



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM STATEMENTS



St John's Catholic School Curriculum Intent: To develop in children an excitement and curiosity about the world around them and a love of learning.

At St. John's we aim to stimulate children's curiosity and challenge them to explore learning in depth, as encouraged by the New National Curriculum. We recognise that children need to learn skills, in order to equip them with the learning tools essential for life-long learning. It is also recognised that children need to possess facts and knowledge in order to make sense of the world around them. Therefore planning focuses on knowledge and skills to enable children to become Historians, Artists, Musicians etc.

At St. John's we recognise that children learn best when they experience something first hand. We value Learning Outside the Classroom as a key part of exploring the world beyond the classroom; we endeavour to ensure the pupils learn from rich and practical learning opportunities. In addition to this we recognise the need to offer pupils these essential wider life experiences and therefore seek to make the most of the opportunities presented by living in London, by accessing museums, galleries, places of interest etc. We wish to raise expectations and aspirations and broaden horizons for the children we serve. We want children to make the most of being in London and travel around their city safely.

As a Green Flag School we recognise the importance of environmental awareness being part of the curriculum and this is one vehicle which helps to build responsibility within our children. We wish to develop confident, resilient learners who challenge themselves, ask and answer their own questions and in doing so develop a strong sense of self. Our curriculum allows for children to make choices and informed decisions – skills for life.



St John's Statement of Intent for RE

At St John's we aim to provide our pupils with a broad, balanced RE curriculum which is underpinned by our Mission Statement 'To Love and serve.' The core values of our Catholic education remain central to the life of our school and we want children to leave with a sense of self-worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community.

We aim to develop the importance of values, whilst respecting the differences of others. We hope to engender in pupils an ability to express their religious understanding through a range of mediums.

At St. John's we aim for pupils to leave school as religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.



St John's Statement of Intent for EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the start of our pupils' school journey towards achieving their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. We deliver an exciting curriculum in an environment where everyone is cared for, valued and respected. Every child is recognised as a unique individual who is constantly learning and we aim for the children to become capable, confident and self-assured learners during the Early Years of their schooling.

In Early Years the importance of children's play is recognised. It is an essential and rich part of the learning process, supporting children in all areas of development. We provide both structured and unstructured play opportunities inside and outside.

We aim to extend and enrich the children's vocabulary through story time, rhymes, role-play, group discussions and a language rich environment. We provide a variety of activities for the children to develop their early literacy skills; these activities include whole class shared reading, phonics sessions and small group guided reading and writing. Children have the opportunity to develop their independent writing skills and to support the teaching of phonics and emergent writing we use the Song of Sounds programme. A weekly visit to Canada Water Library is key to ensuring the children develop a love of books and reading for pleasure.

We aim for children to achieve mathematical understanding and a firm foundation for numeracy through practical and problem solving activities. Children are given opportunities to solve problems, investigate, make decisions and experiment in all areas of learning. They learn about living things, their environment, the world and the people around them.

We provide opportunities for all children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art, design, technology, music, drama, movement, dance and imaginative play activities. The opportunity for children to learn outside the classroom begins in Early Years with local visits taking place regularly, in particularly using the woodland space adjacent to the school in all seasons.



St John's Statement of Intent for English

At Saint John's Primary School we aim to deliver an exciting, innovative English curriculum which is taught through a range of stimuli including high quality texts, artefacts, visitors and learning outside the classroom. We aim to enable our pupils to become capable readers, writers, spellers and speakers who can transfer these English skills to other subjects. Phonics is a key component of this and is taught through the use of our phonics programme 'Song of Sounds' to develop early independent reading and writing.

English is frequently taught in a cross-curricular way. On leaving St John's, pupils are able to speak clearly, convey their ideas fluently and confidently and ask questions. The value of a rich vocabulary is key to success and this is developed throughout the curriculum

Learning to read is one of the most important skills a child will learn at school. Using reading as a tool for learning across the curriculum is a skill which is developed through careful teaching. We encourage children to be confident readers who select texts for a purpose and for pleasure. Quality picture books, novels, poetry and non-fiction texts, support children on the journey from reading to writing. We aim for pupils to leave St John's as enthusiastic, independent and confident readers and writers with a love of exploring language and a desire to continue to improve their literacy skills through hard work.



