

# St John the Baptist VA Primary School

## Ysgol Sant Ioan y Bedyddiwr



## School Prospectus

### 2024—2025

*Working together with kindness, respect and encouragement to achieve our best in a caring Christian School*  
*Gweithio gyda'n gilydd gyda charedlgrwydd, parch ac anogaeth i gyflawni ein gorau mewn Ysgol Gristnogol ofalgar*



## Message from the headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the staff here at St John's it gives me great pleasure to welcome you and your child to this school; we look forward to forming a positive partnership with you and your family. As a church school, we hold Christian values at the heart of everything we do. These are;

Friendship, perseverance, courage, love, respect, generosity, creativity and community.

Teachers, governors and parents/carers all work together in partnership with one common aim: to do the best we can do for our children. We strive to create an environment where pupils are securely challenged, supported and feel confident. Each child is valued equally and we believe that each child should be motivated to reach his or her potential, in order to take their place as a good citizen within the community.

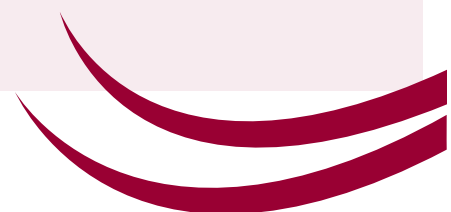
St John's has a tradition of achieving high standards delivered in an outstanding Christian ethos, where hard work and determination is celebrated and rewarded.

Please take time to read this prospectus and the accompany Curriculum Rationale, if, after reading this prospectus, you still have any queries please do not hesitate to phone or email the office.

We look forward to a long and happy partnership.

Mrs A Stephens

Headteacher





## Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body, I welcome you to our Church School; St John the Baptist VA Primary School. As a Voluntary Aided School, the majority of our Governing Body is made up of Foundation Governors who are appointed by the Church and have a duty to maintain the religious ethos of the school.

There are currently 12 members on the Governing Body, who as well as Foundation Governors, include Parent Governor, LEA Governor, Minor Authority Governor, Ex-officio Governor, Staff Governor and Teacher Governor.

The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for the conduct of the school and promoting high standards of educational achievement. Its role is to;

- Provide a strategic view, by establishing a vision
- Monitor and evaluate the work of the school
- Challenge and support the head teacher in her day-to-day management of the school
- Ensure the school has effective policies as well as overseeing the school budgets and staffing

The Governing Body meets at least once every half term to fulfil its role as well as meeting more often in sub-committee groups. The Governors also prepare and distribute an Annual report to the parents/carers.

We are very proud of our School and its achievements and are committed to ensuring that every child achieves their full potential by learning and working together in a warm, happy and safe environment. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our school life.

Helen Dalrymple

Chair of Governors

Governing Body



## Governing Body

Headteacher	Mrs Anna Stephens
LEA Governor	Mrs Susan Pemberton (Vice chair of Governors)
Parent Governor	Mrs Madeleine Phillips
Foundation Governor	Mrs Helen Dalrymple (Chair of Governors)
Foundation Governor	Mr Steve Wallace
Foundation Governor	Vacancy
Foundation Governor	Rev. Simon Piercy
Foundation Governor	Mrs Anna Millington
Foundation Governor	Mrs Pamela Wallace
Foundation Governor—Ex-officio	Father Paul Wheeler
Minor Authority Governor	Mr Andy Sloan
Teacher Governor	Mrs Emily Tiryaki
Staff Governor	Mr Sam Gocher
Clerk to the Governing Body	Mrs Fran Grimwood

**Address:**

Chester Road

Penymynydd

Flintshire

CH4 0EN

**Tel:** 01244 550838

**Email:**

[jbmail@hwbcymru.net](mailto:jbmail@hwbcymru.net)

**Website:**

[stjohnsflintshire.org](http://stjohnsflintshire.org)

**Twitter:** #YsgolSantloan

**Classification of school:**

Voluntary Aided Co-educational  
Primary School

**Language of the School:**

All learning is through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language.

**Church Affiliation:**

The school is a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School within the Diocese of St Asaph and links with St John the Baptist Church, Penymynydd.

**Chair of Governors:**

Mrs Helen Dalrymple

[cog.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:cog.stjohns@gmail.com)



## About Our School

St John's has provided education for the children of Penymynydd and the surrounding area since when the original school opened. Over subsequent years, the school has witnessed many changes reflecting the education of the times and we now have a school that successfully meets the challenges of the current education climate, providing quality education for all our children.

The school is situated on the edge of Penymynydd village behind St John the Baptist Church, with views over the Welsh Mountain. Many people move to Penymynydd and its surrounding areas because it has easy access to main roads leading to Airbus, Chester Business Park and is within a twenty minute drive to the historic town of Chester.

In 1999 a major re-modelling project saw the refurbishing of the school, creating four classrooms, an additional two class bases, offices and school hall. In 2020 a lift was installed, ensuring equal access for all children.





Over the years, the external environment has been developed to provide additional seating and play areas. There is a small area for the use of the youngest children when they start school. The governing body of St John's have plans to further develop the outside environment over the forthcoming year.





## Christian Values and the Four Core Purposes

We have listened to our learners, parents, staff, governors and our local community. Collectively, we have chosen eight Christian Values and linked each value to the Four Core Purposes and their associated learning and social behaviours.

