
St. John's CEVA Primary School

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

Whether you are a prospective parent/carer or an interested party we hope that the information you will find in this prospectus will be of interest and value to you.

If you still have questions after reading this prospectus, you are welcome to contact us by phone or e-mail or visit the school website.



OUR HISTORY

St. John's is a co-educational Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School of approximately 200 pupils aged 5 - 11, split into seven classes. The classes are arranged chronologically and are mixed ability: Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are in Key Stage 1 and Classes 3, 4, 5 & 6 are in Key Stage 2.

The School is situated in the North-Eastern part of Ipswich. The original school was in Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich and the present school, opened in 1963, is built on the site of Roundwood House, which was owned by Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson from 1795 until 1800.

The School occupies an area of some 6.5 acres which in addition to seven classrooms and administrative offices, enjoys a large assembly hall with attached changing rooms and showers. There are two Key Stage buildings

each with their own Key Stage library; an ICT suite; a music room; two playgrounds and extensive grounds including a separate garden for the Foundation Stage, a conservation area and two playing fields.

ETHOS AND VALUES OF ST JOHN'S

St John's is a church school with God at its centre. The school Vision seeks to transform the lives of our community through a collective understanding that we are all:

Loved by God. Learning with Jesus. Living by the Spirit.

Loved by God (John.3:16)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

To know that we are uniquely created by God, to be like God with purpose and worth. This allows us to be the best we can be knowing that God loves us and forgives us. We pursue excellence as we seek to fulfil our God-given potential with courage and confidence.

This means that:

- ***We will treat one another with Respect, Dignity and Love.***
- ***We will live with Hope because we are secure in the knowledge that we are valued.***

Learning with Jesus (Matthew.7:24)

Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Jesus gives us a clear and inspiring vision for what it means to be a human in God's vast and amazing world. Through His teaching, life, death and resurrection He enables us to make the best decisions for ourselves, each other and our world, to be effective learners and to pursue truth wherever it is found.

This means that:

- ***We will have a thirst for knowledge and skills and we will question, challenge and explore in all areas of our curriculum.***
- ***We will seek to live with wisdom and to put into practise what we are learning.***

Living by the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We need God's help to be like Jesus, to be successful learners, growing through our mistakes, so that we can face the challenges of a world that is evolving. The Holy Spirit will guide us to live together, to flourish together and to serve together.

This means that:

- ***We will be a community that treats one another with compassion; forgiving and being forgiven, so reconciliation is possible.***
- ***We will pursue justice, paying particular attention to the needs of those who are vulnerable.***

Furthermore we ensure that:

- Pupils are exposed to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens, and introduced to the best that has been thought and said to help them to engender an appreciation of human and creative achievement.
- Pupils have a learning environment which allows pupils to fully develop their skills, personal qualities and attitudes - and to know self-esteem.
- Pupils are encouraged to have lively, enquiring minds and to develop the ability to question confidently and argue rationally.
- Pupils develop a good attitude to work and show respect and tolerance for others. They are encouraged to appreciate the achievements and aspirations of others in order that they themselves may make a useful contribution to Society.
- Pupils acquire the understanding, knowledge and skills to enable them to face confidently, the challenges of a complex industrial Society.

VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL

The School Governors have considerable financial responsibilities in the matter of external repairs, maintenance and improvements to the School. Over the years, many people have worked tremendously hard to finance the rebuilding of St. John's School to provide the facilities we enjoy today.

All families are asked to seriously consider covenanting a monthly, termly or annual amount to the 'Rebuilding & Maintenance Fund'.

THE CURRICULUM

St John's Curriculum is skill-based and research-led. In line with evidence-based guidance and research St John's Curriculum actively recognises that Learning is a change to long-term memory. Our aims, thus, are to ensure that our pupils experience a wide breadth of study and have, by the end of each Key Stage, a long-term memory of an ambitious body of knowledge.

As such at St. John's we encourage pupils to develop an enquiring mind and a love of learning. We aim to help them realise their full potential and become confident, happy members of their community.

There are three phases in a child's life at St. John's:

The Foundation Stage:	Ages 4-5	Class R
Key Stage 1:	Ages 5-7	Class 1 & 2
Key Stage 2:	Ages 7-11	Class 3, 4, 5 & 6

THE FOUNDATION STAGE

We aim to provide a rich and stimulating environment that leads pupils to understand themselves, others and the world around them.

The Curriculum of the Foundation Stage underpins all learning experiences by supporting, promoting and developing pupils' personal, social and emotional well – being, language, communication and literacy skills, mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding of the world and their physical and creative development.

