

Play together, Learn together, Praise together



St John's Church of England First School

PROSPECTUS

Welcome

to St John's Church of England First School

St John's is a friendly and caring school for children aged four to nine years old. Children's early experiences lay the foundations for the rest of their lives and we are committed to providing high quality education for all children in partnership with parents. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum within a safe, stimulating and challenging environment where children are welcomed as individuals, where they can be confident, secure and are valued for all they achieve.

As a small first school with high standards of achievement, our experienced and dedicated team of teaching and support staff get to know each child and work with you in helping your child to succeed. We encourage the children to demonstrate independence, involvement and responsibility in and for their learning, with the highest standards of effort and behaviour. We believe that the children of St John's will be inspired and fulfilled, and will become responsible and confident members of the community with a lifelong enthusiasm for learning.

Thank you for your interest in St John's CE First School. This prospectus will provide some information about our school, however you are welcome to visit us to find out more. I would be happy to meet you and discuss the school in more detail and answer any questions you may have. On your visit you will see our attractive and well equipped school and grounds, meet some of our children and observe their learning and achievements. I look forward to meeting you, and your child, and welcoming you to our school.

Elizabeth West

Headteacher



Our Values

At St John's Church of England First School, we uphold the following values, and promote them through our Mission Statement and School Aims:

- > being child centred
- > showing mutual respect
- > building self esteem
- > providing security
- > developing community
- > having high expectations
- > promoting lifelong learning



Our Mission Statement

Our school

provides an atmosphere and environment for learning, based on Christian values, where children come first.

Our staff

have high expectations for learning and behaviour.

Our curriculum

is stimulating, enabling our children to think and learn creatively now and in the future.

Our buildings and resources

cater for the diverse needs of the school community.

Our children

are inspired, independent learners with positive self esteem. They are confident and caring in their relationships with others, working in partnership with each other, their parents, carers and the wider community.

Our School

St John's CE First School is situated in the heart of the Wimborne community at the junction of St John's Hill and Leigh Road. It provides education for children aged four to nine years old.

The school was founded by the Church of England in 1877 and is a voluntary controlled Church of England School with close links to St John's Church. We are a Dorset Local Education Authority school and a part of the Wimborne pyramid of schools, which offers education up to eighteen years of age.

The school buildings and grounds provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for children to learn. The Victorian buildings have been skilfully enlarged and adapted to meet the needs of the twenty first century whilst retaining the original character of the school. The school building consists of five spacious classrooms, a well-equipped learning centre, a purpose built hall with a modern kitchen, a small group's room, offices, staffroom and toilets, including disabled facilities. The school also benefits from its own playground with a covered area, playing field, multi-play unit, adventure play trail, creative arts area featuring an outdoor music trail, a stage area, storytelling bench and a pond/wildlife area.



Our School Aims

To introduce children to a wide variety of learning opportunities, challenge them intellectually, encourage them to develop a love of learning to be inspired to do their best.

To teach and model the Christian values of loving God and loving each other. To encourage children to realise the importance of these values and reflect them in their lives.

To encourage and promote the values of tolerance, thoughtfulness, respect for oneself and others, honesty, integrity, positive self esteem and confidence.

To work in partnership with parents to develop the children's learning and celebrate their achievements. To build effective links with the wider community.

To maintain and develop the high quality of our well resourced and exciting learning environment, both indoors and out, to enhance our children's education and wellbeing.



Friends of St Johns CE First School

As a parent of a child at this school, you will automatically become a member of the Friends Association. The aim of the friends is twofold: firstly, it encourages closer links between parents, teachers and pupils and secondly, it provides extra funds for a range of additional resources. Newsletters will keep you informed about the wide range of events that take place and a copy is also displayed on the outdoor display board.

We are always in need of willing helpers and any support that you could provide would be most welcome.

Governors

Governors are a bit like a board of directors, they make decisions about the school and what it offers to your children. The Governors of St John's First School meet twice a term as a whole group. They also have committees that meet regularly to discuss and make decisions about specific topics such as finance, environment, staffing and curriculum.

All the governors are dedicated unpaid volunteers who are keen to be approachable and to be involved, as far as their commitments allow, in the life of the school.

As in any school, the Governors of St John's have legal duties, powers and responsibilities. They act together for the benefit of the school, monitoring the school's provision, selecting staff, administering finances, writing and finalising policies.

If you wish to see minutes of the meetings, please contact the school office.



St John's Preschool

We have strong links with St John's pre-school, which is located in the church building adjacent to the school and is the main feeder for our school. Children from many other settings also attend St John's First School.