Core Purposes	Christian Values	To work towards our vision, we will...
 <b>Ambitious, capable learners</b>  <b>Ambitious Alex</b>	Perseverance  Courage	Be committed to keep going and not giving up. Overcome fear and face a challenge.
 <b>Ethical, informed citizens</b>  <b>Ethical Ezra</b>	Community  Respect	Be stronger together. Show respect and care for the world around us.
 <b>lthy, confident individuals</b>  <b>Healthy Haven</b>	Love  Friendship	Grow and learn together because we know that God loves us. Share hopes and dreams, include others.
 <b>prising, creative contributors</b>  <b>Creative Charlie</b>	Creativity  Generosity	Be inquisitive, explore our wonderful world and utilise our talents. Take care of God's creation for future generations.

Our Christian Ethos group, made up of volunteers of children and lead by Mrs Tiryaki, regularly meet to ensure that our values positively impact upon the lives of our children.





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## Aims of St John's School

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We aim to:

Create a stimulating environment, which encourages enthusiasm for lifelong learning and promotes an expectation of high standards.

Provide a broad and balanced curriculum which challenges and develops the potential of each child, so that they may become lifelong learners.

Develop a successful partnership between home, school, the Church and the wider community.

Create an enjoyable, safe and nurturing atmosphere that allows all individuals to develop spiritually, morally, socially in order to become good citizens of our World.

Encourage caring, sensitive and inclusive attitudes where individuals feel confident, secure, valued and respected by others.



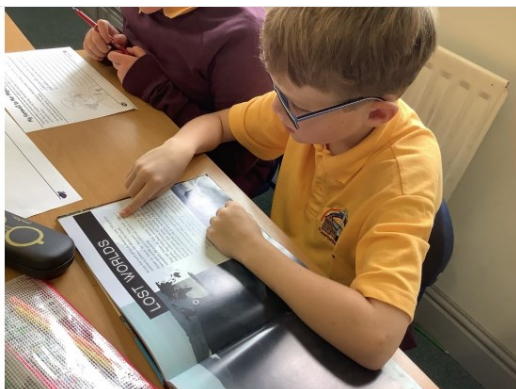
## Teaching and learning

St John's School has two year groups in each class, from nursery to year six. Each class has a teacher with responsibility for the care and guidance of that class. Teachers are well supported by classroom assistants who support learning effectively and make a valuable contribution to the caring ethos of the school.

Teachers throughout the school work together to plan learning activities in termly topics, which will interest children and stimulate learning opportunities. Creative, practical and enjoyable learning experiences feed into the development of key skills. Please read our **Curriculum Rationale** for further information.

The school has a long tradition of good practice within the early years. We share this good practice with other schools. Children make good progress as they journey through the school. All teachers identify skills in literacy, numeracy and digital technologies, which will enable children to develop the skills appropriate to their age group and ability.

Children have opportunities to follow their interest through questioning and exploring in all areas of learning experiences. Children are taught to evaluate their work and that of their friends as they work towards improving their work and meeting their own personal targets.







## The Curriculum for Wales

All primary schools in Wales are delivering the Curriculum for Wales. This new curriculum prepares young people to thrive in a future where digital skills, adaptability, creativity and knowledge are crucial.

We want our children to enjoy learning and develop in skills, knowledge and emotional resilience. They should be confident ethical individuals who play an active role in their community and society. We want our learners to develop positive attitudes to the work they do at school. We also recognise the importance of having a curriculum that takes into account the needs of our children at different ages and abilities. Please read our Curriculum Rationale, which accompanies this document.

The teaching staff at our school strive to create authentic learning situations which are both motivating and interesting in themselves. We are conscious that the fundamental skills of reading, writing and mathematics must also be discretely taught.



A mixture of whole class teaching, group and individual work takes place throughout each day. The wide range of abilities amongst our learners means that teaching methods must be varied, providing opportunities for the able child to progress at a rate suited to their ability whilst enabling individuals with additional learning needs to master their difficulties and gain confidence.

# Curriculum for Wales

The new Areas of Learning Experiences are:

In **Expressive Arts**, your child will explore art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills.

**Health and Well-being** is about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional well-being. They'll learn about healthy eating and how to make good decisions, deal with influences and develop healthy relationships.

In **Humanities** they'll learn about the world, society and events in the past and present. They'll explore the challenges and opportunities that face us, and what ethical action we can take to safeguard the world and its people in the future.

In **Languages, Literacy and Communication**, your child will learn about languages. They'll understand and use Welsh, English and other languages. They'll study and create literature, and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways. This could include poetry, drama and film.

In **Mathematics and Numeracy**, your child will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They'll explore shapes and measurement and learn about statistics and probability.

In **Science and Technology** your child will learn about biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and design and technology. They'll learn about design and engineering, living things, matter, forces and energy, and how computers work.

## Use of the Welsh Language

Welsh is taught as a second language and the children are made aware that Wales has its own distinct language, culture and heritage. We seek to promote Welsh as a language which is naturally heard within the school by using it in everyday situations throughout the day; in greetings, in prayers, in commands and praise. Children are encouraged and praised for initiating conversations in Welsh. Bilingualism underpins the structured lessons taught within each classroom, we use schemes such as Fflic a Fflac and Pod Antur in-line with our termly topics.

To promote our cultural heritage the school also actively encourages in traditional cultural festivals, especially on and around St David's Day.