St John's Statement of Intent for Maths

At St. John's we are committed to fostering an enthusiasm for Maths. Mathematics teaches children how to make sense of the world around us and at St. John's we aim to achieve this through developing a child's ability to calculate, reason and solve problems. Children will develop a secure recall of key mathematical facts and a fluent understanding of calculation, this will begin with the use of well chosen, practical resources.

Learning is enhanced by the exploration of mathematical concepts in a range of fun, purposeful experiences, including Learning Outside the Classroom. Helping children to become fluent, determined mathematicians, who can confidently explain their understanding and solve problems is key. When children leave Saint John's they will have learned (through carefully planned activities) how to make connections between the Maths we learn in school and its real life application.



St John's Statement of Intent for Art and design

Art and Design stimulates creativity and imagination; enabling children to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. We aim for children to learn to explore ideas through exploring the work of artists and designers. We recognise that children need to learn and experience a variety of artistic skills, in order to allow them to experiment and produce work of a high quality.

The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enriches all our lives and we recognise that children learn best when they experience something first hand. We value Learning Outside the Classroom and seek to make the most of the opportunities presented by living in London, by visits to art galleries and engaging in Art Workshops.

Therefore, planning focuses on knowledge and skills to enable children to become Artists who are confident to explore through a range of mediums.



St John's Statement of Intent for Computing

At St John's the Computing curriculum aims to enrich, modernise and support all aspects of our school curriculum. Children's confidence and progress in their computing skills is essential for them to maximise their learning and to prepare for the challenge of a rapidly developing and changing technological world. We believe that children should be provided with a computing education which equips pupils to use high-quality thinking and creativity. The Computing curriculum includes coding, where pupils can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve problems.

The children have regular access to ICT through the use of the ICT Suite (which has 31 PCs) as well as a trolley of iPads. We believe that the school's computing resources should be as up to date, relevant and extensive as possible. Key to this is being responsive to technological advances and exploring innovative ways to use technology to teach creatively and enrich learning. On-line safety is taught and KS2 use the 'Internet legends' scheme as a starting point to build on.

With the knowledge that Computing and ICT will undoubtedly continue to form a major part in the children's life at home, in further education and places of work, pupils will leave St John's with effective and transferrable life skills. We aim for pupils to leave St John's with good digital literacy skills, being able to use and express themselves and develop their ideas through technology.



St John's Statement of Intent for DT

Through the DT curriculum children develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world. At St John's we aim to build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users. Furthermore, pupils will understand and apply the principles of nutrition and be able to prepare nutritious snacks.

On leaving St John's, pupils will have the knowledge and skills to be able to design, make and evaluate products and the relevant technological knowledge and expertise to allow them to move on to tackle more complex projects in KS3 with enthusiasm and confidence.



St John's Statement of Intent for Geography

At St John's Primary School, the Geography curriculum will inspire pupils with a curiosity and fascination about the world and encourage them to develop a greater understanding of their world and their place in it, by using enquiry-based questions.

As Geographers, pupils will develop their knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. A key part of this is through experiences of fieldwork skills and the ability to interpret a range of sources of geographical information.

As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes. As a Green Flag School pupils will develop an understanding of what it means to being environmentally responsible citizens. We aim for pupils at St. John's to leave school with an appreciation of local geography and an understanding of London as a City. They will also have a thirst for knowledge and a fascination about the wider world.



St John's Statement of Intent for History

At St John's Primary School, the curriculum seeks to inspire pupils to develop as Historians through a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world by learning to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop perspective and judgement to draw conclusions about the past.

St John's values Learning Outside the Classroom as a key part of developing analytical skills to ensure pupils learn from rich and practical learning opportunities. By accessing a variety of museums and places of historical interest in London, children will develop an understanding of how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

We strive to create a supportive and collaborative ethos for learning by providing investigative and enquiry based learning opportunities. Pupils will leave St John's having developed a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history. We aim to develop an enthusiasm for learning about the past and pupils who have a lifelong love of learning.



