

A Curriculum for Our Children

Summer 2023

Belong ~ Believe ~ Become

St John's children are *inquisitive, aspirational, creative, & responsible*.

The curriculum at St John's Catholic Primary is designed to provide children with the knowledge and skill-set to succeed in their primary education, prepare them for their future educational steps and to fully equip them for life's unknown adventures.

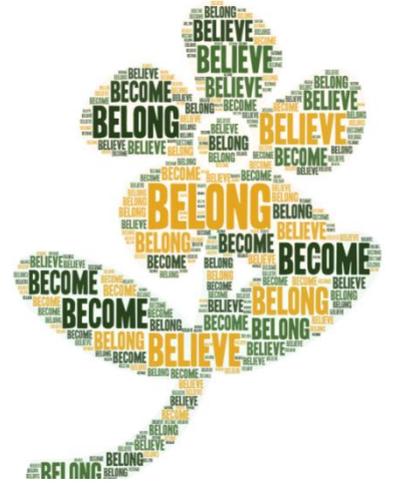
Through a positive and caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. We embrace Catholic values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps.

Key government curricula-knowledge is learnt to an in-depth understanding, alongside a fundamental set of core skills that are taught with the aim of mastering these skills for our twenty-first century learners. We want our children to know about their local area, and how it fits into the world; to understand the effect we have on our planet, and how we interact with each other; and to have a wide range of creative skills. We aim to give our children aspirations and possibilities well beyond the classroom. We aim to excite them into learning by providing a rich and varied curriculum which enables them to see beyond their horizons. The staff plan exciting themes which incorporate all aspects of the National Curriculum within a programme of cross-curricular activities, as well as discrete teaching where appropriate.

Whilst the core subjects are taught on a daily basis the foundation subjects may sometimes be taught as blocks of work over a matter of weeks, with regular opportunities for revisiting prior learning built in.

This program is regularly reviewed to ensure compatibility with new directives or to make necessary improvements to the existing schemes of work.

As they follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin they discover how our understanding of ancient worlds grew, and they develop a love of finding out more about past cultures and civilisations; work on space, early Islamic medicine or technological inventions shows how we have been able to hypothesise, test and create over time, and develops



children's ability to think scientifically and creatively. These themes are enriched by a range of external visits and visitors, for example Year 1 visit Weston Park where they get to play with toys from the past and explore the forest. Year 4 and Year 6 go on residential trips. Year 3 explore nature and find out about caring for the environment at Carding Mill Valley and our Reception class find out about animals at the Safari Park. We have welcomed authors and illustrators, and local faith leaders. Year 6 take part in a virtual Parliamentary session and children have the opportunity to learn First Aid and other life skills. All classes take part in Forest School sessions, which are invaluable for their team-building skills, resilience and learning to have a love and respect for nature.

More information can be found on each class's 'Curriculum and Wider Learning Overview'. [Available in the Autumn term.](#)

As part of our curriculum planning, we find opportunities to draw upon the rich cultural heritage of our surrounding area but also include diverse and wider experiences. This ensures that when the pupils leave in Y6; they have the respect, knowledge & skills to embrace the next step of their learning journey.

Children are given opportunities to take on responsibility around the school: School Council, Head boy and girl, Faith Council, Sports Council/Leaders & Digital Leaders.