

Creative Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum brings several subjects together to show how they relate to one another. It also gives extra opportunities to use Art, Music, Dance, Drama and ICT in relevant and personally interesting projects.

In Key Stage One (Years One and Two) and Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) almost all lessons are taught using themes or topics, for example “People who help us” , “The Seaside” or “Mexico” will include Numeracy, Literacy Science RE Music Art Dance Drama ICT and other subjects all starting from situations based on the topic.

In Key Stage 2 (Year Three, Four Five and Six), the subjects gradually become more separate and as they develop it can sometimes be easy to lose sight that they are still connected and overlap in real life. Our Creative Curriculum helps to realise that in real life they are not only connected but we can use our own creative skills in an exciting way to show our understanding.

We have three main ways of doing this;

- 1) Each class will have two “Creative Curriculum” topics during the school year that will each last a complete half term. They will deliberately choose areas from different subjects that have obvious connections e.g. Electricity (Science) and Making an object with a light source e.g. torch, lighthouse, lamp (Design/Technology) or Britain since 1948 (History) and Biographies and recounts (Literacy) or Where does food come from (Geography) Teeth (Science) and Making food (Design/Technology). The titles of these topics will also link the different areas of learning e.g. Adventurers and explorers, Life in the freezer, Food glorious food.
- 2) In Summer the whole school takes part in a themed week where the whole curriculum is based on an exciting subject. In the past these weeks have been inspired by Pirates, The Olympics and Space. There is also a “Christmas around the world” whole school topic week in December every year
- 3) Every class also studies two non Catholic world faiths for a week each as a cross curricular topic.

In each of these the teacher will make sure that there are extra opportunities for dance, drama, art, music and ICT research. Already this has meant that some children have written, rehearsed and produced their own films. Others have devised, rehearsed and performed their own “flash mob” art and music skills learned in normal lessons are being used and adapted to fit the topic. All children also carry out long term ICT based independent research projects related to their Creative Curriculum.

The Creative Curriculum has been an expanding influence at St Patricks. It’s allowed children to see the connections between different kinds of learning much better and understand some of its real life uses. It allowed children to use skills and knowledge from other lessons in a more personal way. If you ask the children, though, most of them would say they remember it because it’s exciting, fun and often brings surprises!