



St. John's Church of England Academy



School Brochure





Dear Parent/Carer,

On behalf of all the staff and children I would like to welcome you to St. John's Church of England Academy. We look forward to working with you in a happy, caring home/school partnership and meeting with you and your family on many occasions during your child's time with us. As a Church school our Christian values underpin all our work and particular attention is given to the spiritual and moral development of our pupils.

The education of your child is as important to us as it is to you. Education is the key to success and the single most important factor in increasing your child's chances in life. Co-operation between home and school is vital if we are to maximise the potential of every child in our care. Staff will be very happy to discuss your child's progress and give you any help or advice that you may require.

This brochure tells you a great deal about our school; if you wish to know more or better still come and see us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. Large
Headteacher

*The information is correct at the time of publication.

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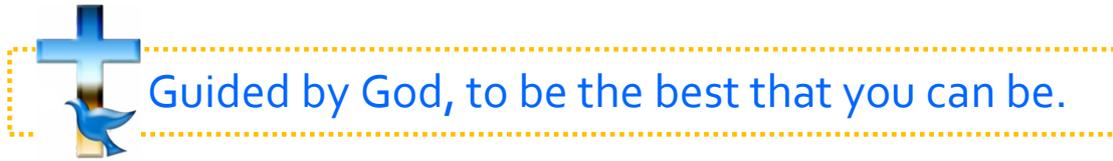
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What is Special about St John's?

- ❖ Is rated by Ofsted as an 'Outstanding' school and provides high quality teaching from caring, conscientious staff who are committed to ensuring that every child reaches their full potential.
- ❖ Has a quality 3 to 4 year old Nursery and provision for 2 year olds.
- ❖ Is a Church School and Christian values are fostered within our small, friendly school family; we were rated as 'Outstanding' in our last SIAMs. We have strong links with St. John's Church, Darlington Deanery and Durham Diocese.
- ❖ Sets high expectations and achieves very good standards, giving strong emphasis to basic skills.
- ❖ Provides a rich, meaningful curriculum with lots of exciting, first hand experiences, including trips out and working with/meeting a wide range of visitors including authors, dancers, poets, artists and theatre companies.
- ❖ Organises a rich variety of extra curricular activities and has a popular early morning Breakfast Club.
- ❖ Is always updating its computers and opportunities for Information and Communication Technology.
- ❖ Actively encourages parental involvement in their child's education and provides lots of opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of the school including a Parents', Teachers' and Friends' Association and Family Learning courses.
- ❖ Provides a safe and secure, stimulating and well-maintained environment with a large playing field, wild life garden and Spiritual Garden.
- ❖ Has active, supportive governors and good links with feeder schools and the local community.

Our Mission Statement is....



We aim to:

- ❖ Create a safe, happy and caring learning environment, where everyone is welcomed and valued as a unique individual within the eyes of God and each other.
- ❖ Provide a broad, balanced and meaningful curriculum which offers all pupils the widest range of educational opportunities in order to inspire a love of learning and prepare them for the next phase in their education and life in modern Britain.
- ❖ Create an "I can do" culture and raise individual self- esteem through praise and independence so children are not afraid to make mistakes and become confident and resilient with a thirst for learning.
- ❖ Encourage pupils to develop spiritually, mentally, physically, culturally and morally into well balanced, reliable British citizens who take responsibility for themselves, their school, the local environment and the wider world.
- ❖ Ensure that equal opportunities are provided for all and all forms of discrimination are actively challenged.
- ❖ Work in effective partnerships with governors, families, feeder schools and other agencies, to ensure that every child matters and achieves their true potential.
- ❖ Commit to excellence for all and through the process of continual reflection and evaluation, constantly strive to improve.

Admissions



Children Starting in Nursery

Children are admitted to the Foundation Unit the term after they reach the age of three. Names can be placed on the waiting list from the beginning of the school year in which the child will be two years old. We will arrange for visits to you and for your child so that he/she can settle smoothly into the life of the Foundation Unit. Good attendance is essential as it is an important time when children make progress towards independence and full time education.

We also have provision for 2 year olds for people in receipt of certain benefits.

Children Starting in Reception

Children are admitted to full time education in September of the academic year in which their 5th birthday falls. Most of the children who have been to Nursery go into Reception; this is a very seamless transition because the staff already know the children very well. **However, this is not automatic and all applications will be subject to our Admissions criteria.** If your child has attended another nursery, our Reception class teacher will visit him or her at the Nursery prior to the home visit.

You will also be invited into school for an informal meeting with the Headteacher and Reception Teacher and there will be opportunities for your child to visit and become familiar with routines. For the first two weeks there will be a shortened school day for the children to support a smooth transition.

The Governing Body of St John's CE Academy is the Admissions Authority for the school. Children are offered places to the school in line with the Admissions Code; we intend to admit 30 places each year.

Please refer to our latest Admissions Policy which you will find on our website for Admissions Criteria

In Year Admissions

Parents/carers of older children who wish to be admitted to school are asked to ring the Town Hall who coordinates in year admissions. Please ring if you would like to visit the school.

Special Arrangements

Please inform the school if you suffer from any disability or if your child suffers from any disability so that we can assess need and make any reasonable adaptations to ensure a smooth transition into school.

