



Intent

At St John's Catholic Junior school, we ensure pupils are given equal opportunities through an engaging and balanced curriculum, which is accessible to all. We ensure each child is able to develop lifelong learning skills to equip them to face challenges with confidence.

We strive to achieve high standards and encourage pupils to make the most of the opportunities we offer them. We have strong links with St John's Infant school and St John Plessington. Through these links and the use of visits and visitors we are able to enhance and enrich our curriculum and develop new skills. These experiences help to develop independence, responsibility, resilience and teamwork.

St. John's Catholic Junior school provides pupils with a creative, coherent, broad and balanced curriculum. We believe in a school where the origins of our plans for teaching and learning stem from the 'why' in addition to the 'what'. Through the curriculum, pupils learn the basic skills necessary to succeed in each subject and we use the curriculum to help them develop their personal and social skills. Where children have special needs or disability, extra provision is made so they too can flourish.

We encourage children to be enthusiastic, independent and compassionate learners and we give them many opportunities to develop their inter-personal skills by working and cooperating with others. Through the curriculum, we build their self-esteem and self-confidence. We place an important emphasis on how children learn and encourage them to be reflective, resourceful, resilient and reciprocal learners.

We recognise that children have a thirst for knowledge and we aim to provide the building blocks of knowledge that enable the children to progress and follow their dreams through fostering the qualities of resilience and inquiry as well as planning opportunities for the children to know about keeping safe. We encourage our children to make connections between subjects and apply their skills across the curriculum.

Implementation

At St. John's, a full range of national curriculum subjects are delivered in order to offer all of our children a broad and balanced curriculum, which has been tailored to ensure that each child grows as a person and recognises their place in our community and in our ever-changing world. We are committed to developing young writers, performers,

readers, mathematicians, scientists, historians, geographers, artists, musicians, sports people, computer users and much more!

We aim to provide the building blocks of knowledge that enable the children to progress through fostering the qualities of resilience and inquiry. Language is a key focus for us; we aim to develop the children's communication abilities and provide them with rich and specific vocabulary from across the curriculum that underpins their knowledge and understanding.

The teaching of basic skills in reading, writing and calculation are given high priority. We ensure that the different learning styles of children are recognised in the delivery of all lessons. Our approach to teaching puts the children at the heart of their own learning, taking an active part in lessons and ensuring that they are rich in language and cultural diversity.

School has invested in a range of computing equipment to engage children in exciting and stimulating lessons and give the children more opportunities to apply their skills across the curriculum. We are committed to developing responsible digital citizens and aim to prepare our learners as best we can for the digital world. We strive to stay up to date with developments in this field and promote the importance of e-safety.

We also plan for and promote British Values, (Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as a UK citizen.

Religious Education is central to the life of the school and we promote an understanding of how the Catholic faith relates to the wider world. We follow the National Programme "The Way, the Truth and the Life"; this is enhanced with daily prayers, assemblies, Masses and liturgical celebrations during the year. Children are invited to receive the Sacrament of Forgiveness and Holy Communion in Year 3.

At St John's, learning is enhanced by a carefully planned range of educational visits and whole-school themed weeks with strong links to enhance the curriculum. We have structured our curriculum in such a way to use the wealth of local resources as well as those further afield to enhance children's learning experiences.

Our approach to assessment is built upon these milestones, we use assessment to monitor and support the children's learning over the Key Stage.

Impact

The aims of our curriculum are:

- To provide the children with foundations founded in knowledge, skills and understanding; preparing them for a future of learning.
- To provide an environment in which the dignity of each pupil is recognised and developed.
- To promote the full potential of each child through a curriculum that develops spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth.
- To encourage our pupils to live and act according to the British values and to enable children to be positive global citizens in society.
- To promote a positive attitude towards learning and knowledge, so that children enjoy coming to school, and acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning.
- To enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking and questioning.
- To provide the children with the opportunities to develop their critical thinking skills.
- To teach children about their changing world, including how their environment and society have changed over time.
- To fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To teach children to have an awareness of their own and other beliefs.
- To help children understand the importance of truth and fairness, so that they grow up committed to equal opportunities for all.
- To enable children to have respect for themselves, high self-esteem and to be able to live and work co-operatively with others.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all. Everybody at St John's Catholic Junior School is entitled to and receives a quality education in a safe environment. We foster an environment that encourages different children to develop an understanding and tolerance of diversity, disability, cultures, race and religions.

We consider each child to be a unique individual. We value the potential and contribution of all. Our children work in an environment in which they are encouraged, accepted, challenged and treated sensitively. In this supportive environment we grow together to achieve success.

All children have access to the curriculum. Our highly trained teaching assistants provide quality interventions to support our children. All staff work hard to remove barriers to learning.

Pupils who are identified as Gifted or Talented are extended and challenged to ensure they reach their full potential; additional activities and events are signposted to pupils to enrich their learning. St. John's staff set high expectations for all children and plan to ensure that there are no barriers to every child achieving. We work with our parents and the wider community to provide the very best learning opportunities for all pupils and ensure they continue to grow into happy, confident fulfilled young people.