



St John's C.E. Primary School



High Standards through a Caring Community

Welcome to St John's C.E. Primary School

St John's C.E. Primary is a small but beautifully formed voluntary controlled school affiliated to the Manchester Diocese. The school is host to children aged 4 to 11 and has 204 pupils currently on roll. We have seven classes, seven class teachers, eight teaching assistants and many willing and able parent helpers.

Our school is divided into:

- **Foundation Stage:** Reception
- **Key Stage 1:** Year 1 and Year 2
- **Key Stage 2:** Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Our school works along the principle of learning environments, this means the children access areas that are resourced to enhance their learning experiences. We learn through visual (looking), kinaesthetic (doing) and auditory (listening) experiences. Our areas are planned to promote development of the subjects governed by the National Curriculum.

Relationships are very important at St John's and there are many occasions where children may work with children and staff from other classes.

We have a 'Buddy System' in place to give our new Reception intake a positive role model and a friendly, familiar face.

Our focussed Christian Values support our school community in forging and maintaining positive relationships.

Our Core Values

Our school is united through our five core values:

- Core Standards (Reading, Writing and Maths)
- Life Skills
- Extra-Curricular Opportunities
- Christian Values
- The Community

These values underpin everything that we try to achieve and that drive the school forward.



Theme Days and Theme Weeks

Throughout the year we focus on expressive and creative ways of learning through special theme days and weeks.

The children are able to access a variety of special activities that allow them to explore their musical, artistic, dramatic and physical talents and are a fantastic means of real, purposeful learning.

Creative Curriculum

The school curriculum is based upon the National Curriculum but is driven by our own school curriculum aims which can be found on the school website. We run a 2 year curriculum as this allows adjacent year groups to work together which widens the opportunities we can plan for and provide.

Each class has their curriculum overview on the school website and is as cross curricular as possible. There is a statutory list of objectives each class must achieve and we are grateful for the support provided at home in reinforcing some of the basic skills such as reading, spelling and number facts.

We have links with other schools in our locality and use these links to enhance opportunities for learning and staff development.





Collaborative Learning

A problem shared is a problem halved.

Classes work in phases to enable collaboration amongst children and year groups. This enables us to enrich and extend learning opportunities across year groups.

Classes are taught in a manner to promote discussion and collaboration wherever possible. It is important for children to learn to work with a variety of other children during their time here. Therefore talk partners and table groups change regularly.

Creative Learning

We feel that learning should be taught in a creative way that ensures children feel confident to interact with their peers in a variety of situations.

We embrace a practical, purposeful approach that allows learners to engage in a variety of tasks and enjoy striving to find solutions.

Outdoor learning, visiting speakers, educational visits, structured play and thematic approaches are all aspects of our creative curriculum.



Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Children are encouraged to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities as we believe school should be about more than just the academic side of life. These activities can be a great way to try something new and meet new friends.

St John's provides additional opportunities such as football, tag rugby, choir, steel band, ukulele and guitar lessons, art club, cookery club, eco club, coding club and a whole host of other opportunities.



Learning Behaviours

We believe for a child to get the most out of primary school and be ready for later life we must also support them in developing their 'Learning Behaviours'.

At St John's we focus on developing a child's:

- Perseverance
- Creativity
- ability to Challenge themselves
- Teamwork
- Concentration
- Responsibility

We recognise these via our weekly family assembly and reward system. They are made accessible to the younger children by the supporting characters and their stories.





The Golden Rules

At St John's we pride ourselves on the truly fantastic children we have in our care. We reward our children with weekly Golden Time where children choose a recreational reward for thirty minutes on a Friday afternoon.

These rewards change on a regular basis but include playground games, disco, baking, art and craft, ICT and sports activities.

The children are allocated thirty minutes at the beginning of the week. They will keep their Golden Time if they continue to adhere to the following rules:

- Do be gentle
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do listen to people
- Do be honest
- Do look after property

Good discipline is fundamental for children to learn and all adults are committed to this.

Positive behaviour is also rewarded through the whole school team points system and treats such as the 'Top Table' on Friday lunchtime where selected children are given the VIP treatment.

The School Day

Our school day begins at 8.45am. Children line up with their class in the playground at 8.45am and are met by their teacher.

- Morning session: 8.45am – 12.15pm (includes a 15 minute break)
- Afternoon session: 1.15pm – 3.15pm (includes a 15 minute break for Reception and Key Stage 1)

Children arriving after 8.45am must be signed in at the school office by an adult.