The School Day



Morning Session

9.00am to 12 noon

Key Stage 1 break 10.30am-10.45am

Key Stage 2 break 10.45am-11.00am

Afternoon Session

1.00pm to 3.20pm

'Every Second Counts! - From 8.45am, the main Key Stage 2 door is open and a member of staff will welcome children in to get a good start to the day.

The School day starts at **9.00am** prompt; please ensure that your child is brought to school by 8.50am. **The bell rings at 8.55am so that children will be in school for 9.00am; late arrivals** must report to the Office,

Lessons begin at 9.00am and children who arrive late miss the most important part of the first lesson - often a time when the instructions are given. Each time a child is late, it is recorded on the computerised registration system. Parents/carers of children who are persistently late will be referred to our Attendance Officer, who will take appropriate action.

Children who go home for lunch can be collected at 12 noon (Key Stage 1) 12.10 (Key Stage 2) and should be returned by 12.55pm, when school restarts.

When School Closes

School closes at 3.20pm; their class teacher will escort all children to the playground where they will be handed over to parents who are asked to stand at the edge of the playground to enable staff to observe children so that they are handed over into safe hands. Children who find their own way home are dismissed at this point. Children who are not collected will return into school with their teacher who will then make enquiries. If you are going to be late in collecting your child please try to let us know. If you are sending someone else to collect your child please let us know, preferably in writing, beforehand.

We will not allow children to leave the premises unattended during the school day unless a parent or guardian escorts them or we have written permission.



Attendance

Good attendance is central to raising standards and pupil attainment and therefore giving our children the best possible chance in life. It is a parent's duty in law to see that their child attends school regularly and that they are punctual.

If your child is poorly, it is essential that you ring school on the first day of absence and routine dental or medical appointments should be made after school where possible.

Leave of absence during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. All children at the end of Year 6 have to sit statutory National Assessment Tests (SATs); leave of absence will not be authorised just before or during SATs week.

Please refer to our Attendance Policy for greater detail.

Attendance awards are given every half term for children with 100% attendance and those with excellent attendance (98%+) in a Celebration Assembly; those with a full year's attendance receive a special book.



School Uniform

School uniform and general presentation including hair style plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the school, setting an appropriate tone and expectation of high standards. Governors introduced the policy as a way of encouraging positive behaviour and discipline whilst protecting children and parents from the pressures of succumbing to the latest trends and fashions. We find that with all children wearing uniform, they have a sense of common identity and pride in membership of our school community. Parents say that it avoids competition for 'designer garments' and that it is cost effective.

Our uniform consists of:

- Sweat shirts, cardigans, - royal blue
- Polo shirts - sky blue or white
- Trousers, skirts, pinafore dresses - grey
- Fleece - royal blue
- Summer dresses - blue and white checks
- Girls - grey tights or white socks
- Boys - black/grey socks
- Sensible black shoes, plain black trainers or plimsolls
- Sensible slippers to replace wellingtons or boots in winter.

Hair

Hair should be neat and tidy, preferably tied up with a small tie in school colours. We discourage any 'extreme' hair styles which attract undue attention such as shaved heads, shaved patterns, application of hair dyes or colours.

P.E Kit

- black plimsolls or trainers
- blue shorts
- a plain, white Tee- shirt

P.E Kit should be brought in at the start of the term and taken home every half term for washing.

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly and permanently named.

You can collect a uniform order form from the school office or through our website.

Jewellery

Jewellery other than a wristwatch should not be worn. If a child has to wear earrings, they must be of the stud type. For P.E., games and swimming, earrings must be removed. **The Governors will not accept any responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, any article of jewellery.**

Lost Property

Lost Property is placed in storage boxes by each cloakroom area. Every effort is made by staff to match missing items to their owners; this is very difficult if they are not named. Children are encouraged to look in the boxes for missing items.



School Meals

Our Catering staff produce healthy, nutritious meals on the premises and offer a choice of three healthy hot meals or a school packed lunch. All meals are pre-ordered in advance and the menu is changed termly. We are a Healthy School and promote healthy eating- school meals are excellent value for money.

Dinner Money

Dinner Money should be paid on a Monday morning, in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child's name, class and amount enclosed. Cheques for dinner money should be made payable to St John's CE Academy. We only allow two weeks of unpaid dinner money before requesting that your child brings a packed lunch until the debt is cleared; all debts must be paid in full.

Free School Meals

If you think you are eligible for free school meals, an application form is available from the office.

From September 2014 all infant children receive a free Universal School Meal.

Packed Lunch

As a Healthy School, any packed lunches brought onto the premises should be a nutritious, healthy meal in a clearly named lunch box. Fizzy drinks and sweets or chocolate bars are not allowed. All rubbish/waste must be taken home in the lunch box. **If parents/carers wish to change from school meals to packed lunch or vice versa, we require two weeks written notice.**

If you wish your child to go home for lunch he / she can be collected and returned at the times given above.

Lunchtime Supervision

Children staying for lunch are supervised by Classroom Assistants. Children are expected to conform to the Lunchtime Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in a period of going home for lunch.

Break Times

We encourage children to bring a piece of fruit to eat at morning breaks and to bring a **named** plastic bottle, to be filled with water each day.

Infant pupils are offered a piece of fresh fruit each day through the National School Fruit Scheme; this is free of charge. Children are encouraged to drink water frequently throughout the day to aid their learning.



