



St John the Baptist Church of England Primary
School

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Reviewed January 2023

Next review January 2026

We believe that the primary years should be full of joy, laughter and inspirational learning in a safe and supportive school. We are an attachment aware school, proud to use emotion coaching and restorative approaches to help children to develop the skills they need to get on with others and be kind to themselves. All we do at St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School is based on our Christian values.

Children thrive with supportive adults modelling the values and behaviours we wish for our children - everybody at St John's is a learner and every individual can learn something new every day. We believe that all children have the capacity to learn and to delight in learning and that they learn best through play, through being outdoors and through first hand experience. All members of our school are given the support and challenge they need across a broad, rich curriculum to discover and develop their unique attributes as learners and to live our values. Children of all ages can be confident, independent learners, evaluating their learning, taking on board feedback to improve and wanting to do their best.

Parents, carers and our wider community, including our church family, are welcomed into the learning adventure of our children. We provide opportunities for community participation and leadership development for all our children and aim to ensure all children at St John's build respect for our planet, trust in ourselves and strong bonds of friendship with each other and with people across local, national and global communities.

We believe children in the Early Years learn best when:

- They are able to **play and explore** taking risks and engaging their curiosity.
- When they use their senses to investigate.
- When they have a risk taking 'can do' attitude.
- They are **involved in active learning** and are motivated to be persistent.
- They concentrate on challenges and are proud of their success.
- They are **creating and thinking critically** predicating, planning and investigating.
- Thinking of ideas and testing those ideas.

In order to realise this vision, we will:

- Provide a high quality, stimulating learning environment based on a rich, balanced and exciting curriculum
- Create a safe and secure environment fit for learners in the twenty first century
- Provide exciting and challenging opportunities to promote children's personal development
- Develop purposeful partnerships and forge strong links with parents, church, local schools and the wider community
- Ensure children have sustained time to develop their activities
- Encourage language to scaffold thinking and extend thinking through open ended questions
- Build in children's interests to our planned learning
- Encourage negotiation of conflicts to develop children's problem solving skills

- Model complex ways of speaking and think out loud to demonstrate the thinking process
- Join in with children's play
- Have clear learning intentions matched to the children's current learning
- Provide meaningful feedback to the children
- Be genuinely interested and celebrate the children's achievements