Selsted CE Primary School

'From Tiny Acorns Mighty Oaks Grow Within the Love God'

Selsted Church of England Primary School is a small rural school situated between Folkestone, Canterbury and Dover. There are currently 93 pupils on the roll, with mixed-age classes. In addition to four classrooms, the school benefits from additional spaces, including a well-being room and an intervention room. The school has good outdoor provision, consisting of two playgrounds and a large field.

Curriculum Intent and Rationale

Intent

We aim to offer a curriculum that is exciting, engaging, and highly relevant, and that focuses on developing the whole child. Our holistic approach is designed to nurture our pupils into confident, well-rounded individuals. With this in mind, we have implemented a cohesive, sequential curriculum model centred on human flourishing. It enables pupils' learning to connect and progress year on year. We aim to offer high-quality teaching and learning for all our pupils that highlights the importance of human creativity and achievement and leads to the development of educated citizens within our own community and on a wider national and global scale. Raising aspirations and developing pupils' independence is at the heart of this.

Implementation

We use the Dimensions 'Learning Means the World' Curriculum as the main vehicle for achieving our outlined intent.

Our curriculum narrative is woven together around four connected pillars that guide children's growth from their earliest days at Selsted through to the next stage of their lives. It begins with **Communication**, the vital thread that underpins every other strand—giving pupils the voice, confidence, and connection they need to learn together and share their ideas with the world. From there, we explore **Culture**, because understanding who we are—and who others are—is central to building identity, belonging, and respect. We then look back through **Conflict**, helping children reflect on the past and learn thoughtfully from human mistakes so they can build wiser, fairer communities. Finally, our journey turns forward to **Conservation**, inspiring pupils to look ahead with hope and purpose toward a healthier, more sustainable world for everyone.

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Communication
We believe that good communication skills give access to all other areas of the curriculum. Becoming a good communicator is an essential life skill that prepares children for the future, helps them build positive relationships (linked to emotional and social literacy), and gives them the tools to succeed. We want our pupils to increase their understanding of language and have consistent access to high-quality vocabulary.
To be ready for the next stage of their lives—moving on to a wide range of secondary schools—it is vital that our pupils leave Selsted with the confidence and social skills to build new friendships and settle into new environments. We equip children to express themselves clearly and effectively across all forms of communication, adapting how they speak and write to suit different audiences and situations. Just as importantly, strong, open communication sits at the heart of our wider school community, uniting pupils, staff, and families as we work together.

Culture
As a school serving a predominantly White British demographic, we intentionally design curriculum experiences that act as mirrors, allowing children to see their own lives, values, and heritage reflected and affirmed with pride, while simultaneously opening windows into the rich diversity of other cultures, faiths, and worldviews—locally, nationally, and internationally. Ultimately, these learning experiences become doors, empowering our pupils to step out into the wider world as compassionate, outward-facing citizens who actively build cross-cultural friendships, mutual respect, tolerance, and genuine understanding.

Conflict
At Selsted CE Primary, positive, nurturing relationships sit at the heart of everything we do, underpinned by our core Christian values of **respect, friendship, trust, wisdom, perseverance, and hope**. Through these values, pupils must learn to appreciate others' opinions and develop the skills to address and resolve differences constructively.
Negative experiences that impact development—including reduced opportunities for shared social play—can leave a lasting mark on children's lives, meaning some pupils need intentional support to build essential social skills such as compromising, sharing, and collaborating. Supporting these skills is a high priority at Selsted and is woven purposefully across our curriculum. We also help pupils understand their own behaviour and that of others, nurturing genuine empathy while equipping them with practical strategies to self-regulate and manage difficult emotions. Grounded in mutual trust and strong relationships across our school community, children develop lasting tolerance, resilience, and compassion for others and their individual situations.

Conservation
As a rural school surrounded by nature, our pupils have a natural love of the outdoors and a genuine passion for caring for our environment. Building on this enthusiasm, our next step is to help children connect their everyday choices to the "big picture" of global conservation and understand how our actions shape the wider world.
Along with caring for our planet, we place great importance on what it means to be an active citizen. We want every pupil to feel empowered to take responsibility, contribute thoughtfully to their community, and play a meaningful part in protecting God's creation—both locally and globally.

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Impact

We want every child at Selsted to dream big and believe in what they can achieve. To spark ambition and show pupils what is possible, we teach them about extraordinary human creativity and achievement through dedicated **Competency Units** exploring inspiring figures from history and the modern world.

Each unit spotlights four powerful qualities—**Creativity, Commitment, Courage, and Community**—helping children see how real people have overcome challenges, shaped society, and left a lasting mark. By connecting these stories to our school values, we encourage pupils to recognise their own potential and strive for excellence in everything they do.

Our ambition is for every child who leaves Selsted to step forward with confidence, character, and a deep sense of purpose—truly ready for the next stage of their lives. Rooted in our Christian ethos and our motto, *"From tiny acorns, mighty oaks grow within the love of God,"* our curriculum nurtures the whole child, helping them flourish academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Through this broad, connected learning journey, we hope our pupils grow into articulate communicators who listen carefully, express themselves clearly, and value different viewpoints. We want them to be compassionate, outward-facing citizens who celebrate diversity, act with kindness and integrity, and care deeply for one another and for the world around them. Guided by our values of **respect, friendship, trust, wisdom, perseverance, and hope**, we hope every child leaves us with high aspirations, resilience when challenges arise, and the curiosity to keep learning long after they leave Selsted.