Behaviour

For children to be successful learners it is vitally important that their learning environment is calm, secure and conducive to work. We work together to encourage and bring about self-discipline in each individual. We demand the highest standards of behaviour at St John's and we expect parents to fully support us in adherence to our policy. A copy of our Behaviour Policy is available to read in school or on the website.

At St John's we aim to teach the children the following values:

- ◆ self discipline and proper regard for authority
- ◆ an awareness of the consequences of unacceptable behaviour
- ◆ respect and regard for themselves, others and property
- ◆ good manners and courtesy
- ◆ truthfulness
- ◆ an awareness of the difference between right and wrong

We expect all children to follow our agreed *Code of Conduct*.

- 1. Be polite, have good manners and welcome visitors.**
- 2. Walk sensibly around school.**
- 3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.**
- 4. Tell the truth.**
- 5. Always try to do your best work.**
- 6. Look after personal property and our school.**
- 7. Listen carefully to adults and each other.**
- 8. Be kind and helpful to each other.**
- 9. Always be safe.**

How We Discourage Inappropriate Behaviour

There are times when children forget our aims for good behaviour and are inconsiderate to others in our school community. When this happens it becomes necessary to remind children of the consequences of their actions e.g.

- ◆ a verbal warning and reminder of the Code of Conduct
- ◆ a second warning - a yellow card
- ◆ loss of privilege - a red card (e.g. loss of playtimes, golden time etc)
- ◆ sending the child to another class for 'time out'
- ◆ sending the child to the Headteacher
- ◆ parents invited into school to discuss the behaviour causing concern
- ◆ individual behaviour targets agreed by teacher, child and parent
- ◆ daily/weekly reports to parents
- ◆ child's suspension from school for a fixed period (maximum 15 days in one term - rising to 45 days with 1997 Education Act)
- ◆ permanent exclusion

We look forward to your co-operation on all matters related to discipline.

How We Encourage Good Behaviour

We believe that good behaviour should be recognised and praised. Here are some of the ways we positively encourage children, what is effective for one child may be inappropriate for another.

- Praise from the teacher
- Sent to the Headteacher for praise
- Sent to another class to share achievement
- Merits awarded
- Stickers, stamps, prizes
- Give appropriate responsibilities
- Celebrate achievement in Assembly e.g. Merit Certificates, Worker of the Week, Citizenship award
- Earn 'Golden Time'
- Parents informed by a telephone call or letter

We operate a system of positive discipline - rewarding good work and behaviour with individual merit points.

Wilful Damage & Vandalism

In addition to any sanction imposed, the Governors reserve the right to charge parents for the cost of repair of any wilful damage done to school property and building by any pupil.



Anti-Bullying Policy

We recognise that as in all schools, bullying does occur at times. We actively teach our children what to do if they are being bullied or if they are aware of other children suffering. **A copy of this policy is available for parents to read in school or on our website.**

Definition

There are many definitions of bullying, but at St John's we consider it to be:

- **deliberate behaviour to hurt, threaten or frighten someone**
- **difficult for victims to defend themselves against due to greater strength, greater numbers or 'superior' position**
- **repeated over a period of time**

Bullying can take many forms, but the main types are:

- **Physical** - Hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- **Verbal** - name calling, insulting, threats, spreading rumours
- **Social** - exclusion from a group, inciting others to bully
- **Psychological** - tormenting, spreading rumours, taunts about sexuality

It can also include: racist, sexist or homophobic remarks, writing hurtful things about or to someone, including the use of I.T., demanding money or possessions.

Bullying is not two children having a fight, friends falling out, arguing and name calling, bumping into another child in the playground.



Advice to Parents

Every school is likely to have some problem with bullying at one time or another. Parents are often the first to detect symptoms of bullying, which may include headaches, stomachaches, anxiety and irritability. **Please contact school immediately if you have any worries.**

If your child has been bullied:

- **calmly talk with your child about his/her experience**
- **Make a note of what your child says - particularly who was said to be involved; how often the bullying has occurred; where it happened and what has happened**

- reassure your child that he/she has done the right thing to tell you about the bullying
- explain to your child that should further incidents occur he/she should report them to a teacher or another adult immediately
- make an appointment to see your child's class teacher or headteacher
- explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing

Talking with teachers about bullying:

- try and stay calm - bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident
- be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened, give dates, places and names of other children involved
- make a note of what action the school intends to take
- ask if there is anything you can do to help your child or the school
- stay in touch with the school; let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

If your child is bullying other children:

Many children may be involved in bullying other pupils at some time or another. Often their parents are not aware.

Children sometimes bully others because:

- they don't know it is wrong
- they are copying older brothers or sisters or people in the family they admire
- they haven't learnt other, better ways of mixing with school friends
- their friends encourage them to bully
- they are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings

If your child has seriously hurt or has repeatedly bullied another child, you may be asked to make an appointment to discuss the problem.

To stop your child bullying others you could:

- talk to your child, explaining that bullying is unacceptable and makes others unhappy

- discourage other members of your family from bullying behaviour or using aggression to get what they want
- show your child how to resolve difficult situations without using violence or aggression
- discuss with your child's teacher to explain the problems your child is experiencing
- regularly check with your child how things are going at school
- give your child lots of praise and encouragement when they are co-operative or kind to other people.