Our pupils are offered learning opportunities that build upon and extend their knowledge, experience and interests and develop their self-esteem and confidence. Through both indoor and outdoor play activities pupils are encouraged to become independent learners and to develop a positive attitude to learning. The Foundation Garden enhances the pupils' whole learning journey.

The following National Curriculum subjects are taught at St. John's:

CORE SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As St John's is a CEVA Primary school we consider RE to be a subject of fundamental importance and, as such, it takes a high priority in the curriculum. St. John's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. In aided schools Religious Education is the responsibility of school governors. The governing body of our school has adopted the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus as the basis of our RE syllabus. This has been supplemented by some extra material on Christianity.

Additional ideas, information and guidance on Religious Education suited to the particular needs of a church school are sought from the diocese. There is a close link with St. John's Church which enables pupils to see Christian life, worship and commitments at first hand and provides opportunity to mark the celebrations of the Christian year. We expect them to be able to discuss issues of faith and to show respect for the beliefs of others.

Our worship reflects the faith and practice of the Church of England and we foster strong links with St. John's Church. The church has regular contacts with the school and we also welcome visiting speakers from other local churches and Christian

organisations. The school has obtained the Gold RE Quality Mark for creative and innovative RE practice throughout the school and is recognised as outstanding in the wider community.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and Collective Worship.

LITERACY

Literacy plays a key role in learning; it underpins the foundations of the entire curriculum. As such, all staff share the responsibility of promoting Literacy within their own subject areas, promoting a whole-school approach to Literacy. At St John's we believe that all modes of communication contribute equally to the development of pupils' Literacy skills and play a crucial role in understanding the world around us.

We aim to develop pupils' abilities within an integrated programme of Speaking & Listening, Reading and Writing driven by the Centre for Primary Literacy's Power of Reading approach. Pupils are given opportunities to develop their use, knowledge and understanding of spoken and written Literacy within a broad and interconnected curriculum, with opportunities to consolidate and reinforce their Literacy skills.

Fundamentally, our aim is to provide a language rich environment that promotes a culture of reading and writing and maintains a positive attitude to all aspects of Literacy: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics equips pupils with tools to understand the world: these tools include logical reasoning, problem solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways. Mathematics is integral to all aspects of life and we aim for all pupils to develop a healthy and enthusiastic attitude towards mathematics, which will stay with them throughout their life.

At St. John's, White Rose Maths is used for planning and progression. This research based scheme, with its focus on the maths mastery approach provides all pupils with the opportunity to work at greater depth.

Mathematics is used in other curriculum areas wherever possible or appropriate. This helps to deepen the understanding of mathematical concepts. In addition, using mathematics in a purposeful way, in real contexts, helps the pupils to realise that mathematics is important in the real world.

We endeavour to provide a safe environment where pupils are motivated to continually challenge themselves and explore with confidence.

SCIENCE

Science is fundamentally the ability to think independently and raise questions about working scientifically and the knowledge and skills that it brings. We aim to stimulate pupil's curiosity in finding out about why things happen in the way they do.

Science teaches methods of enquiry and investigation to stimulate creative thought; confidence and competence in the full range of practical skills, taking the initiative in, for example, planning and carrying out scientific investigations. At St. John's, we aim for high levels of originality, imagination or innovation in the application of skills. The ability to undertake practical work in a variety of contexts, including fieldwork and ultimately a passion for science and its application in past, present and future technologies.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

HISTORY

An understanding of history and their position within British and world history, is vital for our children's' development. With a firm foundation and a focus on cultural-capital, children develop an excellent knowledge and understanding of people, events, and contexts from a range of historical periods and of historical concepts and processes. They think critically about history and communicate their ideas by supporting, evaluating and challenging their own and others' views using detailed, appropriate and accurate historical evidence derived from a range of sources.

At St John's History is driven by Literature, which it turn develops a passion for history and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, their sense of curiosity about the past and their understanding of how and why people interpret the past in different ways. There is continuous opportunity to embrace challenging activities and undertake high-quality research across a range of history topics.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography enables pupils to make sense of their immediate surroundings and the wider world through the study of places, the physical processes that shape them, and human influences on them. They develop an excellent understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.

At St John's pupils have a passion for and commitment to the subject, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there constantly developing an ability to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment.

