



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

St John's Highbury Vale CE Primary – Whole School Curriculum

Intent

At St John's, our curriculum is designed and tailored to equip our children with the skills they need to develop into independent and inquisitive learners.

Through an enquiry and research-based curriculum, we take a student-centred approach to learning, enhancing the students learning experience. We believe research skills and student-centred learning are fundamental to developing students' self-reliance, independence and ability to identify, investigate and solve problems.

We encourage this through a number of philosophical 'big questions' which are linked to six of the core concepts of the bible.

Creation – The Fall – People of God – Incarnation – Gospel – Salvation

The key questions we have linked to each biblical concept are:

Creation	The Fall	People of God	Incarnation	Gospel	Salvation
Why are we here?	Where did it all go wrong?	How can we make a change?	What next?	How will we get to where we want to go?	Can we lead the way?

At the beginning of each topic, in each year group, the big question is applied to generate discussions around it. Whether this be simply as a question or in the form of a problem to solve or investigate.

As educators, we will facilitate a safe space, which will allow the pupils the opportunity to make mistakes in the lines or enquiry they pursue, and to understand how these mistakes are vital in our learning journey.

Pupil voice will then take a lead in the way the learning progresses, with pupil's initial discoveries, findings and questions, used to map out how the learning for the rest of the topic should take place.

We believe that this initial research stage enables the children to engage actively and creatively with questions and problems, often in collaboration with other students or with staff. The research tasks enable the exploration and investigation of issues and are open-ended so that different responses and solutions are possible.

Implementation

To ensure that pupils receive a full and balanced curriculum, we have created a long term plan in which units of work link in with our key questions and each class has three foundation subjects to over per half term. These are





St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

taught weekly and key concepts are recapped at the start of every lesson to ensure children remember more and the knowledge is embedded. Subjects such as art and DT can be taught over a few afternoons a week to ensure children consistently have the resources they need to achieve high quality outcomes. Our medium term plans and knowledge organisers are ready for teachers to use to support them in planning so each unit of work builds on the previous year. This means that children can talk about their prior knowledge within that subject giving them confidence in their learning and knowledge so that they are motivated and excited to learn.

Impact

Learners develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum, which are built upon every year as they move through the school. As a result, they become inquisitive and motivated learners, who ultimately achieve well. This is reflected in both internal and external monitoring and data, as well as in both pupil voice and parent feedback.

At the heart of research and enquiry is discussion. Through our curriculum, pupils are given the opportunity to discuss, debate and challenge one another, scientific theories and historical findings. Speaking and listening skills are constantly being developed and the children are immersed in a rich level of both subject specific vocabulary and vocabulary of which is needed to in order for them to express themselves appropriately to one another.

Due to the implementation of curriculum, our pupils will leave St John's with strongly developed generic skills, as well as subject specific skills, such as strong communication, interpersonal, learning, numeric and self-management skills. They will leave us ready for the next step in their academic journey as individuals who work independently and who high quality, transferable research skills.

St John's Values for Learning

As a Church of England School, we base our curriculum, teaching and learning on our school vision and values. Having these as a basis for all we do, enables the children to see why they are important to us, how they help us to be the people we are today, and encourage us to learn, grow and develop a strong learning culture with children who are motivated, engaged and reflective in all aspects of learning.

At the core of our curriculum are philosophical 'big questions' which are posed at the beginning of every unit of work the children cover. These questions generate a number of discussions involving children in active learning, allowing the children to contribute ideas in a number of ways, as well as to listen and respect the opinions of others. From this, pupil voice leads the way of the learning process, with pupil's initial discoveries, findings and





St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

questions, used to map out how the learning for the rest of the unit of work should take place. At St John's, we feel teaching to pupil's interests and allowing children to ask their own questions to inform their learning, is imperative to the children's success.

Speaking and listening opportunities are littered through our day to day teaching and in our curriculum. Once lines of enquiry are established from responses to the initial 'big questions', children are given the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding they need for each unit of work. There are opportunities to respond to effective questioning throughout lessons, to which the teacher can extend or deepen thinking or rectify misconceptions.

Feedback from teachers and from peers is a large part of allowing for time to learn and grow. Children work cooperatively, share ideas readily, listen, respond and become resilient when responding to feedback. Through the use of the 'big questions' they also become aware that not everything always has one definite answer, there are from for mistakes, as mistakes promote growth. Children at St John's can become proud of their achievements, knowing that there are different routes to success.

Throughout a subject topic, the academic year and their time across the whole of their primary years, children are given regular opportunities to review their learning, and reflect how far they have come, and where they would like to aim.

Under the six school values, we have listed ways in which the values can be shown within their lessons. We encourage the children to show these values of learning in all that they do and we ensure that our children are praised when evidence of this is seen.

Friendship

- Listening
- Being a good talk partner
- Taking turns
- Supporting and encouraging others
- Being enthusiastic
- Working cooperatively





St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Love

- Feeling proud of ourselves and our work
- Having understanding and empathy
- Being passionate about our learning
- Believing that nothing is impossible
- Being ambitious

Courage

- Not giving up – showing determination
- Working hard and persevering
- Trying new strategies – asking what if ...
- Not being afraid to make mistakes
- Asking for help
- Taking risks – exploring and investigating
- Allowing for imagination

Wisdom

- Making connections
- Learning from others
- Using learning in real life
- Making informed choices
- Recognising what you are good at
- Being curious

Forgiveness

- Not being too hard on ourselves
- Learning from our mistakes
- Being brave
- Never giving up – being resilient

Respect

- Knowing there are different routes to success
- Acknowledging the differences that we all bring
- Understanding everyone's personal best is different
- Being prepared to work hard
- Participating positively