Bringing Personal Property to School

Please do not allow your child to bring mobiles, swapping cards, pocket games and toys etc. to school as they can cause distraction in lessons, and may get mislaid. Children disregarding this rule may have items confiscated and parents may be asked to come into school to collect the offending article. **Governors will not accept responsibility for the loss of, or damage to personal property.**



Communications

Home-School Agreement

Working in partnership with parents is essential to ensure that all children flourish. Please take a look at our Home School Agreement; a copy of this can be found at the back of this brochure. All parents/carers sign this when their children start school as a sign of our commitment to working together.

We are anxious to keep parents informed of events, which are happening in school. We produce regular newsletters and letters are sent home frequently advising parents of events, visits etc. Because children often forget to give parents letters it is a good idea to get into the habit of asking your child each day if he / she has a letter and checking our website. We also have a parents' notice board near the playground entrance to school which parents may consult when they visit school.

At the start of each term, your child will bring home a curriculum letter to inform you about the topics being covered.

We are equally anxious that parents keep school informed about events in children's lives, which may affect their school life. Please have a word with your child's teacher or the headteacher if you wish to discuss any matter, which might affect your child's learning. We can promise you absolute confidentiality. It is essential that you keep us informed when you change your mobile telephone number.

Our 'open door' policy means that if you wish to see your child's teacher you will be able to do so, by appointment, at a convenient time. The best time to catch the teacher is immediately after school after he or she has dismissed the class from the playground.

Appointments can be made at the school office.

If a matter is very urgent please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher or Home School Support Worker.

We have parent consultation sessions during the autumn and spring terms when we invite parents to come in to school to look at children's work and discuss progress and set future targets with teachers. Annual Reports are issued towards the end of the Summer Term. If, however, at any time you have any concerns about your child's progress please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

Parents', Teachers' & Friends' of St John's Association



All parents automatically become members of the Association. The purpose of the Association is to organise fundraising and social events for the children, parents and friends of the school. The Association's activities are organised by an elected committee. The PTFA is not a forum for discussion about the policies or day to day running of the school; other mechanisms are in place for this purpose. Our P.T.F.A are a super bunch of hardworking people, who are always looking for new active members to join them!

We hope you will support the PTFA and its activities. All funds raised will go towards enhancing the education and wellbeing of the children in

school e.g. subsidising educational visits, theatre trips, Christmas parties, new equipment.



Parental Help

We welcome parents into school to assist the learning in the classroom and we appreciate offers of help. We find it more beneficial if parents do not help in the same class as their own children. If you feel you can offer some time to help in the classroom, please have a word with the Headteacher. All volunteers wishing to help on a regular basis will be subject to a police check to ensure the safety of all children.



Family Learning

We work in partnership with Darlington College and run Family Learning sessions in school. Courses run have included ICT and Numbers Together. The courses are fun, free and designed to give parents a good insight into what your child is learning and how you can help. New parents are always welcome. More information is available from the office.



The Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes which will support children throughout their school lives and into adulthood. These include the basic skills of communication, through speaking and listening, reading and writing, and maths skills. They also include those skills which will help children become independent and confident people who know how to stay safe and keep fit and healthy.

Our curriculum also aims to help children develop positive attitudes towards themselves, towards others and towards the wider world in which they live.

The National Curriculum is organised on the basis of the following stages:

The Early Years/Foundation Stage	3-5 years
Key Stage 1	5-7 years
Key Stage 2	7-11 years

All children are offered a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum which is relevant to their age and ability.

In Foundation, the emphasis is on learning through play. Investigation and first hand experiences are actively encouraged and topics are planned on a half termly basis taking into account the interests of the children. Children will learn the basic skills of number and letter recognition and formation and will bring home words to learn before progressing to a reading book. The Reception teacher will keep you closely informed. Most of the work in Reception is generated by talking, listening and doing, rather than written work, although children who show readiness for writing skills will be encouraged to develop.

In key stage 1, the children follow a two year rolling programme of topics which act as a stimulus and a focus for learning:

KS1	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2015/16)	In the Deep Dark Woods <i>Science</i>	Knights and Castles <i>History</i>	Journeys <i>Geography</i>
Second year (2016/17)	Island Life <i>Science/Geography</i>	Who's that walking on my bridge? <i>History</i>	Home and Away! (Captain Cook) <i>History/Geography</i>

In key stage 2, topic work continues but there is an emphasis on specific subjects when this is appropriate:

LKS2	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2015/16)	The Romans <i>History</i>	Up Pompeii! <i>Geography</i>	Creepy Crawlies! <i>Science</i>
Second year (2016/17)	Light <i>Science</i>	The Ancient Egyptians <i>History/Geography</i>	Staying Alive! <i>Science</i>

UKS2	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2015/16)	Eurika! <i>History</i>	All Change! <i>Science/DT</i>	Staying Alive! <i>Science</i>
		Music and Musicians <i>History</i>	Y5 Sth America Y6 Seahouses <i>Geography</i>
Second year (2016/17)	Victorian Darlington	Space <i>Science</i>	Bodyworks <i>Science/PHSE</i>

	History	Inventors and Inventions History	Y5 Sth America Y6 Seahouses Geography
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Throughout their time at St John's we strive to provide the children with a curriculum which is enriched with a wealth of different experiences. Each class will take part in an educational visit school every term in order to enhance their learning. In addition to this, we frequently have visitors in school ranging from authors, artists and theatre groups to zoo lab and planetariums; all with the intention of promoting a love of learning.