MUSIC

Music is the beating heart of St John's school which pupils breathe in through performing, composing and listening. Pupils are actively involved in each of these activities so that they experience the widest possible range of musical expression. From Year 3 pupils all experience playing a musical instrument and as a result many enthusiastically go on to join groups or clubs both within and outside school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through Physical Education (PE) the pupils will develop physical competence and confidence, and the ability to use these to perform in a range of activities. These include dance, games, gymnastics, swimming and water safety, athletics and outdoor adventure activities. PE lessons promote physical skilfulness, physical development and knowledge of the body in action whilst providing opportunities for pupils to be creative, competitive and to face up to different challenges as individuals and in groups and teams. We aim to foster positive attitudes towards active and healthy lifestyles that will enable the pupils to make informed choices about physical activity throughout their lives.

COMPUTING

Computing is taught throughout the school, from Class R to Class 6, both in the well-equipped ICT suite and in the classrooms. Every classroom benefits from 'Smart Board' technology. Pupils progress from 'painting' on the computer screen in Class R to creating fully multimedia presentations in Class 6. Use is made of the Internet to research class projects. Pupils are also taught to control equipment, including composing music on the computer, and floor robots are extremely popular with pupils throughout the school! Older pupils will also begin to use algorithms and build programs when creating exciting games and presentations.

ART AND DESIGN

Art and Design stimulates creativity and imagination and develops the ability to use visual language skilfully and convincingly (for example, line, shape, pattern, colour, texture, form) to express emotions, interpret observations, convey insights and accentuate their individuality.

At St John's we encourage and develop the ability of pupils to communicate fluently in visual and tactile form, to draw confidently and adventurously from observation, memory and imagination. Equally pupils build their knowledge and understanding of other artists, craft makers and designers becoming artistically literate and inspired individuals.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

At St. John's learning a different language is an integral part of a pupil's education and give our pupils the best possible chance to develop their language skills for learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience, continually recognising its interconnectedness.

In 2019, the school was awarded the Gold Linguamarque for MFL.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Technology is a practical subject in which pupils are able to experience four areas: food, textiles, construction and graphics. Pupils learn to identify needs and

opportunities, develop ideas, carry out practical tasks using the correct tools and evaluate their work.

ASSESSMENT

St John's ensures that 'in-school formative assessment' is at the heart of all teaching and learning. It is what is happening in every lesson, in every classroom every day. It allows teachers to understand pupil performance (knowledge, skills and understanding) on a continuing basis and enables teachers to identify – in real time – when pupils are struggling, when they have consolidated learning and when they are ready to progress. In short – formative assessment is about knowing our children inside out.

In-school summative assessment enables teachers to evaluate both pupil learning and the impact of their own teaching. Both these purposes help teachers to plan for subsequent teaching and learning. We believe secure learning is context free (without pre-teaching) and so we have a clear structured programme of 'snapshot' summative assessments, which support and underpin our formative assessments. These help us know that children's progress is in line with national expectations in so far as they are measured by Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) of the new National Curriculum 2014.

Statutory Testing is carried out in accordance with Government timelines and requirements, although it is currently unknown what form this may take post-September 2020 and the tests listed below may be subject to change:

- The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is scheduled to be introduced in all state-funded primary schools in September 2020.
- Schools will no longer have to carry out Key Stage 1 (KS1) assessments from September 2022, following the scheduled statutory introduction of the RBA.
- The Key Stage 1 (KS1) assessments in year 2 will be made non-statutory from the academic year 2022 to 2023.
- Phonics Screening Check Y1/Y2
- Multiplication Tables Check Y4
- Key Stage 2 SATs assessments in Arithmetic & Reasoning in Mathematics, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and Reading.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROVISION

As the 2018 OFSTED Report concurs; St John's provides pupils with an outstanding personal development, behaviour and welfare foundation.

"Pupils behave exceptionally well. Relationships are positive. Pupils are resilient, curious and keen to improve their work. These attitudes towards their learning have a powerful impact on their progress.

The school promotes pupils' personal development very well. Many take on positions of responsibility and develop leadership skills. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply, to discuss and to debate. They develop confidence, maturity and respect for others.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is provided for exceptionally well. Pupils develop a sophisticated understanding of the wider world as a result."

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION [PSHE] INCLUDING SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION [SRE].

St. John's programme of personal and social education covers a wide range of issues: from being taught to be considerate and sensitive to the needs of others; to health matters and personal hygiene. Developing self-esteem and self-discipline are fundamental guiding principals.

The Governors of St. John's school fully endorse the views expressed in Memorandum 1/88 of the General Synod of the Church of England Board of Education that:

"A programme of sex education allows pupils to explore an increasing awareness of their individual and social responsibilities before God"

Sex Education is taught in accordance with the Christian ethos of the school throughout the two key stages. The Sex Education Policy is held in the school office and available to view on the school website.