St John's Statement of Intent for MFL

The core language taught at St John's is French. It is the intention that all children in KS2 will access first quality teaching of French in order to adequately prepare them for KS3. French is taught by a specialist teacher from St Michael's College in the Spring and Summer term. Class teachers teach French in the Autumn term in KS2.

Through the national curriculum and the progression of skills we aim to introduce children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and stimulating, to encourage children's curiosity about language, to speak confidently understanding the main points in spoken language, give short talks and take part in conversations. Pupils will leave St John's having mastered the ability to have basic conversations in French, read simple French texts and write simple French sentences. In addition, pupils will develop their awareness of French culture.



St John's Statement of Intent for Music

Music is taught by a specialist Music Teacher, using a scheme devised by Southwark Music Services. Children have many different opportunities to develop their singing voice, learn how to play a variety of percussion instruments (untuned and tuned), learn basic music notation and experiment with composition of music.

Pupils also have the opportunity to learn to play the recorder in Lower KS2, progressing from the Descant recorder to the Treble recorder and then moving on to playing the Ukulele in Year 6. In addition, pupils can also learn to play the violin with a peripatetic music teacher.

Performing is a skill the children develop through assemblies, plays, concerts and this also includes opportunities for pupils to perform instruments they learn in school and also instruments they may learn at home; this helps to widen all children's experience of Music. By the end of Year 6 the schools aims for the children to have attended classical music concerts, as well as a West End Musical show . The children will have also taken part in a performance at a prestigious location such as The Royal Festival Hall, where they work with other schools, performing with live music to a large audience.

As a Catholic School, the children also enjoy Hymn Practice and they learn to sing traditional hymns as well as modern hymns, which celebrate the liturgical seasons. Music and song is a key part of all assemblies. The school has a choir and they will regularly perform during these times.



St John's Statement of Intent for PE

St John's School believes that physical education, experienced in a safe and supportive environment, is a unique and vital contributor to a pupil's physical development and well-being. A broad and balanced physical education curriculum will aim to provide new experiences for children to try e.g. Golf, Sailing. This will help pupils to be open minded about trying new sports in the future.

PE endeavours to provide stimulating, enjoyable, satisfying and appropriately challenging learning experiences for all pupils. Through the selection of suitably differentiated and logically developed tasks, it is intended that pupils, irrespective of their innate ability, will enjoy success and be motivated to further develop their individual potential.

When children leave St John's they will have been given opportunities to compete in sport, build character and embed values such as fairness, respect and teamwork. We aim for children to leave St John's with a motivation to develop and pursue physical interests outside of school, in order to have a healthy lifestyle.



St John's Statement of Intent for PSHE

At St. John's Catholic Primary School personal, social, health and economic education (PHSE) enables the children to become healthy, independent, resilient and responsible members of a society. It aims to help them understand how they are developing personally, socially and spiritually and tackles many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

The PHSE curriculum has strong links to RE through the Reveal section of our program of study, Come and See. In Key stage 1 and 2 PSHE builds on the statutory content of the national curriculum, the statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.'

We acknowledge the importance of Pupil Voice through the School Council, Green Team and Spiritual Life Committee, as well as through regular opportunities to express their ideas and thoughts. Pupils leave St John's with a developed sense of self-worth and an understanding of the importance of playing a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community. They will have secured a good understanding of British Values and Gospel Values. This will include an understanding of rights and responsibilities and an appreciation of what it means to live in London and be a member of a diverse society



St John's Statement of Intent for Science

Science is about the understanding of the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Pupils develop skills through investigation, with an emphasis on Learning Outside the Classroom and a recognition of the importance of environmental education.

At St John's, Science is taught as a separate lesson and is linked to theme based work where appropriate. Key scientific terminology will be introduced in each lesson and knowledge will be built upon throughout the school. Pupils will be encouraged to work scientifically and will be able to carry out simple tests and experiments using equipment and to gather and record data. Whilst at St John's Primary school, children will learn about plants, animals including humans, materials, seasonal change, habitats, rocks, light, forces, states of matter, sound, electricity, earth and space and evolution and inheritance.

We aim for pupils to leave St John's with a curiosity about natural phenomena and an excitement relating to the process of understanding the world around them. They will be competent in carrying out and recording investigations and scientific observations and confident in asking scientific questions.