At St John's we are committed to providing equal opportunities for all. This means we value equally the unique qualities of each individual. We oppose discrimination on the grounds of gender, ability, religion, and race and actively teach the children to recognise and combat discrimination themselves. All children have access to all aspects of the curriculum.



English

English is given a very high priority from Early Years onwards. We want children to become fluent speakers, attentive listeners, avid readers and competent writers.

We regard reading as being an essential key to success. Children are encouraged to read at home and any help that parents or other adults can give is of great value. Children who are supported at home make much more progress and are more likely to develop a love of reading.

Phonics, or letter patterns, sounds and rules are taught to help children read and spell. At St John's the children are taught phonics in a fun and active way using 'Letters and Sounds'. This is supported by Jolly Phonics actions. The children are taught at the level appropriate to their needs rather than according to their year group. Parents are invited to a meeting with the Reception teacher to explain the scheme and enable parents to support their child's learning. At the end of Y1, the children take part in a national assessment of their phonic knowledge.

We have a number of reading schemes in school as well as a wide range of other reading books. All books are colour-coded/labelled to relate closely to a level of ability and so allow children to choose from a range of appropriate material. This individualised reading approach is operated

alongside group 'Guided Reading' to ensure that the wide range of skills necessary to become a fluent and confident reader are addressed and achieved. Teachers are involved in the on-going assessment of individual children in order to determine when they are ready to move on to the next level. Each child will progress through the schemes according to individual ability. However, children develop reading skills at different rates and not all children acquire these skills in the same order so it is not helpful to compare your child's reading book with that of another child. If you have any concerns the class teacher will be pleased to discuss them with you.

All children are encouraged to bring their reading books home and they are accompanied by a home/school reading record in which teachers and parents are able to record progress, and make comments. One of the greatest gifts a child can receive is ten minutes of a parent's time each day listening to their child read and talking about what has been read - recalling what has happened, discussing the meaning of words, noticing patterns in spelling, guessing about what is going to happen next.

We hope you will assist your child by talking about his / her reading and making sure that reading books come to school every day along with their home / school reading record booklet. We want all our children to become competent readers who can read to find information but also who read for pleasure and enjoyment.

Speaking and Listening skills are developed in class and group discussions, Circle Time, assembly presentations, drama and role-play. Children are encouraged to present their ideas in a variety of ways, including the use of ICT, to listen attentively and to ask questions.

We place a real emphasis on writing as a basic and essential skill at St John's and we strive to support children in their efforts to be able to communicate clearly and effectively in the written form. This involves providing opportunities for children to become familiar with the organisation and language features used in a range of writing and then to use these to support and develop their own written work using the 'think, rehearse, write and read' sequence of learning. We encourage children to be creative and to write for a variety of purpose, using ICT where appropriate, whilst also teaching the importance of grammar, spelling and punctuation. Our curriculum includes many opportunities for children to

develop their writing skills in 'real life' situations e.g. form filling, applications, letters of complaint etc.

Spelling patterns and rules are taught in class but we also encourage children to learn a weekly word list, informed by the National Curriculum, at home.

The school uses the Penpals Cambridge Handwriting style and encourages children to develop a neat joined up handwriting script.

Mathematics



Mathematics is very important in every day life and so a great deal of emphasis is placed on numeracy and relating mathematics to the real world. This includes using money, working with time and timetables and using a range of measures. Children are encouraged to use various mathematical strategies to solve problems.

There is a variety of mathematical work within school including mental and oral work, written work, practical, investigational and problem solving. Mental and oral work focuses on the rapid recall of essential facts such as number bonds, times tables, equivalent measures and properties of shapes. Being able to recall this information quickly supports children with calculations, problem solving and investigational work and so children are encouraged to learn them by heart, often as part of their weekly homework.

We want all our children to enjoy maths and study it with confidence and a sense of achievement. To help children achieve these aims the school follows the guidance from the National Curriculum, which provides detailed learning objectives for children from Reception to Year 6. Mathematics is linked to other subject areas where possible.



Computing

I.C.T. plays an important and central role within the school curriculum. We are well resourced for computers, with a networked suite of 16 P.C's and 60 portable laptops. The children are given the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge through specific I.C.T lessons, and through other curriculum areas. These range from keyboard skills and

using programmes to publish work, using technology to locate information and also programming activities.



Science

Science is taught through a series of planned topics through which investigational skills are taught. Children are encouraged to accurately observe and record, predict what may happen in an investigation and devise methods of carrying out 'fair tests'. In addition to scientific skills we also provide the children with a broad base of scientific knowledge in accordance with National Curriculum requirements. A key aspect of science is working safely with a range of tools and equipment and learning about household safety.



History

History is taught through a series of topics ranging from the Ancient Greeks to The Victorians. Children are introduced to the concept of chronology and wherever possible visit historical sites. The history of Darlington and its important place in British history provides a valuable opportunity for children to learn about their heritage.