Guidelines for the National Curriculum subjects are available on loan from the Headteacher or can be found on the National Curriculum web site at www.nc.uk.net.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND)

At St. John 's, we aim to identify pupils with special educational needs or a disability at an early stage. This enables pupils to access the Curriculum at their own level with the appropriate support. The school uses a graduated approach to meet the needs of a child is considered to have special educational needs or a disability.

At St. John's our graduated approach is phased across four levels:

Level 1 – Quality first teaching, this is the day-to-day classroom teaching and support offered by the class teacher or teaching assistant.

Level 2 – Teacher Support, this is where a difficulty has been identified and additional interventions are in place to meet the needs of the child. However, the child does not have a diagnosed special educational need or disability.

Level 3 – SEN Support, this is where a special educational need or disability has been diagnosed and additional interventions are in place to meet the needs of the child. This level of support may involve the expertise of outside agencies and our partners. E.g. Speech Therapists, Educational Psychologist, etc...

Level 4 – Education, Health and Care plan, this is where the special educational need or disability has been diagnosed and it is complex. Additional interventions are in

place to meet the needs of the child and this often involves the expertise of outside agencies and our partners. E.g. Speech Therapists, Educational Psychologist, etc...

We always seek to work in partnership with parents so that everyone is aware of the progress made and the decisions to be made in the best interests of the child. If parents have any concerns at all, they are always welcome to come in to the school and speak with the Headteacher, SENCo or Class Teacher.

SPORT

The school is fortunate in having excellent space for sports, including a large field and a smaller area, which includes a section with an adventure play area and gym-trail.

Pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5 & 6) attend deep-water swimming tuition sessions off site. Athletics, football, netball, tennis, are taught both through PE and by a Sports coach. We have very close links with our Pyramid Schools and they provide excellent competition in a variety of sports.

The school participates in the area athletics event, swimming galas, tag-rugby, football and netball matches and tournaments.

St John's holds the 'School Games Gold' award for sport and the 'Chartermark' award for football.

MUSIC TUITION

St. John's has a large choir and orchestra and music plays an important role in the life of the school. Lessons in strings, woodwind and brass are taught in school, by members of the County Music Staff.

Approximately forty pupils at present receive lessons, for which voluntary contributions are sought from parents. We also have a drum tutor offering group and individual tuition to pupils.

HOMEWORK

Homework helps broaden children's outlook, extending experiences and interests, providing encouragement and reinforcement and fostering independence, study skills, preparation for new situations and co-operation with parents. Homework at the primary stage of education is normally seen as contributing to good practice and aiding effective learning. Homework further involves parents in their child's education and reinforces the teacher / parent partnership.

The philosophy of St John's CE VA Primary School encourages parents to be actively involved in their child's education. One important way that parents can be involved is by helping and encouraging children with the work they bring home. Research shows that the supportive, open dialogue between parent and child fostered through homework and particularly reading, helps children reach higher (spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and academically) standards of achievement. We recognise and value

immensely the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school.

ENRICHMENT

SCHOOL VISITS

At St John's we believe that pupils learn best when they are stimulated to do so. This at times may mean a change in their surroundings. Key Stage 1 pupils may visit Easton Farm Park or Southwold and take part in other non-residential trips and Key Stage 2 pupils benefit from trips to e.g. Colchester Castle and Cambridge Botanical Garden. CYM African Village, Sizewell and PGL, are residential trips for years 5 and 6. Other activities may include visits to the school by theatre groups, visiting experts e.g. poets or participation in concerts etc.

CLUBS

We offer a vast range of activities and clubs to our pupils, their parents and the wider community.

Pupils may have the opportunity to take part in clubs/activities run either in school time or after 3.20pm. Such clubs are voluntary on the part of teachers, parents and pupils. Our current clubs include football, netball, choir, and orchestra to mention a few.

Bikeability training is available to pupils in Class 5.

THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

THE SCHOOL DAY

School starts at: 8.50 am

Lunchtime break: 12.00 - 1.00pm

School ends at: 3.15 pm for Key Stage 1
3.20 pm for Key Stage 2

SCHOOL UNIFORM

St. John's is very proud of its distinctive school uniform. All pupils are expected to conform to the uniform policy, which can be found on the school website.

SCHOOL RULES AND DISCIPLINE

Each individual is valued within our caring Christian community and is proud to belong to St John's School. Each of us has the right to feel respected and be treated appropriately and thus each individual is responsible for his or her behaviour.

