



The Curriculum at St John's Walworth

Curriculum Intent

At St John's Walworth we are committed to ensuring that every child experiences an engaging, exciting and empowering curriculum that prepares them for their next step, both in education and the wider world. We recognise that all children are unique and bring different experiences to our school community, which we believe is a strength and the starting point for all learning.

Through well planned learning sequences, we offer children a balanced and broad curriculum that teaches the skills and knowledge they need, but also allows children to find their passion and excel, which, in turn, supports all areas of their learning. We also recognise the importance of developing resilience, creative thinking, and personal development through our taught curriculum and pastoral support; all of which is underpinned by our Christian ethos and school values.

Our curriculum is planned to offer a thematic approach where possible, whilst recognising where curriculum content needs to be taught discretely, because we believe this helps children to see connections and understand the relevance of their learning. We track and evaluate our curriculum carefully, in order to ensure that our coverage is thorough and all children make progress.

Alongside the statutory curriculum, we offer children a range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities, because we recognise the importance of a holistic approach to learning in order for children to become life-long learners.

Early Years Foundation Stage

We are aware that both the physical surroundings and the values of the school affect the children's ability to learn. Members of staff working in Reception are responsible for preparing a welcoming, safe and enabling environment within their classrooms and the outdoor spaces. This includes offering a range of activities that the children can reach and select themselves.

We aim to provide a balance between child-initiated play, and well-informed responses to teachable moments. We offer a broad range of experiences to the children in order to stimulate their interest, facilitate meaningful communication and promote purposeful, interactive play. We offer a balanced curriculum to extend their thinking processes. Staff are aware of the benefits of sustaining a dialogue with the children either individually (responding to questions and asking open questions) or as a group (with shared thinking themes threading through the routines of the class).

Diversity is celebrated. Individual children are enabled to reach their full potential through differentiated approaches to learning. We strive to offer equal access to the curriculum and equal opportunities to experience success to all of the children in our care. All children should feel that all activities are open to them. Resources should reflect the diverse cultures in our world as well as those represented within the school.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

Playing and exploring - engagement

Active learning - motivation

Creating and thinking critically - thinking

The areas of learning in Early Years are:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding of the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

The full Early Years Statutory Framework for children aged 0 to 5 can be seen by clicking here.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790580/EYFSP_Handbook_2019.pdf

Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support. Ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process. It involves practitioners observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations. In their interactions with children, practitioners should respond to their own day-to-day observations about children's progress, and observations that parents and carers share. To this end we make systematic

observations and assessments of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles. We then use these observations and assessments to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child.

Key Stage One and Two

English

At St John's Walworth we believe that Literacy is at the heart of all we do. If children are to be successful learners then they need to have the skills and understanding in, and passion for, spoken language, reading and writing.

Our approach to reading recognises the importance of giving children the early building blocks to recognising sounds, letters and words, which we support through the Letters and Sounds phonics resource. Our teaching of early reading ensures that we offer a systematic and carefully planned introduction to sounds, which is supported with appropriately matched texts. Alongside the teaching of phonics, we ensure that children are immersed in, and enjoy, a range of texts, in order to give them the context and comprehension skills they need to be fluent readers. We do this by adapting and devising engaging and varied lessons using the Literacy Tree's Literary Curriculum units, which places good quality children's literature at the core of our English teaching. When children are ready, we use the Accelerated Reader programme to support independent reading and to develop comprehension.

You can find out more about the resources we use to support our teaching of the English National Curriculum by following the links:

Letters and Sounds

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190599/Letters_and_Sounds_-_DFES-00281-2007.pdf

The Literacy Tree

<https://literarycurriculum.co.uk/>

Accelerated Reader

http://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Parents-Guide-to-Accelerated-Reader_2016-17.pdf

Maths

At St John's we follow a maths curriculum that was developed by Nigel Bufton, whose previous role was HMI for maths in England.

The curriculum is divided into six key concepts for each year group, which ensures children develop their core mathematical knowledge, allowing for sustained progress. Each year builds on the previous year's concepts.

This approach offers the children a balanced curriculum that develops a range of calculation, problem solving and reasoning skills as an approach to learning. We provide the children with a robust, but enjoyable and practical, maths curriculum which links their learning to real life application. Across all year groups we sequence learning across a lesson, week, unit of work and term to ensure progression and to embed understanding, so that the children can apply their understanding both in maths and in other areas of their learning.

Our day to day teaching encourages children to discuss and share their ideas and thinking, and develop their mathematical language, through offering opportunities for practice, recall, rehearsal and reasoning. Mental maths is also an integral part of our day to day teaching. We believe this approach ensures that the children at St John's are confident and skilful mathematicians.

IPC

At St John's Walworth we develop our science and foundation subject teaching using units from the International Primary Curriculum. This approach allows children to immerse themselves in a theme that covers different areas of the curriculum, helping them to make connections and develop as learners. We recognise the importance of our children being ready for the 21st century world that they will shape and so we place the 8 personal goals of the IPC (enquiry, resilience, morality, communication, thoughtfulness, cooperation, respect and adaptability) at the heart of our units. Because we are a one form entry school, we follow a two year cycle so that year groups can work in pairs (Key Stage One, Lower Key Stage Two, Upper Key Stage Two) to share their learning journeys. We track our National Curriculum coverage carefully to ensure that we have robust coverage so that children receive a broad and balanced curriculum during their time with us.

To find out more about the IPC please follow the link below:

<https://fieldworkeducation.com/curriculums/primary-years>

Music

At St John's Walworth we recognise the importance of nurturing the children's musicality and the role that music plays in many of our children's faith.

We offer weekly music lessons to all classes, taught by a specialist teacher. These lessons teach a range of skills including singing, playing a variety of instruments, composition and hearing a range of music. We also ensure that children are taught and rehearse the hymns that support our weekly mass.

PE

Children are taught PE twice a week, with one of these lessons being taught by a PE specialist and the other being taught by the class teacher.

Through the use of a specialist coach, we offer the children the opportunity to develop their understanding of the importance of team work and individual achievement, alongside learning the rules of different sports and how fitness affects their bodies.

We follow the National Curriculum to ensure children have experience of dance, gymnastics, athletics and team games.

All classes in Key Stage Two have the opportunity to go swimming during each academic year.