Geography

Children begin by discovering the geography of their 'known world' the home, school and neighbourhood. In key stage 1, children begin to discover the wider world through a series of planned themes. They study contrasting localities in the United Kingdom and in a non-European country as well as learning about seasonal and daily weather patterns. In key stage 2, children learn about a contrasting European region and a region of South America. By the end of key stage 2, we aim to ensure that the children can name the key geographical features of the UK including mountains and rivers, identify the countries of Europe and understand the organisation of the globe. Wherever possible fieldwork is used to support theory and children acquire skills such as map reading and construction. An important aspect of our work in school is helping the children to understand how the world is changing, how that will impact on us and how we can make positive contributions to our own community and the wider world.

Design Technology

Design Technology encourages children to understand the importance of this area in relation to the changing world in which they live. Children will be given opportunities to identify needs, work out their own ideas and through design; planning and construction provide practical solutions to problems and then evaluate the outcomes. Children are taught how to use a range of tools and equipment accurately and safely. As part of our learning about healthy lifestyles we also look at nutrition and cookery. As children develop, the work becomes more refined and the problems they tackle are more adventurous.

Art



The aim is to foster an awareness of colour and form through the experience in working with a wide range of materials using many different methods and media. These lessons give children a valuable way of expressing themselves. They provide a feeling of success, which contributes greatly to their self-esteem. The children are also given opportunities to study the work of some famous artists. This helps them to appreciate and enjoy the talents of others and provides ideas for their own work.

Music



All children experience taking part in making music. They have the opportunity to listen to and appreciate a wide range of styles from contrasting composers and periods. All children in years 3 and 4 benefit from a specialist music teacher who teaches recorder, while children in year 5 are taught the ukulele. Those who wish to pursue music further are given the opportunity to be fully stretched in individual and small group tuition by a specialist. There is a modest charge for tuition and instrument rental.

Modern Foreign Languages



All children in key stage 2 are taught Spanish by a specialist languages teacher.

Sport and Physical Education



Through our work in physical education we provide opportunities for each individual child to develop a very wide range of skills including athletics, dance, gymnastics, swimming, outdoor activities and traditional games;

cricket, football, hockey, rounders and rugby. We also place great emphasis on the development of the social skills necessary to work as part of a team and to co-operate with each other. Swimming lessons are provided at the Dolphin Centre for children in Year 5 and 6 and we aim that every child will be able to swim at least 25 metres by the end of key stage 2.

We are very proud of our excellent sport and physical education provision; every class has at least two hours of P.E. per week and the opportunity to attend a wide range of after school sports. We have a national 'gold' sporting award.



Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

Health Education receives high priority in the school; we achieved the National Healthy School Standard award and are working towards the PSHE Quality Mark . We follow a Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme (S.E.A.L) and work on the themes as a whole school. Children are given the opportunity to develop their awareness and understanding of the following areas:

- ❖ Citizenship - social and moral responsibility, community involvement
- ❖ Drug Awareness
- ❖ Emotional Health
- ❖ Physical Activity
- ❖ Healthy Eating
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Sex and Relationship Education - is taught in Years 5 and 6 as part of science .Y6 children take part in a planned programme involving the school nurse. Teaching is based upon the changes which take place in the body at puberty and the biological process of human production. Parents are notified when this programme will take place and are welcome to discuss it. Parents may withdraw their child through a written request to the Headteacher.

All of our policies and practices are rooted in our Christian values.



Religious Education

Religious Education is taught weekly in all classes following the Diocesan Syllabus. The School's Christian Foundation enables us to have an expectation that all our children will take part in RE lessons. As well as

learning about the Christian Faith from within, as members of a Christian community, children also study aspects of world faiths. There are opportunities from spiritual development and consideration of moral issues. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education but it is hoped that the majority of parents choosing a Church School would adhere to the RE curriculum. Any withdrawal must be discussed with the Headteacher.



Collective Worship

In accordance with Education Acts, children will take part in a daily act of collective worship. Children have the opportunity to reflect on a range of spiritual, moral and religious themes as well as having the opportunity to take part in worship which involves praise, song and prayer. The clergy and other Christian groups have a regular input into collective worship. Each class presents its own assembly each term at which parents are very welcome - the children really do gain confidence from the support of a friendly face at the back of the hall. Your child's class teacher will send a note home when a class assembly is imminent. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Acts of Collective Worship but must discuss this with the Headteacher prior to any withdrawal.



Homework

The school operates a homework policy for children in all year groups. The majority of parents want to help their children and increasing the partnership between home and school has a significant impact upon the raising of awareness and standards.

The purposes of homework are:

- *to encourage pupils to develop skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own
- *to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly English and maths.
- *to extend school learning e.g. through additional reading and research
- *to develop and sustain the involvement of parents in the management of their children's learning and thereby keep them informed about the work covered in school
- *to use resources for learning, of all kinds, at home, actively involving parents

The purpose and types of homework will obviously change as children get older and Year 6 will develop a weekly schedule.

Please help your child by:

- *providing time and a suitable place for homework
- *making it clear that you value homework
- *giving praise for the completion of homework.

Many classes have homework and interesting sites for the children to visit on-line. Each half term, some children from each class are presented with prizes for their efforts with homework. An after school 'Homework' club operates for key stage 2 pupils.



Extra- Curricular Activities

The number of free clubs and activities that take place at lunchtime and after school at different times during the year is a real strength of the school. These range from a wide range of sports to science and study clubs. **Please refer to our website for current clubs operating this term.**

Permission is sought from parents, in writing, before a child is allowed to remain on the school premises after school hours.