From the moment of starting school at St John's we encourage children to talk about their behaviour both positive and negative. By encouraging and supporting this dialogue we hope to enable children to articulate why certain events or behaviours happen.

All the children are encouraged to consider Christian values, moral issues, behaviour and to develop their own positive response, through whole school assemblies, class 'circle times', school council and in Personal, Social and Health education (PSHE) curriculum time. We believe that a behaviour policy is a working policy which is moulded to suit the stage of development and needs of the children at our school.

Our expectation is that parents will support their child's learning and work in partnership with the school, as set out in the home school agreement.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are invited to attend scheduled consultations at regular intervals to discuss their child's progress. Additionally, they are able to share in the celebration of their child's/pupils' work through our 'parents week sessions', Celebration assemblies as well as Easter, Christmas and End of Year Church Services. Equally, they are welcome to meet with staff at other times by appointment through the School office.

Parents may also have an opportunity to attend evening meetings at which certain curriculum areas are explained: notably E-Safety, SRE, Curriculum and Assessment.

Parents are warmly encouraged to help in school with some activities including reading, handwriting, technology, and outside visits. As per our Safeguarding Duty of Care, where Parents may be left alone with children, they will be expected to have a current DBS check before such an instance.

EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE

St John's offers full wrap around chargeable care:

- St John's Breakfast Club – Before School 7.45 – 8.30am
- After School Club – After School 3.15 until 5.45pm

These take place at St John's School.
Further details are available from the school office.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

Meals at the school are cooked on the premises. We are able to offer a choice of either a hot meal or a salad. Facilities are also available for those pupils who wish to bring a packed lunch.

Further details of lunchtime menus and payment for school meals may be found on the school website.

CHARGING POLICY

The Governors reserve the right to make a charge for an activity, which is not an integral part of the school curriculum.

There is a charging and remissions policy for all school visits where contributions are requested to enable trips to take place.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

We have an active PTA and all parents are invited to be members. Details of fund-raising activities and social events are regularly circulated to parents.

ADMISSIONS

As the demand for places in our school is high, the Governors seek to issue clear guide-lines and a points system for all applicants.

This is also available on the school website.

SAFEGUARDING

The purpose of St John's safeguarding policy is to provide a secure framework for the school in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those pupils who attend our school. Safeguarding in St John's is considered everyone's responsibility and as such our school aims to create the safest environment within which every pupil has the opportunity to flourish and achieve their potential.

The School Safeguarding Policy is available to view on the St John's School website.

TRANSFER TO HIGH SCHOOL

St. John's does not have a 'fixed' catchment area. Pupils go to one of a number of different local High Schools with whom we have a close liaison; in particular Northgate, St Albans', Kesgrave and Copleston. The majority of our pupils go to these High schools, though some have chosen to take private school entrance exams for Colchester Grammar School and Ipswich School amongst others.

Teachers from the pupils selected schools come in to meet the pupils during their last year and the pupils are also invited into the High Schools during the Summer Term for Induction days, to familiarise themselves with their new environment.

HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL

The School Nurse is a Registered Nurse and an external visitor to the school premises. Pupils may be seen by the School Nurse for various health checks throughout their time at Primary School including height, weight and flu. If the the School Nurse has any concerns about your child's health, a referral will be made and you will be contacted.

DISABLED ACCESS

The school buildings are single storey and provide reasonable access for the disabled in all areas. A new toilet for the disabled has been built and ramps have been installed at various entrance points.

The school ensures that all pupils have an inclusive education as per the Education Act 1996.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS

The LEA has established procedures so that the concerns of parents/guardians about the school curriculum and related matters may be considered and whenever possible resolved locally. The arrangements apply to complaints relating to the curricular responsibilities of the LEA or the Governing Body of County, Voluntary or Maintained Special schools i.e. that the Authority or Governing Body has acted, or is proposing to act, unreasonably or has failed to comply with the requirements or duties imposed by the Education Reform Act 1988.

The Complaints procedure is available for reference on the school website.

DISCLAIMER

The information and particulars contained in this prospectus relate to the school year indicated on the front page and are correct at the time of publication.

It should not be assumed that there will be no change affecting the relevant arrangements or some matter particularised:

- i. before the start of, or during, the school year in question, or
- ii. in relation to subsequent school years

USEFUL NAMES & LINKS

- The **Education Welfare Officer** and the **School Nurse** can be contacted through the School Office.
- **Suffolk County Council**
Children, Families and Learning

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/>

- **Diocese Of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich**
Diocesan Director of Education. Jane Sheat.
Email: jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org
Tel: 01473 298570

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/>