Attendance and Sickness Absence

If your child is absent for any reason please contact the school office by telephone or email, as soon as possible. Please provide the reason for absence and how long your child will be absent for.

We will contact parents if we have not been notified of reasons for a child's absence.

Children who have vomited or had a case of diarrhoea should remain absent from school for at **least 48 hours** to prevent other children being infected.

Requests for absence during term time can only be authorised in **exceptional** circumstances. Request forms are available from the school website or the school office.

School Uniform

Children are expected to arrive at school wearing the correct school uniform and have the correct PE kit in school on the appropriate days.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child arrives at school in the correct school uniform - clearly labelled with their name.

- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore dress
- Yellow gingham dress (summer months only)
- Black sweatshirt with logo
- Yellow polo shirt with logo
- Black shoes (not black trainers)
- No jewellery or make up (including nail varnish)

*Small plain stud earrings are permitted.

PE Kit (stored in a draw string bag)

- Black shorts
- Plain white t-shirt
- Black tracksuit bottoms and plain sweatshirt for games
- Black pumps (for indoor PE)
- Trainers (for outdoor PE)

*For safety reasons jewellery must not be worn during PE.

School uniform and branded school accessories are available from the following stockists. Please contact them directly for availability and delivery information.

- www.myclothing.com (formerly Tesco uniform)

- MCS Stores
220-222 Fog Lane, Didsbury, M20 6EL
Tel: 0161 445 7740
www.mcsstores.co.uk

- Triple S Uniform
102 Heaton Moor Road, Stockport, SK4 4NZ
Tel: 0161 442 8834
www.triplesuniform.co.uk



Community Links

At St John's we are very proud of the relationships that we develop both in school and within our role as a school in the local community.

We have great links with St John's Church, Heaton Mersey. We use the church as an extra classroom as well as holding services and special assemblies there.

Our wider community links include Manchester University where working together with students and researchers we can share good practice and enhance the children's learning through new experiences and challenges.



Worship

As a church school our worship is based on the Christian faith. Worship takes place on a daily basis either as a whole school, Key Stage or Class.

At St John's we see the Church as another learning environment. The Church facilitates many acts of worship throughout the school year and weekly family assemblies are led by either the local Reverend or Mr Rayner.

Whilst the school promotes the values and ethos of Christianity it continues to respect those pupils who attend from other faiths. We promote key Christian values such as peace, friendship, trust, love, forgiveness, equality and forgiveness.

Parents do have the right to withdraw pupils from worship and the RE syllabus.

Being Healthy

At St John's we endeavour to ensure that the children have a choice of healthy meals freshly cooked in our own kitchens. Meals are provided by Dolce, giving a balanced choice of hot or cold dishes with a daily vegetarian option.

Meals can be ordered from home using Dolce's online system, School Grid. All payments must be made via Dolce's online cashless system.

As part of our on going healthy school initiative the children are encouraged to eat healthy snacks at break time. We provide fresh fruit or vegetables for all 4 to 7 year olds on a daily basis. Children in Key Stage 2 can buy toast at break time on Fridays.

We encourage children to take regular brain breaks from their learning and offer fresh filtered drinking water so that they can be refreshed throughout the school day.



Inclusion at St John's

At St John's we value every child for their individuality and their achievements. We ask for the support of the whole school community in achieving this as the well-being of every child matters.

We adhere to the Code of Practice to support pupils with additional needs, these may include specific learning difficulties, behavioural and emotional needs, pupils with English as an additional language as well as those pupils considered to be more able and in need of an independent learning plan.

The staff at school are committed to work in partnership with Local Authority Agencies and parents to give each pupil the best opportunities for learning. Meetings are held at least three times yearly to monitor pupil progress and relevant plans are put in place and communicated to the relevant bodies.

Anti-Bullying and E-Safety

Our children are regularly taught and reminded about the key issues surrounding e-safety and the school's approach to anti-bullying.

The children are clear on what constitutes bullying and the way in which to deal with it. The school uses **STOP** which defines bullying as **Several Times On Purpose** and tells children to **Start Telling Other People!**

The school takes part in the National Anti-bullying week each year.



Our children are regularly taught about using the internet safely. These messages are revisited throughout the year, in assemblies and through lessons.

