

KS3 CURRICULUM

**Resilience
Independence
Confidence**

**Collaboration
Motivation
Aspiration**

**Tolerance
Respect
Communication**

**Creativity
Curiosity
Perseverance**

**Challenge
Achievement
Self-esteem**

**Inspire
Engage
Enjoy**

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**Resilience
Independence
Confidence**

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

At St Philip's School pupils in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) follow the National Curriculum adapted and modified to meet their individual needs. Class groups take into account all pupils' social communication needs and their issues relating to focus and attention. As such, groups are flexible in order to reflect pupils' current developing strengths, with some pupils receiving a higher level of support and more consistency of teacher.

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English

The overarching aim of the course is to develop a good command of the written and spoken word, whilst developing a love of literature through reading skills for enjoyment. The focus for Reading consists of word reading and comprehension (both listening and reading). The focus for Writing consists of transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and prose). Synthetic phonics programmes are used throughout the Key Stage.

Maths

The course covers the breadth of the mathematics curriculum including Number, Shape, Space and Data Handling. Tasks are related to real world contexts to equip pupils with the skills and knowledge they need for everyday life. This is reinforced across the curriculum. The development of thinking skills is also nurtured through problem solving in mathematics.

Science

The focus of teaching Science at Key Stage 3 is to give pupils opportunities to engage in practical activities and investigations that extend their scientific understanding. Pupils become familiar with some scientific vocabulary and are encouraged to use this in their work. The programmes of study include Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics.

ICT

Pupils in Key Stage 3 develop the skills and confidence to interact and use IT systems confidently. They learn to use email as a method of communication. They develop basic functional skills so that they can use IT across all subjects. All pupils are given the opportunity to learn some basic programming skills. They are taught Internet safety awareness as part of their IT and PSHE lessons.

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Personal, Social and Health Education

In Key Stage 3 pupils learn about topics including Relationships, Gender and Puberty, Dealing with Stress and Emotional Wellbeing. All aspects of the PSHE curriculum are covered over a three year scheme of work. Pupils are encouraged to join in discussions and talk about their personal experiences. Each year during the Autumn term PSHE lessons focus on anti-bullying, linked to the nationwide Anti-bullying week.

History

History is taught through the use of source materials (evidence) and artefacts (objects). Pupils learn to ask questions of these study materials and reach informed conclusions. The historical periods studied include Medieval Realms, England 1750-1900 and the Second World War.

Geography

Geography helps pupils make sense of a diverse and dynamically changing world. They will investigate how different places, people and their cultures are globally interconnected. They will consider the impact nature and humanity has on the environment and why mankind needs to take greater care of the world to ensure its future.

Drama

Drama at St Philip's provides an excellent platform to build communication skills and confidence. A variety of drama skills are explored through practical work. Pupils gain an understanding of what theatre is and develop a real appreciation for the subject.

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Cultural Studies

In Cultural Studies pupils look at different countries and focus on learning simple phrases in the language of that country as well as the food and main cultural events of each country. Countries that are studied include France, Mexico and India.

Design Technology

Within Design Technology at St Philips the students will develop their hands on practical making skills in conjunction with their creative thinking skills. Students shall learn and develop communication skills to allow them to fully communicate their design ideas. The students will be taught how to form, shape and finish a range of materials through focused practical tasks.

Food Technology

Food Technology lessons are very much hands-on, practical lessons. Pupils will learn a range of cooking skills including mixing, whisking, grating, pouring, weighing and knife skills. They will also be taught health and safety rules and food hygiene rules. Pupils experiment with new ingredients and flavours and get the opportunity to taste new foods.

Music

Music at St Philip's is about everyone developing their creativity, musical skills and understanding through practical activities. It is about how to solve problems on our own and collaboratively. We have a well-equipped music room with lots of instruments and laptops set up for music technology.

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Art

Art lessons develop creative, imaginative and practical skills in art, craft and design. Pupils are able to use a range of materials and techniques in two and three dimensions. They are introduced to the work of some influential artists and consider art from different cultures.

RE

Pupils will learn the impact religious belief has in the world today by studying the six main religions (mainly focusing on Christianity). They will consider faith, teachings and traditions. Pupils will be encouraged to debate aspects of spiritual, moral and cultural belief and to explore their own responses to ideas.

PE

Pupils in Key Stage 3 are given the opportunity to try a range of sports and activities in line with the national curriculum. These include gymnastics, dance, games and swimming. Most activities take place in our sports hall, although we do access some facilities off-site including the local swimming pool and gymnastics club.

Horticulture

Students study Horticulture in Years 7 and 8. They learn a wide variety of skills and in the process are involved in maintaining our school grounds. We grow lots of flowers from seed for flowerbeds, tubs and hanging baskets to make our school look attractive. We also grow lots of fruit and vegetables that are cooked by the school canteen and by students in cookery and catering courses.

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Vocational Studies (Year 9 only)

The course aims to make pupils aware of job opportunities including the skills, qualifications and qualities needed to carry out such jobs. The aim is to give them a broad foundation from which they can consider their own pathway to employment.

Homework

Homework is set in English, Maths and Science at least weekly. Other subjects also set homework regularly. Homework should be recorded in your child's planner. The type of homework may vary depending on the subject and might be a worksheet, a small project or to use the internet. The expectation is that all pupils complete homework tasks and return them. If pupils do not complete homework without a justifiable reason they may receive a break time detention.

Some good websites for practising key skills:

www.ictgames.co.uk - maths and literacy activities.

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths> - maths activities.

www.mathszone.co.uk - maths activities.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ - science activities.