Admission Arrangements

St John's CE First School follows the Dorset Education Authority admissions policy and Wimborne pyramid guidelines. [See Dorset LEA's publication - Admissions to Dorset Schools: A Parents' Guide - for details.] Our current admissions limit is thirty places per year for our Reception class with a maximum number of children on roll of 154.

In Dorset, children aged four plus can start school on a part time basis at the beginning of the autumn term. Then in the spring term children can attend school full time. All parents and children are invited to introductory visits before a child starts school. There are also exchange visits and a pre-school club runs during the later part of the summer term. Home visits by the Headteacher and Reception class teacher also take place. Parents are given an information pack to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Older children are admitted to the school if there is a place available in the appropriate year group.

You are always most welcome to visit the school with your child.



Starting School

To ensure your child's smooth transition into school, parents are asked to encourage their child to

- > Express themselves clearly
- > Share and take turns
- > Complete an activity
- > Tidy and replace items
- > Use the toilet on their own
- > Dress and undress without help
- > Eat and drink by themselves
- > Have sufficient sleep

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum underpins all the child's learning and is organised into four themes

- > A unique child
- > Positive relationships
- > Enabling environments
- > Learning and Development

It is carefully structured to provide for the different starting points of each child, and plans for relevant, purposeful and appropriate learning activities that build on what the child can already do in a safe and secure environment. The four themes express important principles underpinning effective practice in the care, development and learning of all young children. One area of learning is the early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which is made up of 6 areas of learning and development.

- > Communication, Language and Literacy
- > Problem solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- > Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- > Physical Development
- > Creative Development
- > Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our Curriculum

The curriculum is the sum of all that happens to a child in school. St John's CE First School provides a broad and balanced curriculum in a welcoming, stimulating and secure environment. A variety of teaching and learning styles and strategies are used to provide opportunities for all children to learn and achieve, and to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Importance is placed on both academic and social skills to encourage children to become active learners and responsible members of the community. Children have opportunities to participate in individual, group and whole class activities with an emphasis on the learning being interesting, meaningful and relevant to the child. This is enhanced through both practical experiences and educational visits. The curriculum is well resourced and supported by visitors to the school. One of our most valued resources is the time given by parents to support children's learning, both in school and at home.



The Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum consist of a number of Key Stages in our school

- > The Foundation Stage includes children aged 4 + [Reception Class]
- > Key Stage 1 includes children aged 5 to 7 years [Years 1 and 2]
- > Key Stage 2 includes children aged 7 to 9 years [Years 3 and 4]
- > Key Stage 2 continues into Middle School for children aged 9 to 11 [Years 5 and 6]

The school's curriculum policies and schemes of work have been carefully developed following the requirements of the National Curriculum, the Primary Strategy and the Dorset Local Education Authority Curriculum Policy. Curriculum subjects are divided into core and foundation subjects

- > Core: English, Mathematics, Science, Information and Communication Technology, Religious Education
- > Foundation: History, Geography, Design Technology, Art, Music, Physical Education, Personal Social Health Education and Citizenship



English

English is a vital means of communication. It develops children's ability to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, including the communication of their ideas, views and feelings. The core skills of English are developed through daily literacy lessons and the children use their knowledge, skills and understanding in speaking, listening, reading and writing across a range of different situations and contexts. They are taught to express themselves clearly, listen well, and to become confident and skilled readers and writers of different texts. Children gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. At St John's reading and writing is taught using a wide range of strategies and resources, and the basic skills of spelling, grammar, punctuation and a joined cursive handwriting style are taught. Children read and share a wide variety of texts regularly in class both as individuals and as groups. Parents are encouraged to support our teaching of reading by reading daily with their children, and ensuring their reading bag is in school each day.

Mathematics

Mathematics teaches children how to make sense of the world around them through developing their ability to calculate, reason and solve problems. It



enables children to understand relationships and patterns in both number and space in their everyday lives. At

St John's we aim to develop in our children a positive attitude towards mathematics so that they view it as both a rewarding and enjoyable subject. We believe that children should become increasingly able to enjoy and appreciate the creative element of mathematics. Mathematics has an important contribution to make to the children's lives. They need to begin to understand and learn the skills of mathematics to enable them to use and apply them within their everyday life. Numeracy is a key life skill. All children participate in daily mathematics sessions when teaching is focused on the development of numeracy skills.

Science

Science teaches an understanding of natural phenomena. We aim to inspire and excite the children's curiosity about the world around them and develop their skills of enquiry and investigation. Children learn to observe, explore and ask questions about living things, materials and physical processes. Through practical experiences they learn to plan and carry out investigations, record their results in a variety of ways and draw conclusions. Children begin to appreciate the way in which science contributes to technological change and how science may affect their own lives, the direction of society and the future of the world.