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club operates from 7.45 to 8.40 and provides a healthy, nutritious start to the day. It is a low cost service for working parents (75p) or is free for children entitled to free school meals. The Club is open to key stage 2 children but may be used by working parents of younger children providing the children are independent.



Educational Visits - Governors' Charging Policy

The school regards educational visits as being an important resource to support and enhance the curriculum. Many visits will be subsidised from the school budget or school fund but it is often necessary to rely on voluntary parental contributions to be made in order to cover costs. No child would ever be excluded from an educational visit because of financial hardship or inability to pay, however a visit may have to be cancelled if voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover the

required cost element of a visit. Please have a confidential word with the Headteacher if there is ever a problem.

Each year Year 6 children are taken on a residential visit to Seahouses. Their itinerary often includes walks to Bamburgh Castle, a visit to Holy Island and a boat trip to the Farne Islands. This is a wonderful, memorable experience.

Visits have been arranged to Bowes Museum, Darlington and York Railway Museums, Captain Cook's birthplace, Darlington Civic Theatre, RSPB Saltholme, Bede's World, The Oriental Museum and Beamish Museum.

To study the local area, visits have been made to St John's Church, the Town Hall, supermarkets, the surgery, the library, the park and various shops as well as involving the children in upper key stage 2 in a historical 'town trail'.

Invited into school to speak to, and work with, the children have been representatives from local churches and local industries, charities, police officers, nurses, librarians, the mayor, artists, writers and poets.

Parents must grant permission by signing a 'Consent and Indemnity Form' when children first start at St John's to give permission for the many out of school opportunities that the curriculum provides such as visiting church, swimming, visits to local schools, sporting events and local places of interest - anything which is a morning or afternoon out of school. For full day visits or field trips you will receive a separate letter.



Assessment and Achievement

In order to ensure that your child maximises their achievements, a variety of assessments are carried out starting with Baseline Assessments soon after your child starts school and ending with the National Curriculum Assessments in Year 6. In between we use a variety of published tests and teacher assessments to ensure that tasks are accurately matched to your child's abilities and needs.

We expect parents to attend Pupil Progress meetings twice a year to set targets for your child's future progress, although parents are always welcome to make an appointment to speak with the class teacher or Headteacher at any other time of year.

An annual written report of each child's progress and performance in all aspects of school is issued toward the end of the summer term.

Results of this year's assessments are on our website under School Performance.

Special Educational Needs Provision

Disability Access



St. John's aims to be a fully inclusive school and has gained the Local Authority's 'Inclusive School Award'. This means that staff and governors are committed to reducing any barriers to learning so that there is access for all and equality of opportunity. The Governing Body have produced an Accessibility Plan which compliments the local authority's accessibility strategy; all areas of school are accessible.



Medical Matters

Medicals

During their school career, pupils will undergo health-screening checks carried out by a doctor, dentist and/or school nurse. Carried out in accordance with Local Authority policy, parents are informed to enable them to be present when necessary. Where further action is deemed necessary, parents will be informed in order that they might make suitable arrangements with their own doctor, dentist, optician or clinic as preferred.

Medicines

Although not the school's legal responsibility, medicines may be brought into school in accordance with our Medication Policy, providing that:

- the medicine has been prescribed by a doctor or hospital
- the medicine is in the original bottle displaying the child's name and dosage
- the medicine needs to be taken at least four times per day

- the medication is brought in to school by an adult and a specific consent form has been signed. (Forms are available from the office or website).

Care Plan

Care Plans are completed in partnership between parents/carers and the school and where relevant any other medical organisation where a child requires extra support with their medical needs e.g. asthma, diabetes or a short term requirement such as a broken leg.

Illness

If your child is unwell and needs to stay at home please inform the school as soon as possible, preferably before 9.00am - a telephone call will suffice or a note is required when the child returns to school.

Illness at School

If your child becomes unwell at school we will inform you using the contact numbers you provide us with, it is important that these numbers are kept up to date. In the event of an emergency and being unable to contact parents / relatives we will take appropriate action 'in loco parentis' - i.e. we will act in the same way as any responsible parent would act.

Please inform us immediately of any changes in telephone numbers or addresses.

Infectious Diseases

The school follows the recommendations in the LA Handbook with reference to infectious diseases. The guidelines outline a period of exclusion for children suffering from various infectious diseases.

Head Lice

Children attending school often pick up harmless infestations of head lice. Head lice can spread easily and there is nothing shameful about finding them, they can 'visit' any family. It is essential that you check your child's hair on a regular routine basis.

If you discover lice in the hair of any member of the family it will be necessary to treat the whole household with a lotion, which can be obtained, either on prescription or over the counter at the chemist. Further advice is available from the school nurse, on Darlington 746200.

Toilets

As children get older we try to educate them to go to the toilet at playtime or lunchtimes. Our policy is to let children go to the toilet if they ask twice within a five minute period; older children are aware of this policy. Any children with a toilet problem will be automatically allowed to go to the toilet, with written confirmation from a parent.