Our message is delivered through the use of our Zip it, Block it and Flag it characters, which teach the children how to behave online and respond when something is not right.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is everyone's responsibility and of the utmost importance. Safeguarding, not only the children of St John's, but all members of the school community requires clearly defined policies and practices which all members of the school community must adhere to.

Staff and members of the community have a responsibility to report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Leader which is Mr Rayner (Headteacher) or in his absence Mr Clerc (Deputy Headteacher).



First Steps - Induction at St John's

Prior to starting in September we offer children and parents several taster sessions where they can come into school for the afternoon to get to know life at St John's and familiarise themselves with their new teacher. This usually lasts for six weeks, one afternoon a week and follows an informal Parents' Coffee Afternoon in the summer term.

Our parents tell us that this is a valuable part of the transition from nursery to school and as a consequence the children feel so much more confident about starting school. From September children start full time straight away. We find that the children adapt to full time education quickly and fuss free. We have fewer tears (and that's just the parents!)

FABS- Fun After & Before School Club

Our FABS (Fun After and Before school) provision is the Before and After School Club / Holiday Club childcare facility for the children of St John's.

'Our aim is to provide reliable, affordable, top quality childcare for 4-11-year-old children, thus enabling parents to work or to study. To promote the social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth of each child while providing a warm, caring, nurturing environment for the strong development of the powers of imagination and creativity.'



Before School Club	7.50am - 8.45am
After School Club	3.15pm - 6.00pm
Holiday Club	8.00am - 4.00pm

Please see our website for further information.

Family Assembly

Held each Friday our family assemblies are an excellent opportunity for parents, grandparents and friends of St John's to celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school during the previous week.

We encourage children to bring in certificates and awards from outside of school to share in the assembly.

Governing Board

Our strong and committed governing board meet regularly to both support and challenge all aspects of the school's development. Each class has a link governor and a curriculum responsibility to make certain they are informed of the most up to date developments and to ensure school is managed effectively and efficiently.

PTA

Our dedicated and active Parent Teacher Association work collaboratively with the school to organise social and fundraising activities on behalf of the school.

Their exceptional fundraising events have not only provided the school with additional funding but also provide further opportunities for social contact between parents, children, teachers and the governing body.

The PTA always appreciate more volunteers and offers of help.

Parent Partnership

We know that parents take an interest in their child's life at St John's and we welcome parents to join us in school whenever they can.

Each Friday parents can join us at Family Assembly, or support could be provided on a regular basis by becoming a volunteer parent helper to support classes.

You are very welcome to become part of our lovely, thriving school!

Communication

We believe that good communication is the key to success at St John's. We facilitate this in a number of ways. Our school has a genuine Open Door Policy which means we will see parents at very short notice as often as possible.

Your child will be issued with a home school reading diary which can be the main dialogue running between home and school and will be read by staff each day.

Our school uses School Spider (text message and email system) to regularly communicate information to parents. It is therefore essential you keep school up to date with your latest contact details.

Our website is a source of news updates, activities and resources that will keep you informed about what is happening in school. We also regularly share information and news on Twitter.

Every term you will receive a Headteacher's and class newsletter to keep you updated with relevant news and information.

Complaints

Our school adheres to Stockport Local Authority's school complaints procedure. If you have concerns about school, it is important that you raise them as soon as possible. We endeavour to resolve any issues promptly.

We believe that problems in school should be resolved in school and so any issue, however small it may seem, should be brought to the attention of staff at school first.

If there is something that you are unhappy with:

- Speak to your child's class teacher – still not happy?
- Speak to the Headteacher – still not happy?
- Put your complaint in writing to the Headteacher who will formally investigate the complaint – still not happy?
- Put your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors who will formally investigate the complaint – still not happy?
- As a last resort, report your complaint to the Department for Education.

Much more information can be found on our website, but the best way to see our school at its very best is to come and visit and see it in action for yourself!

I was really impressed by the creative energy of the school and the obvious enthusiasm the children had to learn.

Anne Coffey MP

Beautiful, polite and well behaved children throughout the lunch service.

Kitchen Staff

It's a school that maintains almost a village school atmosphere, while being a friendly place with high standards of behaviour and education.

The school itself is nothing short of brilliant and it's down to the staff who all deserve the due credit.

A Parent

We are very impressed overall with the school and are very happy we chose it for our son to go to.

A Parent





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