

## Curriculum intent at St John's Upper Holloway

At St John's, the primary national curriculum is the starting point in terms of what we deliver. This emphasises the need for a curriculum that is broad and balanced but also highlights that it should:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We have shaped and enhanced it in order that it better reflects the opportunities and challenges we face within our own school and to ensure that it engages our pupils as fully as possible. To reflect the context of our school, we have designed a curriculum that will:

- meet the very diverse needs of our pupils regardless of their special educational needs or disabilities, gender, race or social background.
- focus on supporting the physical and mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff
- focus on developing children's oracy skills, including the use of subject specific vocabulary
- provide opportunities for active parental engagement
- support our vision statement of 'Love one another as I have loved you' (John 15:12) and provide opportunities to develop our six Christian values of creativity, thankfulness, truthfulness, friendship, perseverance and courage, each linked by our core value of love

Our curriculum, whilst paying due regard to achieving high standards in English and Mathematics, is broad, engaging and challenging and is regularly reviewed and updated by teachers and school leaders. In discussions with school staff, we have agreed that the curriculum and units of work within it, should be based on the following principles. It should be:

- ambitious with high expectations for all groups of learners
- coherent and connected with a clear progression of knowledge, skills and understanding
- immersive, with children learning through a wide range of methods including drama and role play, use of trips and visitors, artefacts and practical activities – London is a wonderful cultural resource for learning and we aim to make the most of the opportunities our children have as London citizens

Effective learning is at the heart of our approach to curriculum intent and implementation. Our staff worked towards a shared definition of learning:

“Learning is the process by which we acquire, develop and consolidate a range of knowledge, skills, understanding and concepts. True learning occurs when a child has fully embedded new knowledge, skills or understanding in their long term memory and can apply it confidently.”

See the teaching and learning policy and the subject specific intent statements to see how we effectively implement the St John's curriculum and the impact it has on children's lives.