## St David's Day Eisteddfod

This is whole school event. The children undertake individual and group expressive art performances in the morning. In the afternoon we host an exhibition of the children's work that has been completed as homework for the cookery, arts, craft and technology competitions. Parents are welcomed to the school hall to view all competition entries.



# Links with St John's Church and the Diocese of St. Asaph

Our school is a lively Christian school. As we are a Voluntary Aided school, we enjoy very close links with both St John the Baptist Church and the Diocese of St Asaph.

## Religion, Values and Ethics

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners across Wales from ages 3 to 16. RVE is a sub-section of the Humanities area for learning. Throughout their time at St John's our learners will cover the following areas of the RVE curriculum:

- ◇ Identity and belonging
- ◇ Relationships and responsibility
- ◇ Values and ethics
- ◇ Journey of life
- ◇ Search for meaning and purpose
- ◇ Authority and influence
- ◇ Natural world and living things.

Religion, values and ethics provides valuable opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Wales. These experiences help them to consider spiritual and ethical dimensions to life. Religious lessons are enhanced by educational visits to St John's church and to St Asaph Cathedral.

## Collective Worship

Children join in an act of collective act of worship every day. These times provide opportunities for worship, prayer and quiet reflection. During these times, we seek to develop the children's understanding of Christian values, such as friendship, creativity, courage, love and faith. Acts of worship follow over-arching termly values and are led by staff and pupils. The school has close links with St John's Church and we celebrate the church calendar and visit St John's Church for services at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year. Parents, carers and the school community are always welcome to these services.



## Homework

A topic based homework grid is set for each topic throughout the year. This is set using the Seesaw platform from reception through to year 4 and Google classroom for years 5 to 6. High frequency words or spellings, reading and times table are also encouraged to be practised throughout the week.

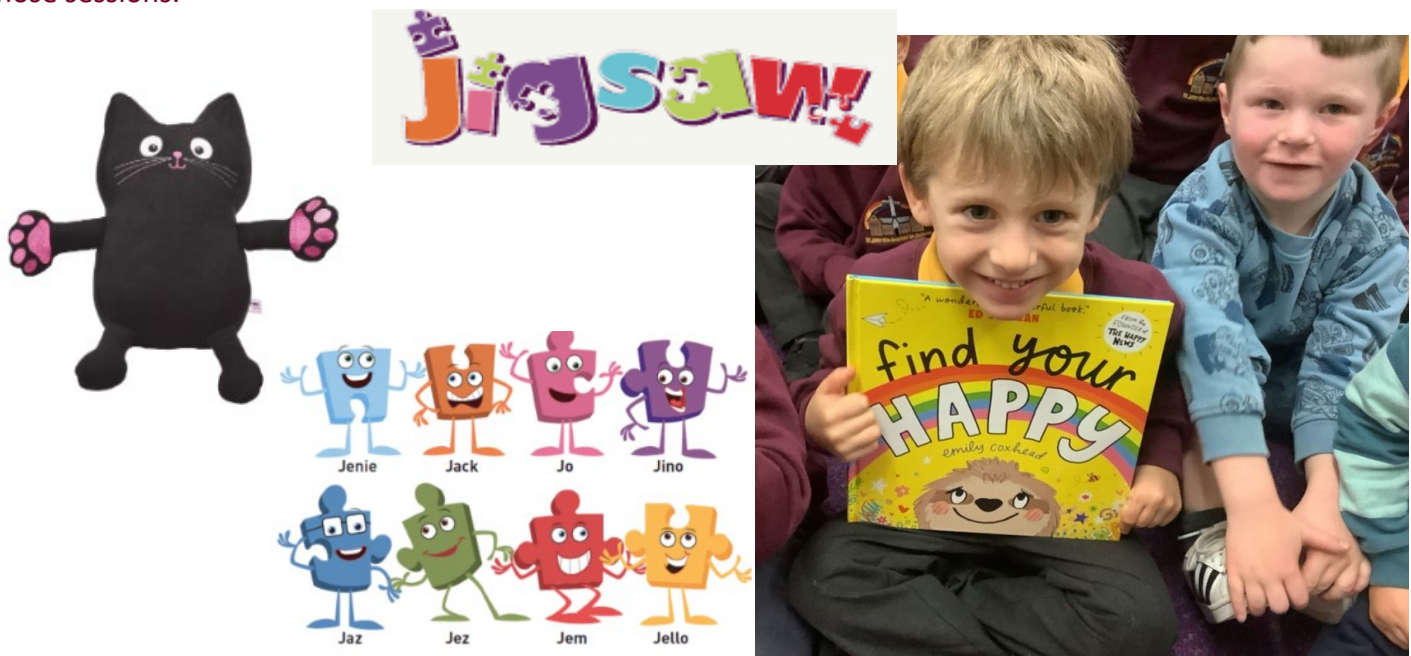
## Equalities and Disability

St John's is fully committed to the principal and promotion for all to strive to eliminate discrimination of any kind. St John's will work towards ensuring that the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, organisation and management of the school shall be such that no individual within the school community will be denied opportunities or receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic origin or disability. We aim to follow best practice laid out in the Disability Act 2010 and the Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice.

## Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

The school's programme of relationships and sexuality education, as agreed by the Governing Body, has been designed in line with the mandatory Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) Code. We ensure that all sessions are appropriate to the pupil's age and experience and will be presented within a moral, family-orientated, diverse context. At St John's, teachers follow the scheme of work designed by Flintshire Healthy Schools to deliver age appropriate aspects of personal and social development. Teachers supplement this scheme with the Jigsaw PSHE programme which includes sessions on appropriate touch, the correct terms for body parts and eventually puberty.

Pupils in year 6 also have a series of lessons on conception and pregnancy. We will always let parents know when these year 6 lessons will take place. Parents may view the policy and discuss the teaching materials used prior to those sessions.



# Complaints Policy

If you have concerns about your child, then please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Staff will react quickly to resolve situations in school which may be causing your child anxiety. We want to know, so please share your concern with us.

If you still have concerns about any aspect of your child's education or the curriculum, please arrange to see the Headteacher as most queries can be resolved easily at this point. After a first discussion, we will always ask you to come back to us if you feel the matter is not resolved. If after meeting with the headteacher, you still have concerns, please contact the Chair of Governors who will investigate your complaint. If you still feel dissatisfied with the outcome of the Chair of Governor's investigation, you may take your complaint to the Director of Life-long Learning at the Diocese of St Asaph. A copy of our Complaints Policy can be found on the school website.

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# Additional Learning Needs *(more information on the new ALN code of Practice can be found on our school website).*

Our ALN Co-ordinator (ALNCo) is Mrs Barnes, she is supported by both our designated ALN governor, Mrs Pam Wallace and Mrs Stephens. At St John's Primary School we endeavour to provide the best educational opportunities for each child in our school. We have a 'can' do learning culture which enables all children to reach their maximum potential. As a school we recognise that all pupils come to school at different stages and with different needs. Our intention is to fully meet the needs of each individual. The school has adopted the full Code of Practise as its ALN Policy and a copy of which can be found on our school website.



# Parents as Partners

At St John's we recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents for the benefit of all our pupils. Strong communication is vital to ensure maximum involvement, so all can understand the co-operative and collaborative support this partnership brings. We aim to work in partnership with you for the benefit of the children and welcome you as parents into school whenever possible. Looking at your child's work on Seesaw/ Google classroom and providing constructive/positive praise.

- Attending our parents' meetings.
- Looking at your child's work when you come into school, via Seesaw or google classroom.
- Watching out for displays of work in the classrooms and corridors.
- Letting us know if you or your child has a worry or problem about the school.
- Coming and helping in school, we are always looking for extra adult help.
- Supporting the Home School Association.
- Access relevant and recent information on the school's website.

Parents are sent a Home/School Agreement which states the basic expectations from us as a school and from you as parents. This is in line with the requirements set out by the Government.

The school has a Homework Policy and depending on the age of your child the amount and type of homework will vary i.e. reading, spellings, literacy or numeracy.

We all know how difficult it often is to make decisions regarding the education of children. The staff and governors are here to answer any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to ask. You are also welcome to come into school to discuss any matters related to the education of your child or issues relating to school policy with the Headteacher or staff. If possible please arrange a convenient time with the school secretary.

## Parent Teacher Association

The Parent Teacher Association (P.T.A.) is a committee of parent/carers, teachers and army of willing volunteers. They organise a range of social and fundraising events throughout the year, such as the Christmas fayre, Social Nights, Film nights and Cake Sales. The P.T.A. make a considerable contribution to everyday life at our school; buying vital equipment to enhance our pupils' learning, they also contribute financially towards the cost of the annual pantomime for Key stage 2 pupils, a Christmas entertainer for the foundation phase and towards the end of year leavers' event.

Our Chairs, Mrs Billington-Dykes and Mr Shone-Jones, can be contacted via the school or the P.T.A. Facebook page. More information about the committee members and fundraising events can be found on our school website. The P.T.A. meet on average once a half-term. Everyone is made to feel welcome.



## Visitors to our school

The pupils are very welcoming and enjoy their work with others in our community. We have welcomed a number of other agencies into the school as well as visitors from the Church in Wales. Our visitors bring another dimension to the learning that takes place, allowing the children to see and speak to members of the community in those roles.

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

The headteacher, Mrs Stephens is the Designated Senior Person in charge of all Child Protection Procedures. Mrs Tiryaki is our Deputy Designated Person and we also have Mrs Millington, our designated governor responsible for Safeguarding. All our staff members receive regular training to recognise the signs of abuse. If we ever have any serious concerns about a child, then we will share them outside agencies. Whenever it is deemed safe to do so, parents may be informed of the school's intention to refer issues to these outside agencies.

All staff and pupils have a right to be safe in school. At St John's, the health and safety of everyone on site is of paramount importance. Safeguarding is not just about protecting our learners from deliberate harm. It includes issues for school such as: online safety, health and safety, challenging bullying, harassment and discrimination, use of physical intervention, meeting the needs of learning with medical conditions, providing first aid, drug and substance misuse, educational visits, intimate care or matters specific to our local community. For the safety and general wellbeing of all pupils, your child will only be released to an adult, other than their parent, when we have been informed in school. Our Safeguarding Policy can be found on our school website.

## Charging Policy

The governing body has agreed to request voluntary contributions from parents for school activities, which can only be provided if there is sufficient voluntary funding. We will ensure that no pupil is excluded from any activity by reason of inability or unwillingness to make a voluntary contribution.

