



St John of Jerusalem
Church of England Primary School

Curriculum Statement

At St John of Jerusalem C. Of E. Primary School, we passionately believe that our children have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum. A curriculum that enables our pupils to be successful whilst enjoying learning, take an active part in their own learning, make excellent progress and achieve well. Our curriculum integrates the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum in a bespoke and engaging way. We firmly believe that an engaging and inspirational and creative curriculum can foster curiosity, a real passion and love for learning so that children may, feel valued and develop into life-long learners, responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years curriculum covers EYFS 1 (nursery) and EYFS 2 (reception) it is split into seven areas of learning, three prime areas and four specific areas

Prime: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Physical Development (PD), Communication and Language (CL)

Specific: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design

The curriculum is underpinned by a play-based approach where children have access to all areas of learning within the classroom and in the outside learning area. Children will at times be directly taught a new skill and at other times discover for themselves through carefully planned play opportunities. The curriculum is based around four themes: the unique child, positive relationships, enabling environments and learning and development. Topics are planned in great detail to take account of children's interests and skilfully link all the areas of learning.

The children are continually observed and assessed by teachers and teaching assistants so that they progress rapidly towards achieving the 'early learning goals'.

Speaking and Listening

Talking is fundamental to learning. Pupils are encouraged to speak clearly, confidently and with expression in order to state their ideas and opinions. Just as important is the need to listen carefully to others and respond in appropriate ways. At St John of Jerusalem COE Primary, pupils are given opportunities in all areas of the curriculum to develop their speaking and listening skills, in paired, group or whole class situations. Therefore, Role play, Small world and Drama activities are intrinsic elements of speaking and listening across the school.

Reading

Children who read for pleasure gain a richer vocabulary, more knowledge, and critical thinking skills and become independent learners. Guided Reading is an important part of our curriculum. Children work in focused groups to develop their reading skills and their understanding of texts. We provide children with rich reading experiences within the English lessons and encourage them to appreciate the author's use of language and writing techniques in order to develop their own writing skills.

Our children take their reading books home daily to share with their families/carers. As they go through the school, they are given more responsibility for making their own reading choices from the excellent resources we have in school.

Writing

At St John of Jerusalem COE Primary we aim for children to be independent writers. We encourage them to write clearly and with confidence in any given genre. We teach them to use punctuation and grammar accurately, to be able to proofread their own work and make amendments and improvements. Our system of pen licences in KS2 encourages children to place value on the development of correct letter formation and neatly presented handwriting. We give children a wide range of opportunities in which to develop their writing skills and display work of which they are proud.

Mathematics

Our mathematics curriculum equips pupils with tools that include logical reasoning, problem-solving skills, and the ability to think in abstract ways.

During the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, maths forms part of many interactive learning experiences. Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematics through play, exploration and discussion.

During Key Stage 1 and 2 children are taught class groups for their daily maths lesson. Additionally they have 10 minutes maths meetings when different concepts are revised and practised.

Science

We follow a scheme of work, which covers all the areas of the 2014 science curriculum. The scheme is flexible enough, enabling teachers to use their professional judgement and adapt it to suit their own classes. There is clear progression through all the new modules contained with the 2014 Programme of Study.

At Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 the science curriculum is planned on a programme of topic areas. The relevant key science skills for each year group are delivered through these topics.

Religious Education (RE)

At St John of Jerusalem C of E Primary School, children are taught to understand and respect the importance of religious beliefs in the world around them. We encourage children to use and develop their skills in RE and to participate in critical thinking. We aim to ensure that the RE curriculum is challenging, dynamic and relevant to pupils of all ages. In the Foundation Stage, RE is taught through topics based upon children's own lives and their own experiences. During Key Stage 1, the study of Christianity is introduced and aspects of Judaism and Islam are taught. There is also consideration for non-religious beliefs. In Key Stage 2, the study of Christianity is developed and religious beliefs within Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam are explored.

Modern Foreign Languages (M.F.L.)

Learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience in preparation for future life. At St John of Jerusalem Primary School we teach Spanish from EYFS to Year 6. We have a dedicated time allocated in the timetable and lessons are taught by a Spanish speaking teacher. The younger pupils enjoy with singing along to songs and joining in

with games. The children enjoy “playing with language” and use it in a range of situations. The older children learn to speak in full sentences and writing simple Spanish phrases and sentences.

Music

At St John of Jerusalem we aim to provide a broad music curriculum for every child encompassing skills to develop singing, performance, rhythm, composition and the language of written music. We aim to foster a love of music in all pupils, with practical and creative work at all levels to develop music literacy and understanding. From nursery upwards the pupils cover cross curricular topics including Maths, Science, English, and History. This may be through vocal work, composition and learning arrangements using percussion instruments or the children’s own instruments. The school caters for tuition in violin, steel pans, and guitar. Each class performs their work in school assemblies for school and parents. The overall goal is to ensure every child has access to music making and sharing. Within this remit, the children’s confidence, co-ordination, social and listening skills are developed and maintained. The school also prepares for and performs in church services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter

St John of Jerusalem has a strong singing tradition. The pupils sing regularly in assembly, choir and in the Hackney singing festival for both Infants and juniors. We were recently awarded a ‘Sing Up’ award for Silver. Future plans are to enter for Gold award and to continue to build on the talent and energy of the children.

Computing

We aim for the children to confidently and independently use and apply information technology skills to support and extend their learning. We develop a culture where the use of ICT becomes second nature to our pupils, thus ensuring they are ready and able to embrace the technological advances of the future.

Focus Weeks

Throughout the year we have focused weeks which gives the pupils the opportunity to focus on a particular theme. The timetable is suspended and activities are focused on a key theme.

Extended School opportunities

The school offers a variety of clubs for children to participate in during and after school. These include Football, Multisport, Basket Ball, infants PE, Netballs, Cricket, Drama, Grammar, Poetry and Art Clubs.

Parental involvement

We understand the importance of parental involvement and the impact that support from home can have on a child’s education. Therefore, we strive to maintain good communication with parents, keeping them informed of what the children will be learning and how they can support this at home. A termly curriculum, compiled by class teachers, informs parents of what the children will be learning during the next term, with suggestions of how parents could best support their learning.

Parents are invited into school for concerts, assemblies, music performance, Christmas performances and end of year productions, with the intention of sharing and celebrating the work that has happened in school.

Parent's evenings happen twice per year and all parents are welcomed into school for a meeting with their child's teacher regarding their learning and general development. This is supplemented by end of year reports, which show the children's academic levels, supported by a comment by the class teacher and the head teacher.

Parental views are sought; the School sends out a questionnaire to parents in order to gain their views as to how well the curriculum and the school has met the needs of the children throughout the year. The results are compiled and shared with the Governing Body.