



# International policy

**Last updated by international  
leader**

September 2023

**Last reviewed by Principal and  
Headteacher**

September 2023

**Next review due**

August 2024

## **Internationalism at St. John's**

Through our international focus at St. John's Preparatory and Senior School, we offer our pupils a range of experiences, which:

- enhances their learning
- raises awareness of their national and international identities
- equips them with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

Our language teachers, who are all native speakers, provide this international focus through facilitating cultural experiences, workshops and school exchanges, both abroad and via pen-friend letter correspondence.

St. John's Senior School has a long-established school partnership with Collège Jean-Baptiste de la Quintinye in Noisy-Le-Roi in France, with whom the 4<sup>th</sup> Form pupils have the opportunity to enjoy an exchange abroad and absorb the French culture first-hand by staying within a host family and attending their partner school. This exchange is led by the lead French teacher Mrs. Virginie Hopp. Other optional cultural and historical trips abroad take place in Berlin for KS4 pupils and Paris and Madrid for KS3 pupils and Greece.

St. John's Preparatory School has established two pen-friend letter exchanges with both our French and Spanish partner schools. The French partner school is École Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle in Vitry-le-François and the Spanish partner school is C.E.I.P. Ciudad de Nara in Toledo.

In July 2021, St. John's was accredited for outstanding development of the international dimension in its curriculum, as part of the International School Award from The British Council.

## **Intent**

Our international focus:

- provides an informed awareness of countries, cultures and languages other than our own
- develops curiosity about other cultures including those of pupils' peers, their families and of the school community
- enables pupils and staff to experience daily life in other countries
- provides an added opportunity for the promotion of equal opportunities, racial equality, mutual respect, tolerance and citizenship
- enables the exchange of information and the meeting of people from varied backgrounds and cultures.

## **Implementation**

- By having an international dimension to our curriculum, we provide pupils and staff with a wider variety of experiences both within and in addition to our languages' schemes of work.
- From primary level up to Sixth Form, pupils learn French and pupils also study Spanish at the Prep. School at KS2.

- At the Senior School, from Year 8, pupils also start to learn German and Latin at Year 9 and the Senior School provides Mandarin at G.C.S.E. and A level.
- Pupils typically progress quickly in languages and are given extra opportunities to practise their vocabulary during international cultural trips.
- After-school and lunchtime clubs in languages are available to all pupils. We focus on cultural aspects worldwide, making links in all subjects.
- Our sport clubs visit European countries, holding training alongside other schools, as well as exploring their history.
- Our staff, who are from various countries, share their experiences and cultural knowledge as a matter of routine.
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> Form pupil exchange programme in France with our partner school allows pupils to develop links with other pupils near Versailles and welcomes them to our school. This encourages interest and motivation through the provision of first-hand experiences of life in another country for them, as well as for our own pupils and staff.
- We also promote communication and exchange of cultural information through writing pen-friend letters and emails to other pupils abroad.
- Other activities, such as dance and theatre workshops, develop cross-curricular activities with an international theme.
- Library provision at the Prep. School allows pupils to borrow French and Spanish books weekly.
- We hold an international day at the Prep. School on an annual basis.

### **Impact**

- First-hand experiences through exchanges, cultural and historical trips abroad, workshops or activities and international days enhance the knowledge acquired in pupils' language lessons by making a real connection to learn and practise languages.
- In particular, the 4<sup>th</sup> Form exchange programme helps pupils to develop their language skills and their confidence to use French in daily life, which helps towards their oral examinations at G.C.S.E. In addition, it provides them a real and unique experience of attending lessons in a French school and living with a Parisian family.
- Pen-friend letter exchanges help pupils to build relationships with other children their own age in other countries by using the vocabulary learned during their language lessons on various topics, such as hobbies, holidays, traditions, festivals, music and school life.