## School Security

The Governing Body and the headteacher take all security measures possible to ensure our children are taught in a safe environment. All school doors are kept locked during the school day. The gates are also electronically locked once the children are in and a CCTV camera overlooks the school gate. There is an intercom system on our main gate and the gate will be released once school staff have identified our visitors. Visitors are admitted through the main reception by a member of staff and must electronically sign in on arrival. If parents/carers need to collect children during the school day, they can request access to the school site via the intercom on the school gate, once admitted to the school, parents/carers are asked to sign their child/ren out of school at the main entrance.

Our younger children can be accompanied to the door each morning.

Parking can be difficult so please try to walk to school whenever you can. Please observe the parking regulations and do not double park.

# School Uniform

Here at St John's we are very proud of our school and this starts with a feeling of unity and belonging that comes from wearing our school uniform.



Our school colours are burgundy, gold and grey and our uniform consists of:

- Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan bearing the school logo.
- Yellow polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore.
- Lemon gingham summer dresses.
- Black or dark coloured shoes (not trainers).
- White, black or sensibly fastened sandals may be worn with socks during the summer months.

Please note: Trainers and high heeled shoes are not appropriate for school and should not be worn.

**PE Kit** All children should wear their PE kits to school each Friday. All PE lessons will take place outside.

- Plain white t-shirt, black shorts/jogging bottoms, plain black hooded top and outdoor trainers.

## Jewellery and Hair

One pair of stud earrings and a watch may be worn for school.

All jewellery should be removed for PE lessons and where risk assessments may require it.

School uniform can be purchased at

Monkhouse Shop in Mold.

[www.monkhouse.com](http://www.monkhouse.com)

Telephone: **01352 756636**

# Behaviour at St. John's

We pride ourselves on good behaviour at St. John's. It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school behaviour policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

The school has a number of school rules which have been collaboratively written by our school council and underpin the Christian values of St John's:

**Always try your best.**

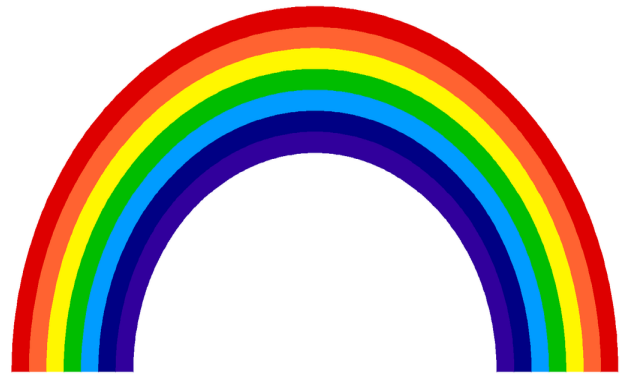
**Treat everyone in our school with respect.**

**Be courageous and believe in yourself.**

**Be honest and always tell the truth.**

**Be kind and help each other.**

**Always make good choices.**



Pupils are encouraged to display these positive behaviours linked to the school rules. The primary aim of our rules and our behaviour policy is to promote good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn. The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others. We are committed to keeping our children safe and to prevent bullying in our school. Please keep us informed if your child expresses concern about another child or appears unhappy at school. We prefer to know about the little things, so that we can prevent any situations escalating.

## Pupil Voice

St John's School recognises the importance of pupil voice and their involvement in the decision-making process and development of the school. We have a variety of elected groups including:

- School Council
- Eco Council
- Digital Leaders
- Criw Cymraeg
- Christian Values

We pride ourselves that all our year 5 and 6 pupils have a role on one of the above committees. The groups hold regular meetings with staff and discuss issues relating to curriculum, behaviour and policy making. Members of the School Council attends Governing Body Curriculum meetings, where they can put forward their views, observations and suggestions.



# LITTLE DISCIPLES CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST CLUB, NURSERY PLUS, AFTER SCHOOL CLUB & HOLIDAY CLUB



Little Disciples Childcare operates a successful breakfast club, nursery plus, afterschool club, Wraparound care service & holiday club. Little Disciples Childcare is managed by Mr Gocher and open to all children from nursery to year 6. Little Disciples is run to help parents who work and require extra childcare. We don't expect parents to always know what their work pattern will be, so we can accommodate shift work and also parents who may need to use our setting for occasional use. We are based in the school hall and also have access to the outdoor area and classrooms.



If you feel that you would like more information for Little Disciples Childcare, then please email [littledisciples2015@outlook.com](mailto:littledisciples2015@outlook.com)

We always have 2 members of staff on duty and we always adhere to the 1:8 adult to child ratio. All staff hold a valid DBS certificate and they are experienced and qualified to work with children. We also ensure that First Aiders are always on site. To promote the highest of standards and care, Little Disciples is registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and operates within the guidelines laid out by them, regarding qualifications in childcare.

*In our last inspection which was held in January 2020 CIW rated us 'Excellent' in Wellbeing & in Care and Development, they also rated us 'Good' in Environment and Leadership.*

## **Free Breakfast Club—Reception to Year 6**

We are also proud to provide the Free Breakfast Club initiative which is funded by the Welsh Government, we open our free breakfast club from 8.20am until the start of the school day. Children will need to arrive by 8.30am to ensure there is time for your child to have their breakfast.

## **Childcare Offer for Nursery Children**

We also offer the Childcare offer which is provided by the Welsh Government. If you work or study for more than 16 hours per week you may be eligible to receive free childcare worth £87.50 per week to use towards your Nursery plus and wrap around care fees.

