



Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

The Rainbow Curriculum – Helping our Children to Recover

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Introduction

Each one of us have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in some way – children, staff and parents. We recognise that this is different for everyone. For many of us we will have experienced a form of loss. We believe there are five losses experienced by children:¹

- Loss of routine
- Loss of structure
- Loss of friendship
- Loss of opportunity
- Loss of freedom

Each loss can trigger emotions of anxiety, trauma and bereavement in a child.

As children return to Our Lady of the Wayside school after COVID-19 lockdown, we want them to be happy, feel safe, engage in learning again and fill the gaps in their knowledge. To achieve this goal, we will be implementing a recovery programme which we have called our 'Rainbow Curriculum' and 'Rainbow Learning'. The rainbow has become synonymous with COVID-19 and lockdown as a symbol of hope. Our programme aims to 'reignite the flame of learning in each child' and recover lost learning. This rebuilding process will require a sustained response and will be different for different children. We know that it is highly unlikely that a single approach will be enough so just like a rainbow, there will be different coloured strands within our curriculum.

¹ Carpenter & Carpenter (2020): A Recovery Curriculum: Loss and life for our children and schools post pandemic.
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Rainbow Curriculum Principles

Our Rainbow Curriculum is based on five key principles. These principles inform each of our Rainbow Curriculum strands.

Principle 1: Creating the right learning environment.

'When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower'

Alexander Den Heijer

We can't expect our children to return joyfully, and many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. We will plan for this to happen, not assume that it will. Every strand of our Rainbow Curriculum will focus on creating an environment in which children can learn and flourish.

Principle 2: A curriculum which is responsive to the needs of all children.

We recognise that our current curriculum was designed prior to COVID-19 and lockdown. We will create a modified curriculum which is 'right' for our children today, a curriculum which helps children to recover and retrieve lost learning. We will continue to ensure all children receive a broad and rich curriculum which is ambitious, challenging and engaging.

Principle 3: Working in partnership with families.

We recognise the invaluable role of parents in helping their children to recover. We will work in close partnership with our parents to ensure parents know how they can support with their child's recovery..

Principle 4: Developing a personalised approach to recovery.

We believe we are all different and we learn in different ways. We all have different strengths, different worries and different challenges. Our Rainbow Curriculum is designed to be responsive to the different learning needs of children. We aim to make the skills for learning explicit to our children to reskill and rebuild their confidence as learners.

Principle 5: Providing children with time and space recover.

We have high expectations and will support children to recover as quickly as possible but we know that children will need time and space. For some children the recovery period will last for a prolonged period of time. We will not set arbitrary dates and will continue with our Rainbow Curriculum for as long as it is required.

Rainbow Curriculum - Strands

Rainbow Red Strand – Reopening Phase (Academic Year 2019-2020)

The aim of our Red Strand is to ensure all children return to school in September 2020. All children will have the opportunity to have some form of schooling in the summer 2020 term.

Primarily, in this strand, the curriculum takes into account the mental well-being of children and aims to 'reignite the flame of learning in each child'. We concur with Professor Barry Carpenter that there have been big losses to children as they have stayed at home during lockdown: loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. These losses can trigger the emergence emotionally of anxiety, trauma and bereavement in any child. There is a need for compassionate teaching.

Rainbow Orange Strand – Whole Class Recovery

This phase is focused on children revisiting their current curriculum and embedding knowledge lost because of lockdown. This strand will commence in September 2020 and take place every morning from 8:30am to 9:30am throughout the first half-term of the academic year. This teaching session will be taught by a child's previous class teacher, their Rainbow Teacher. This teacher is in the best position to know the gaps in a child's learning journey and as they know the children best at this stage, they can continue to meet a child's social and emotional needs.

Our orange strand curriculum will be underpinned by 4 key principles:

Creative - The ancient Chinese proverb reinforces the need for learning to be creative. 'Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I'll remember, involve me and I'll understand.' Hands-on learning engages children on a deeper level and in turn helps them to retain knowledge. For example, song and rhyme are a successful method to retain and embed knowledge.

Active - Research shows that Incorporating physical activity like star jumps or running on the spot during academic lessons can create a memorable learning experience, helping children to learn more effectively. Rainbow learning will include physical exercise and activities. These might include using movement such as clapping to signify whether a fact is true or false in a lesson, or jumping on the spot a certain number of times to answer a maths question or when teaching new vocabulary using actions to relate to a word.

Knowledge based - Children's learning was ended abruptly at the beginning of the pandemic, as a result there will gaps in learning and knowledge that will need to be supported. Children will co-construct learning to reinforce the key **basic skills** of mathematics, reading, writing spelling and grammar. The planning of the curriculum will support a steady development of the learning that has been missed.

