

EX-DAYS AT KING CHARLES

INTENT

What are the aims?

Ex-days are an innovative way of **elaborating on the curriculum** in order to enrich and deepen understanding. They work alongside the curriculum to engage learners in **exciting, expressive, exploratory, experimental** and **expert** activities across a broad range of subjects and stimuli.

As well as providing each child with **alternative learning opportunities**, they also facilitate class teachers to collaborate in year groups to complete their PPA time (Preparation, Planning and Assessment).

IMPLEMENTATION

What does it look like?

Ex-days incorporate already learnt skills that the children have at their disposal and encourage children to use the **school's core values** – friendship, creativity and teamwork. Often through the delivery of ex-days, children may not realise they're 'doing maths' or 'doing English', and this gives children who may find those subjects difficult, the **confidence** and willingness to **have a go** and shine in areas they may not do so normally.

Ex-days follow a similar theme over a **two-week cycle**. One may have a DT theme, another a religious. They may also revolve about something **topical** for example The Olympic Games or a space walk.

Each year group experiences a **differentiated range of activities**, where outcomes and support are **tailored to children's individual needs**. The lessons are generally more free-flowing than 'normal' lessons because the learning looks at what they want to learn rather than need to learn. They look at 'the big picture' for an area of learning and then bring it back to the children, focusing on how it affects them and what actions could be taken as a school or as individuals to make a positive impact in the lives of others in the future.

Taught fortnightly (Year 1-Year 6), ex-days impact on whole school learning, spanning the breadth and depth of all subjects across all year groups. One week the children could learn about their role in sustaining their local and wider environment, the next could be a Cornish inspired ex-day, followed by one which involves outdoor learning with a musical twist; they really do **touch on all aspects of learning**.

Our ex-day teachers support the **spiritual** side of our school vision by including times for reflection by way of **prayer or bible extracts**.

Due of the nature of ex-days - **promoting the extraordinary** - every child can access every ex-day and children are given opportunities to shine in their learning by being awarded the **Ex-day Award**.

What are the outcomes?

IMPACT

Children and parents describe ex-days as one of the **most positive parts about learning** at KC and we recognise that the impact it has on children goes much further than just their experiences in school – it can **inspire their future choices in life**. The impact the ex-days have on the wider community is huge too, as often our visitors and experts are parents or locals who are **passing their knowledge onto our children**. As a school, we use ex-days to mark memorable occasions, such as Remembrance Day this year, where the whole school created a poppy field with messages and thoughts inscribed on each poppy. This enables children to learn more and remember more.