<b>Manager (Person in Charge)</b>	<b>Mr Sam Gocher</b>
<b>Deputy Manager (Person in Charge)</b>	<b>Mrs Eleanor Eccles</b>
Breakfast Club Assistants	Miss Rebecca Caddell Mr Danny Freeman Mrs Hilary Rimmer Mrs Donna Randle
Nursery Plus Assistant	Miss Rebecca Caddell Mrs Donna Randle
After School Club Playworkers	Mrs Kathy Humphreys Miss Ruby Humphreys Mrs Denise Hodson Miss Rebecca Caddell Miss Ellie Williams (Relief Playworker)

Please email [littledisciples2015@outlook.com](mailto:littledisciples2015@outlook.com) for more information.

## School Visits

Children enjoy visiting places and learn much from first hand experiences. We strive to deliver a programme of educational visits linked to different areas of the curriculum. As school trips are part of the curriculum, we may request a voluntary contribution. Parents experiencing difficulty in meeting costs are always welcome to approach the Headteacher; if you are in receipt of Income Support you may be entitled to financial assistance. Our Y5 and Y6 residential visit to Cardiff offers excellent opportunities for studies of areas of contrast and promote our cultural heritage.



## Sports Activities



Our school has a large pitch (situated off from our car park) and a hard playing court. There is a range of sports activities undertaken during the year where children represent the school. These include swimming, netball, football, tennis and cricket.

Any child taking part represents the school and this is recognised as a privilege equal to academic and artistic achievement. It also fosters team spirit and the development of skills. We aim to give children of all abilities the opportunity to participate in competitive events.

## Children's Health

If your child is ill in school we will phone you. We have trained first aiders to deal with minor injuries. If we are worried about a child who has fallen, we will phone you to inform you or to ask you to collect your child. With minor falls the teacher will inform you at the end of the day.

Please keep us informed about any medical information about your child, e.g. allergies, disabilities and also any illnesses, which may affect your child's work or behaviour in school. With some illnesses it is recommended that children are kept away from school for a minimum number of days, even if they feel better. It is very important to keep children at home for the required time.

Chicken pox	5 days from onset of rash and until all blisters are crusted over.
German Measles	5 days from appearance of rash
Measles	4 days from appearance of rash
Mumps	5 days from appearance of swelling
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after last episode

## Medicines

School staff will administer medicines in chronic conditions, when a health plan should be agreed with the Head Teacher and kept up-to-date by parents.

In accordance with our Health Care Policy the school cannot administer any medicines that are not prescribed by a doctor (or equivalent) for individual pupils. Parents are welcome to come into school to administer medicines. When this is not possible, the head or nominated staff member will administer the prescribed medicine and will record the doses administered in a log.

In the case of antibiotics, parents are responsible for making sure the antibiotics are collected and returned to school (we keep them in the fridge in the staff room). We would also encourage parents to check the medicine log just in case a dose has been missed.

Staff are trained to supervise children using inhalers and in the use of epi pens, once again, parents are responsible for ensuring their child's epi-pens and inhalers are within their expiry date and for their replacement.

## Medical Appointments

Please let us know if you need to collect your child from school for a medical appointment. Pupils may be collected directly from the main school gate. All children collected during the school day will be signed out at the office and a note/an email should be sent to school to explain the absence. The headteacher reserves the right to ask for proof of any medical appointments taken during the school day.



# School Structure

Headteacher	Mrs Anna Stephens
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs Emily Tiryaki
Nursery and Reception	Mrs Elisabeth Betts (teacher) Mrs Lisa Arrowsmith (TA) Mrs Eleanor Eccles
Years 1 and 2	Mrs Laura Barnes (teacher) and Mr Chris Morgan (teacher) Mr Sam Gocher (TA) Miss Hannah Grindley / Mrs Debbie Nelson (1:1 TA) Miss Ellie Williams (1:1 / TA)
Years 3 and 4	Mrs Gaye Griffith (teacher) and Mrs Anna Stephens (teacher) Mrs Kara Lyon (1:1 TA)
Years 5 and 6	Mrs Emily Tiryaki (teacher) Mrs Janet Davies (TA & Catch Up) Mrs Kirsty Whittaker(1:1 TA) Mr Danny Freeman (1:1 TA)
School Administrator	Mrs Fran Grimwood
Cook	Miss Sam Howe / Mrs Glenys Astbury
Midday Supervisors	Mrs Margaret Dorricott Mrs Kathy Humphreys
Caretaker	Mr Garry Jackson
Cleaners	Mrs June Burkhill



## School Dinners

Our tasty school dinners follow the menus designed and provided by Newydd Catering Company. Miss Sam Howe and Mrs Glenys Astbury serves the food in our dining hall.

All children from Reception to Year 6 are eligible for universal free school meals and parents are encouraged to select their child's/ren's lunchtime meals in advance via the Cypad app.

Newydd have recently replaced all the dining tables and chairs and we are delighted to inform the community that the kitchen has recently been inspected and been awarded a 5 Food Hygiene Rating.

## Breaktime Snacks

Foundation Phase children are provided with a daily healthy snack costing £15 per term. KS2 pupils are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack from home. They may also bring a named bottle of water to use during the school day as and when required.

# Attendance

St. John the Baptist VA School is committed to ensuring that regular attendance at school is a priority which will in turn provide pupils with the best possible chances to succeed and to achieve their goals.