Enjoyable - Ultimately, we want children to enjoy Rainbow learning with their Rainbow children. We want them to develop a positive attitude to learning, re-engaging them with the learning process once again. We want children to understand that the 'pot of gold' at the end of the rainbow is achievable i.e. they can regain lost knowledge and bridge the gap between their previous curriculum and the new curriculum and to once again feel like confident, successful learners.

Rainbow Yellow Strand **Rainbow Tutor Intervention Programme**

We have worked in partnership with other local Catholic schools to explore how we can help our children recover learning lost due to the COVID-19 national lockdown. While each school will develop their own systems and arrangements, we believe an opportunity exists for us to pool some of our local resources and expertise.

We are offering all children the opportunity to join a local tutor intervention programme, a programme we've named the 'Rainbow Tutor Intervention Programme'. Rainbow Tutors have been recruited from participating school.

Our Rainbow Tutor Intervention Programme is a group based intervention programme where children with similar English or Maths needs (similar learning gaps) from participating schools come together to form an intervention group. A Rainbow Tutor then delivers a targeted programme of learning using a virtual learning platform (MS Teams).

Interventions will take place over a 3-week period with 6 hours of teaching in total. Interventions will be highly focused on a particular aspect of Maths or English. For example *,supporting a group of Year 4 children who have gaps in their understanding of addition and subtraction.*

All interventions will take place outside of the normal school day, during an evening or over a weekend. These interventions are additional to learning which takes place within the school setting. Children will be expected to complete 'follow on' activities between each session.

Rainbow Green Strand **Targeted Maths and Reading Intervention**

This recovery strand provides additional teaching and learning (by extending the school day) to support children where significant gaps remain in English Reading and Maths. This strand is for all children irrespective of their attainment level.

This strand will be delivered by class teachers supported by teaching assistants. This is a 30 minute daily programme of intervention for four weeks. It aims, through daily repetition, to embed key learning components into long term memory. The focus of this strand is on Maths and English reading.

Rainbow Blue Strand **Specialist Support**

We recognise that some children and some families may require specialist support to help them recover from the impact of COVID-19. Where specialist support is required, we will facilitate this and will work in close partnership with the appropriate external agencies. The nature of the specialist support will depend on the specific needs of the child and their family. Examples include:

- Support from a specialist speech and language teacher.
- Support from an education psychologist to support with well-being and mental health.
- Support from specialist services where recovery is related to special educational needs.

Rainbow Indigo Strand **Curriculum Recovery – Teaching and Learning Resources**

In order to effectively deliver the various strands of our Rainbow Curriculum and meet the recovery needs of each child, additional teaching and learning resources may be required. This will be kept under review throughout the academic year of 2020-2021 and decisions taken will be in response to the evolving needs of our children.

Our early assessments (autumn 2020 term) has identified additional teaching and learning resources are required in the following areas:

Reading for Pleasure – During lockdown children were unable to access public libraries and our school library. Our school library has reopened but with restrictions in place. This means children are unable to access books to the same level as prior COVID-19. School will supplement our physical school library with a virtual school library.

Phonics – Our initial assessments suggest children's attainment and progress in phonics has been severely impacted by lockdown. Supporting a child's recovery with their phonic knowledge is a key priority for school.

Physical Education – School sport has been severely impacted by COVID-19. We aim to provide additional sport programmes to enrich our PE provision. These will be school based programmes led by OLW's Sports and PE Coach as well as specialist provision e.g. *rock climbing programme at a specialist centre*.

Rainbow Violet Strand **Providing Childs with Remote Learning when Isolating**

We know the national lockdown and school closure had a huge impact on all children across all UK regions. We also recognise that COVID-19 has not 'gone away' and that our children may have to isolate again and not attend school for a period of time.

Our violet strand is focused on remote learning (home learning). Our remote learning arrangements will ensure children and their families are well supported and the impact on the child's learning is minimised.

Our remote learning arrangements will follow a blended approach. There will be a mixture of virtual lessons, class teacher directed learning and activities, and learning which supplements our school curriculum.

Additional Information

Assessment - Assessment will be a continuous process throughout the teaching of our Rainbow Curriculum enabling us to build a clear and accurate picture of an individual child's learning needs and knowledge gaps. The information and knowledge gained from assessments will be used to inform and shape future rainbow teaching and the child's rainbow learning.

Assessment knowledge and outcomes will be used to identify children who experience difficulty regaining forgotten knowledge and key skills so that targeted support can be provided through structured interventions.

Parent Support - Parents have played a key role in supporting children to learn at home during the COVID-19 lockdown and it will be essential that we continue to work together in order to fill gaps in children's knowledge.

COVID-19 Catch-Up Premium Grant Funding

Introduction

The Government has pledged £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all children make up for lost teaching time.

In addition, the Government recognises that it is likely that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups will have been hardest hit. So alongside the universal catch-up premium, they have also pledged an additional £350 million for a National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help.

How can the Catch-Up Premium be spent?

