



Curriculum policy

Independent school standards	Paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 34.
Last updated by senior leaders	August 2023
Last reviewed by advisory board	August 2023
Next review due	August 2024

The St. John's curriculum

We provide a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. The curriculum is the means by which the School achieves its objective of educating pupils in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives. We aim to foster creativity, helping pupils to become life-long, independent learners. Above all, we believe in balancing high expectations and academic rigour with learning that is engaging, enjoyable and inclusive.

This policy and the St. John's curriculum reflect the statutory requirements as outlined in Parts 1 and 2 of the independent school standards (ISS).

All pupils of compulsory school age are provided with experience in all the required areas of learning, as per the ISS. In the sixth form, students have a choice of 16 'A' Level qualifications.

Every subject at St. John's is planned thoroughly with clear and comprehensive coverage of the relevant National Curriculum and/or qualification aims. Subject leaders work together across the Preparatory and Senior schools as a matter of course to ensure their subject is logically sequenced and taught exceptionally well. This ensures that pupils, from the Early Years Foundation Stage right through to Sixth Form, make excellent progress in every subject over time. As a result, pupils achieve consistently outstanding results in their qualifications.

The Early Years Foundation Stage and early reading

Please see our separate EYFS and early reading policies, which are overseen by the Head of Early Years.

Subjects from Key Stages 1 to 5

At Key Stage 1, we teach:

English, Mathematics, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, RE, French, Science, Geography, History, Computer Science, Art, Lamda, Music, Drama, Physical Education, Swimming, Handwriting and Forest School. Alongside this, we offer a First Access Music Course in the recorder to Year 1 and Year 2.

At Key Stage 2, we teach:

English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, RE, French, Spanish, Computer Science, Art, Lamda, Drama, Music, Physical Education, Swimming, Chess, Handwriting and Forest School. Alongside these, we offer a First Access Music Course in the violin and viola (Year 3 to 6).

At Key Stage 3, we teach:

In Year 7 - English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Sciences, Geography, History, Computer Science, Personal, Social, Health,

Economic and Citizenship Education, French, Art and Design, Physical Education, Lamda, Drama, Music, Swimming, Handwriting, Debating, Chess and Forest School.

In Year 8 we teach the same subjects as in Year 7 except for Handwriting and Swimming, and we introduce German.

In Year 9, we also introduce Latin and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

At Key Stage 4, we teach:

Personal, Social, Health, Economic and Citizenship Education and offer GCSE options in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics (pupils choose at least one science to study), French, German, Latin, Geography, History, Computer Science, Art and Design, Physical Education, Music and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

At Key Stage 5, we offer 'A' Levels in:

English Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, French, Geography, History, Government & Politics, Economics, Business, Computer Science, Physical Education and Art.

We also use the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for our EAL students, and we offer Mandarin for our international students.

Subject leaders

The responsibilities of subject leaders include:

- strategic leadership of the subject
- the subject policy, curriculum plans / schemes of work
- keeping up to date with subject developments, at both a national and local level
- coordination between the preparatory and senior schools, ensuring pupils receive a seamless learning experience
- supporting, advising and developing colleagues teaching the subject
- oversight of the taught curriculum (via scrutiny of curriculum plans, workbooks and lesson visits) and the progress pupils make
- resource management.

The Principal (Prep.) and Headteacher (Senior) are responsible for monitoring the way the school curriculum is implemented and for the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum.

Personal, social, health, economic, citizenship, relationships and sex education (PSHE and Relationships Education at Preparatory, PSHCE and RSE at Senior)

PSHE is taught from the Early Years upwards throughout the Preparatory School using the Jigsaw Approach to Learning. At the Senior school, PSHCE is taught by a subject specialist. St. John's adheres to statutory RSE guidance. Please see separate policies for PSHCE and RSE.

Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and English as an additional language (EAL)

The curriculum is designed to be accessed by all pupils who attend the school, including those with SEND, EAL and the most able. If it is necessary to modify some pupils' access to the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do so in consultation with parents.

If pupils have SEND, our school does all it can to meet the individual needs via an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We comply with the requirements set out in the SEN Code of Practice and the Equality Act 2010.

If a pupil may potentially have SEND, then his/her teacher makes an assessment of this need in liaison with the School's SENDCo. In most instances, the teacher is able to provide the resources and educational opportunities that meet the pupil's needs. However, if a pupil's need(s) is/are more severe, we involve the appropriate external agencies in making an assessment. We provide additional resources and support for pupils with SEND, where reasonable and appropriate. For example, teaching and learning may be modified by adapting teaching tasks, providing additional support and/or giving pupils additional time to complete activities.

Teachers will always take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects.

For further information, please see our separate SEND, EHCP and EAL policy.