Information and Communication Technology

In our rapidly changing society and with the exciting development of technology, it is essential that all our children gain confidence in the use of Information Technology and an awareness of its possibilities. Every child learns to use the computer to support and extend their learning in all areas of the curriculum. In each classroom and the learning centre, there are a number of computers and the school is connected to the internet. Children's access to the internet is supervised. The school is well resourced with a wide variety of technology equipment, including interactive whiteboards, laptops, digital video cameras, visualisers and programmable robots to support the curriculum.

Religious Education

As a Church of England school we are guided by Christian principles and the Dorset Agreed Syllabus. Religious Education seeks to help children learn about different religions and learn from them, developing spiritual insights and beliefs. We aim to foster a sense of awe and wonder in the children, encouraging them to develop a concern for others and for the world in general and to assist them in their own search for meaning and purpose in life. The children

participate in Acts of Collective Worship and the school has close links with St John's Church. Parents who wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and Religious Education should inform the Headteacher in writing.

History

History fires the children's curiosity about the past. It develops their interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past. We teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity, and learn to value their own and other people's cultures. We teach children to investigate past events, understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today and develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving. We use drama, story, video, artefacts and visits to bring the past alive.

Geography

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. At St John's children learn about their local area, and they compare the similarities and differences found in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. They learn how to draw and interpret maps, and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem-solving. Children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures, find out about the physical world and their responsibilities towards it. We use the richness of our local environment, books, videos and visits to enhance the children's experiences.

Design and Technology

Design and technology encourages children to become independent and creative problem-solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team. It enables them to identify needs and opportunities and to respond by developing ideas, to make a wide range of objects and models and to reflect and evaluate different designs. It prepares children to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly changing world and we actively encourage the children to be inventive and have fun. Through the study of design and technology they combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues.





Art and Design

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences, and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. The children use colour, texture, form, pattern, and different materials and processes to communicate what they see, feel and think. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers and explore the impact art has had on contemporary life and on different periods and cultures. We provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities and aim for our children to develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts which enriches all our lives.

Music

Music is a unique and powerful way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and plays an important part in helping children to feel part of our community. Music is a creative, disciplined and enjoyable activity. We provide



opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music. We have regular recorder clubs catering for a variety of year groups and skills.

Modern Foreign Languages

The learning of modern foreign languages enables children to discover that there are many different languages spoken throughout the world, the ability to communicate in a different language and nurtures mutual respect and understanding of others. We currently teach French to Year 3 and 4 children using the three strands of oracy, literacy and intercultural awareness. Children are taught basic conversation, vocabulary and learn about the culture. Lessons include a wide range of activities such as songs, games, conversation practice, books and ICT.

Physical Education

Physical education develops the children's knowledge, skills and understanding, so that they can perform with increasing skill and confidence in a range of physical activities. These include dance, games, gymnastics, athletics and outdoor adventure activities. Physical education promotes an understanding in children of their bodies in



action and the skills of cooperation and teamwork. It promotes positive attitudes towards an active healthy lifestyle. We have excellent PE facilities including a large well equipped sports hall, playing field and hard playing area. We utilise local facilities and expert coaching to supplement the curriculum.

PSHE and Citizenship

PSHE and citizenship encourages children to become healthy, confident, independent and responsible members of our society. We encourage the children to play a positive role in contributing to the life of our school and the community. We help develop their sense of self-worth through exploring themselves, their similarities and unique qualities and how to form successful relationships with others. We teach them to respect themselves and others in what they do and say. We equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle, including the importance of healthy eating, exercise and good hygiene. We teach children both about their rights and their responsibilities, and they are encouraged to reflect on issues that are part of the society in which we live.



Sex Education

We believe sex education is a shared responsibility between parents and the school. Elements of sex education, including life processes and attitudes of respect and care for others, are taught through our science scheme of work and personal, social and health education. Parents of Year 4 children are given the opportunity to view any materials before they are introduced to the children and may withdraw their child from sex education lessons. We approach all aspects of sex education in a sensitive and honest way and answer questions appropriate to each child. We teach children to use the correct vocabulary and support them through their physical, emotional and moral development.

Further Information

Copies of national, local and school documents, including policies and schemes of work are available in school for your information. The Governors and staff of St John's CE First School are committed to providing all children with a high quality education. If any parents have concerns about curriculum matters or their child's development they should not hesitate to discuss these with the Headteacher. Arrangements are in place for further consideration of any concerns or complaints, by the Governors of the school and the Local Education Authority.



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