Headteachers are accountable for how the funding is spent, just like they are for child premium grant funding. There is 'no one size fits all' approach and schools will be expected to employ a variety of strategies appropriate for their communities and the needs of their children.

We are using our Catch-Up Premium to fund our Rainbow Curriculum and each of our different strands.

Who will ensure the Catch-Up Premium is being well spent?

Our Lady of the Wayside governors will scrutinise our approaches in supporting our children to recover, including our plans for and use of catch-up funding. Governors will consider whether we are spending this funding in line with our catch-up priorities (Rainbow Curriculum) and what impact the funding is having on our children. A termly impact report will be produced by school leaders.

In addition to scrutiny by governors, Ofsted will visit some schools during the autumn 2020 term to discuss how they are bringing children back into full-time education. These discussions may include plans schools have to spend their catch-up funding. Ofsted is planning to resume routine inspections from January 2021 although the exact timings are being kept under review. When routine inspections restart, Ofsted will make judgements about the quality of education being provided and how school leaders are using their funding and catch-up funding to ensure the curriculum has a positive impact on all children.

How much Catch-Up Premium funding will Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School receive?

Total Catch-Up Premium funding allocated - £34,080

Based on 426 children, £80 per child.

Budget allocated - £36,600 (additional £5520 will be met from 2020-2021 revenue budget)

COVID-19 Catch-Up Premium Grant Planned Expenditure

The headings below are linked to our Rainbow Curriculum strands. These are estimated costs to the nearest hundred, actual costs may vary depending on the recovery needs of the children.

Rainbow Red Strand

Funding Allocated	£3500
Planned Outcome	All children return to school in September 2020..
Action Required	<p>Provide an opportunity for all children to return to the classroom in the summer 2020 term. This will involve extending the academic year into the summer 2020 holiday period.</p> <p>Support families with preparing for their child/children to return to school following the national lockdown.</p> <p>Purchasing and preparing learning resources to ensure the curriculum meets the needs of children following the national lockdown.</p>

Rainbow Orange Strand

Funding Allocated	£12,300
Planned Outcome	Children will be taught the key curriculum components of their summer 2020 term curriculum.
Action Required	<p>Extend the school day for the first half of the autumn 2020 term to provide additional teaching and learning time.</p> <p>Class teachers to revisit summer 2020 term curriculum and teach key learning components – <i>it will not be possible to teach all components of the summer 2020 curriculum.</i></p>

Rainbow Yellow Strand

Funding Allocated	£3800
Planned Outcome	Misconceptions in Maths and English will be identified and quickly overcome.
Action Required	<p>Introduction of a Rainbow Tutor Programme focused on providing targeted interventions to overcome misconceptions in Reading, writing, grammar and punctuation and mathematics.</p> <p>Programme will work in partnership with other local Catholic schools with all tutors experienced practitioners employed in participating schools.</p>

Rainbow Green Strand

Funding Allocated	£6500
Planned Outcome	To close attainment and progress gaps in Mathematics and English where child's recovery is slower than expected and gaps remain.
Action Required	Provide additional teaching and learning time (extending the school day) to support children where learning gaps in English and Maths remain. This strand will be delivered by class teachers supported by teaching assistants. This will be a 30 minute daily programme of intervention for four weeks.

Rainbow Blue Strand

Funding Allocated	£4000
Planned Outcome	To provide specialist support to ensure the recovery needs of all children are met.
Action Required	<p>School will work in partnership with external agencies to support children and their families where specialist support is required. This will depend on the identified need. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support from a specialist speech and language teacher - Support from an education psychologist to support with well-being and mental health - Support from specialist services where recovery is related to special educational needs.

Rainbow Indigo Strand

Funding Allocated	£6500
Planned Outcome	To ensure children recover as much learning as possible from across all areas of the curriculum.
Action Required	<p>Reading – to introduce a virtual school library to encourage children to read for pleasure. During lockdown, with our school and public libraries closed, a significant number of children were unable to read for pleasure. We wish to reignite their passion for reading by ensuring they have a wide and varied choice of literature.</p> <p>Phonics – to purchase additional phonic materials to support with the closing of gaps in phonic knowledge. Lockdown had a significant impact on phonics and the recovery of phonics learning is a key priority for school.</p> <p>PE – to provide additional PE enrichment (e.g. rock climbing) to compensate for a lack of competitive sporting opportunities in 2020-2021.</p>

Rainbow Violet Strand

Funding Allocated	£3000
Planned Outcome	Children (from September 2020) receive effective remote learning if they are required to isolate. This ensures the impact of isolating on learning is minimised and further attainment gaps do not appear.
Action Required	<p>Appoint a lead teacher to support with the training of teachers in using MS Teams.</p> <p>To produce MS Teams guides for staff, children and parents.</p> <p>To produce a Remote Learning Policy to ensure our remote learning arrangements are best practice and there is consistency across the school.</p> <p>To create supplementary schemes of work to support with remote learning.</p>