to teach Spanish – speaking, listening, reading and writing.