St Buryan Academy Primary School Curriculum (including Phonics) Statement

General Curriculum Approach: We are currently using the Inspire curriculum (www.theinspirecurriculum.co.uk) for all year groups (for specific information please refer to Class pages on our website) planned with reference to **Project-Based Learning (PBL).** We use the 'Abacus' scheme of work to deliver Maths (www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/maths)

What is the theory behind the PBL approach to curriculum planning as a tool for engaging and enthusing children?

'Project-Based Learning (PBL) is a tool for engaging, enthusing and exciting the children as well as for developing 21st century learning skills.

It involves students in complex activities that build skills and knowledge through application. The aim is for students to design, plan and carry out a project that produces a publicly-exhibited output such as a product, publication, or presentation. With this method, predictable outcomes are achieved while allowing students the freedom to expand and define their own learning experiences.

In PBL, students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. While allowing for some degree of student 'voice and choice', rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st century skills (such as collaboration, communication and critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products and presentations.

Using PBL, students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts and standards at the heart of a project. The projects also build vital workplace skills and lifelong habits of learning, and can allow students to address community issues, explore careers, interact with adult mentors, use technology, and present their work to audiences beyond the classroom.

PBL is related to enquiry-based learning and problem-based learning, but the distinctive feature of project-based learning is the publicly-exhibited output.

When students know that the work they are creating in a project will be displayed publicly, this changes the nature of the project from the moment they start working – because they know they will need to literally 'stand by' their work, under scrutiny and questioning from family, friends, and total strangers.

This inspires a level of ambition and commitment much greater than is fuelled by the incentive of 'getting good marks'. In addition, students' families, as well as other people from the local community, get to see what is going on in the school, providing an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the school and community.' (The Times)

Phonics: Our Phonics teaching sequence is based on the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme whilst incorporating additional content from Phonics Bug -details available at www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/primary/Literacy/AllLiteracyresources/PhonicsBug

 Jolly Phonics is also used to ensure our delivery is as comprehensive as possible.