Regular school attendance is essential for all children and young people. Failure to regularly attend can increase the risk of leaving school without any qualifications, and can also increase the likelihood of pupils being drawn into criminal and anti-social behaviour. Our Attendance Policy is on the school website should you require any further information.

## Types of absences

It is important for parents to understand the definition of the different types of absences. They are classed as **unauthorised absence** and **authorised absence**.

The schools Head Teacher is the only person that should determine whether an absence is authorised or remains unauthorised.

Absences may be authorised for the following reasons:

- Illness.
- Religious observance.
- Medical/Dental appointments during school hours.
- Fixed term and permanent exclusions.
- Holiday agreed by the Head Teacher.
- Agreed Flexi schooling.
- Legitimate Dual Registration.

Absences will remain unauthorised for the following reasons (Not Comprehensive):

- Truancy.
- Late after the close of registration.
- Staying at home for no legitimate reason – condoned absence.
- Shopping for school uniform.
- Birthdays.

## What can parents do to help?

- Let the school know as soon as possible why your child is absent.
- Arrive punctually at the start of each school day by 8.55 am.
- Try to make appointments out of school time.
- Do not allow your child to have time off school unless it is really necessary.
- If you have arranged for someone other than yourself to collect your child, please communicate this information to either your child's class teacher or at the school office.
- Take holidays during school holiday dates, avoid term time holidays, especially for the first week of the Autumn term.

**School attendance  
figures for  
2023—2024**

Attendance	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences
95.2%	4.8%	0%



# Holidays and Leave of Absence Requests

All applications for holidays in term-time will be considered on an individual basis as parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw their child from schools for holidays.

All holidays taken during term are classed as absences. We will 'authorise' up to 10 days holiday in a school year. Absences for holidays over and above this will be classed as 'unauthorised' absences in the children's attendance record, unless the Head teacher decides to authorise the absence.

With regard to future family holidays the governing body would ask parents to consider the effect this may have on your child's development and to try taking them during school holidays.

## Punctuality

Parents are kindly requested to make every effort to ensure that their child is in school by the school start time of 8.55am. Late arrival in school is very disruptive with regards to taking and closing registers and morning assembly.

The School doors are open for all children from 8.45am every morning so that they may enter the school safely. For safeguarding reasons, parents are not encouraged to accompany their child into school. The school gate closes at 8.55am.

The school records poor punctuality and attendance. The Local Authority monitors the school's attendance and punctuality records and will investigate any issues of poor attendance or punctuality which are expressed by the school. More than 10 late marks per term, may lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued. Please see our Attendance Policy on the school website for more information.

## End of Day Collection Arrangements

Parents and carers are asked to meet their children from the school playground. It is the school's policy that children must be collected by an adult from nursery through to year 4. Nursery children are led out by two members of staff and handed over to adults from the school gate. Teachers release the pupils when they see the responsible adult. Children in years 5 and 6 may walk home, if the teachers have been notified of this, in writing/ email by their parents/carers.

Children who are registered for Little Disciples Out of Hours Club make their way to the hall. Staff from the Little Disciples Club will collect pupils in the foundation phase from their classrooms and take the children to where the Club is being held.

If children are attending an after school club run by the school, the children are dismissed from the school gate. An outside light has been installed for the darker winter months. A member of staff supports any outside agency practitioners when handing pupils over to their parents/carers.

Class teachers will inform any supply cover teachers/PPA teachers of children's arrangements to avoid any confusion at the end of the day.

No child will be allowed to leave unaccompanied without a permission letter. Should a child say they are allowed to go home without written confirmation, then we will make every effort to contact the parent/carer.

Where this is not possible, then the school may have to call the police/social care as a last resort, if the child remains uncollected. It is the duty of parents to ensure that the school has the most up-to-date contact phone numbers.

Children in Key Stage 2 are not permitted to collect and take home foundation phase siblings without parental supervision.

The school is not obliged to agree to a child walking home unaccompanied by a parent/carer/known adult if we feel it is not in the child’s best interests. In such an instance the class teacher will discuss this with the child’s parent/ carer.

## School Routines

### Mornings

Nursery:	8-55am – 11-25am
Foundation phase:	8-55am – 12-00 midday
Juniors:	8-55am – 12-10pm

### Afternoons

Foundation Phase	1-00pm—3.05pm
Juniors:	1-00pm – 3-15pm

### Summary of school sessions:

The hours spent teaching during the normal school week, including religious education, but excluding the statutory daily act of worship, registration and breaks are as follows:

Early years and infants (5- 7yrs)	<b>21 hours 15 mins</b>
Juniors	<b>23 hours 45 mins</b>



## 2024—2025 Term Dates

Autumn Term starts	Wednesday 4th September 2024	INSET DAYS Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September
Half Term	Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	
Autumn Term ends	Thursday 19th December	INSET DAY Friday 20th December
Christmas Holidays	Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January 2025	INSET DAY Monday 6th January 2025
Spring Term starts	Tuesday 7th January 2025	
Half Term	Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February	INSET DAY Friday 21st February
Spring Term ends	Friday 11th April	
Easter Holidays	Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	
Summer Term starts	Monday 28th April	BANK HOLIDAY Monday 5th May
Half Term	Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	
Summer Term ends	Friday 18th July	INSET DAY Monday 21st July



# Admissions

As a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body of the School is responsible for the admission of pupils. The timescale of the Local Authority admission timetable is followed for the handing out, consideration period and return of nursery and reception applications.

