



'The JOY of the Lord is Your Strength' (*Nehemiah 8:10*)

St. John's Church of England Primary School

Curriculum Rationale

We start with the belief that the curriculum at St. John's is unique and is designed for the pupils in our school - nobody else. We aim for breadth and balance in the delivery of each subject under the umbrella of a topic which helps pupils build a bank of knowledge and skills which will serve them in good stead on their journey through school and beyond. Our curriculum is set out in a series of layers which allow teachers and children, parents and governors to clearly see what our pupils are learning at St. John's and how children's learning progresses over the years. We started our curriculum planning using the National Curriculum, expanding on the key content in this government document, translating it into coherent and relevant objectives for our school. A curriculum created by St. John's, for St. John's.

Easily visible at the top of our curriculum are our **Curriculum Overviews** for each year group. These give a brief flavour of the content in each year group throughout the academic year and are aimed at giving some simple, straightforward information on what a child will learn about over the course of the year. The overview format may be ideal for a parent, child or visitor to our website or school. Each, individual curriculum subject is listed within the overview with many of the subjects taught under the umbrella of a topic. A particular subject may form the key driver of a topic such as History for 'The Romans' in Year 3, with other subjects, including maths and English woven in as appropriate to immerse children in learning – often with a topic-related novel. High quality novels and opportunities for teaching and practising reading are vital as the ability to read confidently, competently and with enjoyment provides access to all areas of the curriculum.

Under that top layer, all year groups follow a detailed **Year Group Curriculum**. The aim of this document is to provide teachers with the objectives that they need to teach each year drawn from the National Curriculum. As a result, teachers have a clear understanding of what their class need to cover in terms of their learning in each curriculum subject and can then design teaching sequences and activities accordingly. This is a living document with teachers free to amend or annotate in line with the strengths or areas of development for their class or particular interests or events which come to the fore during the year.

The Year group Curriculum is very much a horizontal curriculum which gives information on what is taught in a specific year. Running alongside is a vertical **Subject Curriculum** which allows staff to ensure all children build on their knowledge and skills year-on-year. This document maps each subject across the school, breaking subjects down into different parts. For example, Geography is split into Geographical Enquiry, Physical Geography, Human Geography and Geographical Knowledge. Teachers are then able to easily see the progression evident in our curriculum; they are

clear on the prior learning and know what comes next. The curriculum at St. John's aims to do the same for the children in our care. This Subject Curriculum is also vital for Subject Leaders at St. John's: staff who 'champion' a particular subject and ensure that children leave our school with the very best education possible in their subject.

Our final curriculum layer enables teachers to focus on and present teaching sequences for each subject within the topic. Teachers at St. John's ensure they take great care planning the progression of teaching sequences to ensure that children experience a logical journey through a subject and allows them time to acquire the intended knowledge and skills. At this point we move into the implementation of the curriculum.

Each subject within the curriculum allows each child a differing experience and whilst some subjects are loved and others tolerated, we expect all children to take a full an active part in their education. Teachers at St. John's work tirelessly to ensure that the curriculum they facilitate ensures our pupils:

- Know how to keep themselves safe and healthy in our ever-changing world
- Know their roles and responsibilities in today's society. Understand how they can be a valuable member of their local, wider and world-wide community
- Have the knowledge and understanding to succeed in a growing and changing world
- Communicate effectively and confidently, through speech and language, writing and self-expression
- Be able to express themselves freely and use the knowledge and skills we share with them to make the most of their talents and abilities.
- Become the best person they can be.
- Spread J.O.Y

EYFS

In Reception, a variety of structured play and practical activities are planned to help children develop in the three prime areas of learning: personal, social and emotional development; communication and language and physical development. The framework for Reception, part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, can be found here ([insert link](#)). We teach this framework through topics that excite the children, gathering their ideas and planning according to their needs and interests. As a school we recognise the importance of reading for all children across the whole school and this journey starts in Reception, where children commence daily phonics lessons which continue through Key Stage 1.

Key Stage 1 and 2

From Years 1 through to 6, children have a daily maths and English lesson as well as following the 'foundation' subjects through the topic based curriculum where applicable. Children are taught to develop their skills, knowledge, understanding and creativity in science, computing, history, geography, design and technology, art, physical education, religious education and music. Additionally, French is taught from Year 3 onwards. Each subject has developed their own curriculum intent and will provide a different challenge for each individual pupil.

Assembly and Worship

At St. John's, we build in opportunities to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our pupils, especially through our daily acts of collective worship and our Religious Education curriculum. Children are encouraged to develop their own beliefs at St. John's.

Curriculum Enhancement

What often makes the memories of children at primary school! At St. John's we enhance and enrich our curriculum through a variety of activities including educational visits, school performances, visitors to school, extra-curricular clubs and our role in the community. Children are encouraged to get fully involved in school life, work with charities in the local and wider world and take on a variety of roles and responsibilities within the class and school as a whole.

Homework

At St. John's we are passionate that children should have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in every subject of the curriculum. Home learning is used to develop opportunities for children to showcase their talents as well as time for parents to work together and enjoy learning experiences.

Home-School Links

We firmly believe that the education of the children at St. John's is a partnership between children, staff and parents. Support from home is vital in maximising children's chances of fulfilling their potential. In order to facilitate this partnership, we offer an open-door policy where parents are welcome to visit school and chat to teachers about their child at mutually convenient times. The relationships we establish at St. John's are key to the success of our school.