Health and Safety Matters

We take the health and safety of our children very seriously and have clear procedures for visitors to school. Parents are welcome at all times but we require all parents and family members to abide by the following:

- St John's is a no smoking school; **please do not smoke on the premises or the school playground.** 
- Many children are frightened of dogs and we request that parents do not bring dogs on to the school premises, stand close to the outer school gate with them or tie them to the fence. 
- We insist that parents/visitors use respectful language at all times - we will not tolerate swearing on the premises or yard. 
- Vehicles should not be driven onto the school premises at any time unless they are registered disabled and display an appropriate badge. The car park is very congested and children are not permitted to be in the car park area. 
- The driveways and entrances should be kept clear for emergency access purposes. Please do not park on the double yellow lines adjacent to the school gates; this is for the safety of our children and parents crossing the road. 
- All entrances to the school are locked at the start of the day. Visitors and parents are asked to report to the main office. 

Child Protection Statement

Parents and Carers should be aware that the School has a duty to take reasonable action to ensure the safety and welfare of its pupils. In cases where school staff have cause to be concerned that a pupil may have been subjected to physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect, staff will adhere to Local Authority Child Protection Procedures and inform the Social services of their concern. This may involve a visit from a Social Worker and or Police Officer.

The Designated Child Protection Lead in school is Miss Large.

There are two Deputy Designated Leads: Mrs Baker & Mrs Lambert

Travelling to School

We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing the number of cars on the road and therefore improving children's safety and are proud to be Gold Modeshift Star award winners.

In accordance with our School Travel Plan we work closely with our Road Safety Team and Cycle Team to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school and take part in a number of fun events throughout the year. All pupils have access to Pedestrian training and Cycle training during their time at St John's. We have a cycle shed which children may use if they have a cycle lock, for which they are responsible. The cycle shed is also locked but **Governors cannot take responsibility for cycles stored in the shed.** Where it is necessary to bring children in cars, we ask that parents park responsibly in the car park opposite the school and not outside the school or in the school car park, which poses a health and safety hazard.

Unavoidable School Closure

Whilst we hope it will never be necessary, there maybe occasions when, due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. severe weather, heating breakdown, lack of water, it may be necessary to close the school. Every



effort will be made to inform parents before the start of school, but no child will be sent home unless arrangements have been made.

In the case of inclement weather, we will inform the LA who will post notification on their website and also inform the local radio stations. We will also put a message on the front page of our website.

Complaints Procedure



We sincerely hope that you will have no cause for complaint during your child's time at St John's; however, should parents have any cause for complaint then we would hope to resolve it in an informal matter. Parents should feel free to contact the class teacher or Headteacher to discuss any problems that are of concern.

If the complaint remains unresolved after a consultation with the Headteacher, a formal complaints procedure is available on our website or a paper copy can be collected from the office.

Contact Information

Headteacher: Miss C Large
Chair of Governors: Mrs V Cadd



St John's Church of England Academy
Fenby Avenue
Darlington
DL1 4UB

Phone: 01325 380725
Email: admin@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk
www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

The information contained in this brochure was correct at the date of publication (November 2016).

St. John's Church of England Academy

Together Everyone



Achieves More

.....

.....

(child's name)

Home School Agreement

Name of child:

At St John’s CE Academy, we recognise each child as an individual, and aim to give all children every opportunity to realise their full potential. We believe that a close partnership between the school, parents and the child is essential if we are to achieve this aim. We therefore ask all parents and children to sign up to our Home/School Agreement.

The Responsibilities of the School

At St John’s we will:

- Provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment where Christian faith leads our way.
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum which challenges your child to reach their potential and fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- Encourage your child to show friendship and respect for others and to abide by the school behaviour policy (Code of Conduct), ensuring a safe, caring environment for all.
- Keep you informed about your child’s progress and behaviour, as well as their termly curriculum along with regular Newsletters regarding events.
- Set regular and appropriate homework for your child.
- Make you feel welcome whenever you visit the school and respond to your questions or concerns as quickly as possible.
- Allow children safe and secure use of the Internet through a combination of site filtering, supervision and by fostering a responsible attitude in all pupils, in partnership with parents.

Signed: (Headteacher)

Date:

The Responsibilities of the Parents/Carers

All parents/guardians will:

- Having chosen St John's Academy for your child, accept the school's aims and Christian values, positively supporting the school.
- Ensure that your child attends school punctually every day during term time, unless there is a good reason for absence (e.g. illness).
- Notify the school by letter or telephone on the first day of absence.
- Support the school's policies and guidelines on learning, behaviour and uniform
- Attend parent/teacher meetings to discuss your child's progress.
- Support your child with homework that is set, including regular reading.
- Keep us informed of where to contact you in case of emergency.
- Promptly inform the school of any concerns or problems that may affect your child's learning, behaviour or happiness at school.
- Support school in the teaching of safe and secure Internet use at home.

Signed: (Parent/carer)

Date

The Responsibility of the Child

I will try my best to:

- Do all classwork and homework as well as I can, asking questions when I don't understand.
- Be respectful towards others and behave in a safe and responsible way.
- Be kind, helpful and forgiving.
- Be honest.
- Use the Internet safely as I have been taught in class.

- Understand that I have the right to:
 - be listened to
 - be helped
 - be safe
 - be happy and join in games
 - feel special
 - feel wanted

Signed in class by the child, when in each year as follows:

..... Y1

..... Y2

..... Y3

..... Y4

..... Y5

..... Y6