Pupils are admitted to Reception in the academic year in which they are five, i.e. any child who attains the age of four by 31st August can be admitted in September.

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires LA's and Governing Bodies to admit pupils up to the school's pupil admission number. The pupil Admission Number for our school is 15.

## Admission to St John's School

All applicants will be admitted to the school unless the number of applications exceeds 15. In the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, then the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which pupils to admit.

Please note, any child for whom the school is named in a statement of special educational needs or an Individual Development Plan will be admitted before the application of oversubscription criteria.

## Oversubscription Criteria

- a) Looked after children and previously looked after children
- b) Pupils with an elder sibling who is of statutory school age and will still be registered at our school when the younger child is eligible to attend. (see "Definitions" section of the policy)
- c) Pupils who live in the Mission Area of Borderlands Mission Area and for whom this is the nearest suitable Church in Wales school to their home address and who live within X miles of this school. Distance will be measured as detailed in "Tie Breaker" section. (see "Definitions" section of the policy)
- d) Pupils whose parents (see "Definitions" section of the policy) attend St John's Church in the Borderlands Mission Area.
- e) Pupils whose parents (see "Definitions" section of the policy) attend another Anglican Church and for whom this is the nearest Voluntary Aided Church School.
- f) Pupils whose parents (see "Definitions" section of the policy) are active members of a non-Anglican Christian denomination and for them this is the nearest Voluntary Aided Church School.
- g) Pupils whose parents (see "Definitions" section of the policy) are active members of another faith and also express a desire for a Church School education, and for them this is the nearest Voluntary Aided Church School.
- h) Pupils whose parents wish them to attend a Church in Wales school.

We ask that all applications to nursery, reception or mid-year transfers are applied on the Flintshire Admissions Portal which can be found following the link below:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions)

If you are interested in considering a place for your child at St John the Baptist VA School, please telephone to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher or come and see for yourself the facilities that the school offers at our Open Evening. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any admission enquiries.



# Starting School

## Nursery Class

At St John the Baptist VA School we want our children to experience a smooth transition from one setting to the next. We work closely with a range of feeder pre-schools to get to know the children who will be starting at our school. In particular, our close links with Stepping Stones Day Nursery mean that your child will have the best possible start to life at St John's.

A parents' information session is held during the Summer term by the Headteacher and the Foundation Phase staff. You will have the opportunity to look around the department and ask any question you may have. Your child will be offered a "play date" afternoon to further assist their transition into school. They will have the opportunity to meet their classmates, teacher, teaching assistants and gain an awareness of their learning environment.

You will receive a Starter Pack with lots of details about September and Class 1. Mrs Betts may also visit your child at pre-school.

Our headteacher, Mrs Stephens, is available for school tours during the year, so please telephone and make an appointment should you wish to look round.

## Starting Reception Class

Traditionally, all nursery pupils who have been accepted into the nursery class are also accepted into the reception class. However, nursery children do not have an automatic right to move into full time education at St John's. All reception places have to be applied for through the normal admission round via Flintshire Admissions website.

We always try to ensure that our Reception pupils have the best possible start to life at St John's. If they have attended our nursery group, then they will already be familiar with school routines. During the summer term prior to starting, nursery children start attending whole-school assemblies, stay for a school dinner, play with the older children on the playground, take part in sports day and are paired up with a buddy from the top juniors.

A parents' information session is held during the Summer term by the Headteacher and the Foundation Phase staff. You will have the opportunity to look around the department and ask any questions you may have. Reception children will be eased into full time education over the first three weeks of the Autumn term. This allows them the time to confidently gain experience of life at St John's, whilst being nurtured within a small group.



# Home School Agreement

*“Working together with kindness, respect and encouragement to achieve our best in a caring Christian school.”*

## The school will;

- Care for your child and ensure his/her safety and happiness.
- Endeavour to create an environment where all children can grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.
- Provide a balanced curriculum, which is suited to your child's individual needs.
- Achieve high standards of work and behaviour through the building of good relationships and developing a sense of responsibility.
- Keep you informed about the work of the school.
- Provide at least one full written report and one progress report evening per year.
- Be open and welcoming and offer opportunities for parents/guardians to become involved in the life of the school.
- Provide homework on a regular basis appropriate to age and ability.

## Parents/Guardians

- I/We will do our utmost to;
- Ensure that my/our child comes to school regularly, punctually and properly equipped to undertake all his/her work.
- Inform the school promptly about any reason for absence.
- Make the school aware of any concerns or problems, which might affect his/her work or behaviour.
- Support the school in its aim to be a happy, hardworking and courteous community.
- Attend relevant parents' evenings.
- Support the school policies and guidelines for behaviour.
- Support my child in the completion of homework and revision.
- Appreciate the fact that the school is a Church Aided School with the ethos explicitly linked to the Church in Wales and to support these values wherever and whenever possible.

## Pupils

- I will do my best to;
- Come to school every day and on time.
- Bring the things I need every day and look after them properly.
- Do all my classwork and homework as best I can.
- Be courteous, helpful and well behaved at all times.
- Treat all pupils and adults with respect.
- Be a proud member of Saint John the Baptist School and help to look after it.
- To uphold the Christian values of the school.