

Curriculum Statement 2023

The foundations for the St John's Curriculum are our school vision themes:

- *Critical thinking and Problem Solving*
- *Physical and Mental Wellbeing*
- *Local and Global Citizenship*
- *Communication and Social Skills*
- *Creativity and Innovation*
- *Key Academic Skills*

We have designed a meaningful, ambitious and engaging curriculum incorporating our vision themes and aim to develop a love of learning in all of our pupils. We teach subject specific skills and knowledge based on the National Curriculum, but tailored to the needs and interests of our pupils, our school context and local community. Within the focus for each term (e.g. Australia, Dinosaurs, Extreme Earth) each subject is delivered as a separate discipline, although links are made between subjects where appropriate. Some subjects such as Science or RE may not link with the focus for the term and are therefore taught entirely discretely.

We have selected four 'big ideas' or concepts to underpin each subject (e.g. for History: *Legacy, Chronology, Historical Enquiry, Cause and Consequence*). Each termly unit provides opportunities to develop these 'big ideas'. Units are carefully planned and sequenced, in order to build on children's prior learning and provide the skills and knowledge for future learning in that subject.

Visitors are invited into school to share their expertise and pupils are regularly taken on educational visits to extend their learning. We believe children learn best when their learning involves real experiences and has a purpose and audience. Each term's learning culminates in an Open Morning or Afternoon, when parents are invited into school to share in their child's learning. This might involve an exhibition of work or a performance or class assembly.

We promote reading through use of high quality texts and use these to provide a stimulus for our writing units. When planning learning opportunities, teachers aim to provide as many opportunities for writing as possible. We aim to ensure that all children enjoy books and read for pleasure; this is promoted through attractive class libraries and key stage libraries, our parent librarians, working with our local book shop, local library and through special book events (e.g World Book Day, author visits).

We teach Maths through a 'Maths Mastery' approach. This approach is based on teaching children concepts using practical 'concrete' resources and pictorial representations as well as the abstract version of a concept. We use this approach in all year groups. Mastery aims to develop fluency, reasoning and problem solving for all pupils through providing opportunities for deep learning.

As a values school, our assemblies are based around the 'value of the fortnight' (e.g. Respect, Cooperation, Tolerance). We follow the Family Links Programme as part of our PHSE curriculum. Our staff are also trained in Zones of Regulation and PACE, all of which underpin our behaviour policy. Through this we aim to develop pupils' emotional literacy and wellbeing. Through the idea of 'Purple Learning', we teach children to become successful learners who enjoy challenge, understand that mistakes are part of learning and are resilient.

All of our pupils take part in Forest School – weekly in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, and every other term in Key Stage 2. We also have a programme of residential visits which begins with a ‘Nearly a Sleepover’ for Year 2, involves overnight stays for Years 3,4 and 5 and ends with Year 6 enjoying a five day residential in Devon. Our curriculum is further enriched by sporting and non-sporting clubs which are offered by staff and parent volunteers.

Our aim is to create inquisitive, confident and knowledgeable learners, with the capacity to work effectively with others and the resilience to cope with whatever challenges they meet on their learning journey at St John’s, as they move on to secondary school and into adulthood.

January 2023