



SAINT JOHN'S

OUR SAINT JOHN'S VISION

We are 'like a tree, flourishing in God's unfailing love' Psalm 52:8

From diverse beginnings and building on our Christian values, we grow together to reach up and reach out.



Our **vision** is that Saint John's Church of England Primary School is a place where everyone flourishes and grows.

Our logo of a tree reminds us that we are '**like a tree, flourishing in God's unfailing love**' (Psalm 52:8). Our tree logo is drawn with one line, showing that fundamentally we flourish as one, together, helping each other as we develop and prepare for our next steps, reaching up and out towards others.

Our school is rooted in **Christian values**. We learn about these values both formally and informally and we provide ways for our children and adults to cultivate those values. These values give a firm foundation to all that we do at Saint John's. Each half-term, we focus on one value using our times of Collective Worship to hear relevant teaching and to provide times of spiritual reflection on how best to apply the value to our lives. We **learn, reflect** and try to **live** these values: staff and pupils use lesson time to consider how a value has been or could have been applied to a certain situation. The focus is not on simply knowing what the value means but on living that value within and beyond our school community. Saint John's **celebrates diversity**, relishing the different backgrounds that we come from and making the most of our varied experiences, understanding that each person is unique and brings diverse ideas and understanding to our school. These strong roots coming from different directions towards the trunk means that our tree is healthy as it grows and flourishes.



Our sense of **family** is the strong trunk which holds everything together and it is how we **grow together**. As a Church of England primary school, we understand the importance of family; our children, parents, staff, governors and the wider community are the central part of who we are as a school. Saint John's is a place where we all belong and are valued. We **care** for each other. We recognise that families have different members who bring something precious to the whole family. It is due to the steadfast roots and trunk that we are able to **reach up** and **reach out**.

Our **aims** are Curriculum, Caring, Challenge, Community, Citizenship. We are a school with clear aims which impact our decision-making and planning for our children's education. These five aims provide clarity, as we focus on our children's needs and provide them with opportunities to develop and grow individually and independently – like the leaves on a tree we are all different and unique.



These aims come from the comments that we most want the children to say when they talk about their time at school.

"We learn new and amazing things!"

"We care for and value each other and ourselves."

"We are challenged and supported to achieve success."

"We work together to build respectful relationships in all communities."

"We learn how to stand firm as citizens of the world around us and beyond."



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Curriculum - *We learn new and amazing things!*

At Saint John's, we inspire our pupils with a wide range of ambitious learning. Our curriculum is both planned and dynamic recognising that, to ensure breadth and depth, we need to be strategic in our curriculum design whilst also being responsive to our children's needs and interests. It is also important that we are constantly reviewing and adapting our curriculum so that we equip our children for living in our ever-changing world, both now and in the future. We provide opportunities to celebrate diversity, to be inclusive and to encourage pupils to be creative. Like the leaves on a tree, we want our pupils to reach up and out.



Caring - *We care for and value each other and ourselves.*

Our Saint John's family cares for each other. We want to make sure that every child and adult knows that they are loved and valued, by God and by our school community. We recognise that, in order to flourish, each individual needs to be shown dignity and to feel cared for by others; friendship brings hope into our lives. Within this context, we are able to grow individually and grow together. We also know the importance of caring for ourselves and living healthy lives. Good mental health and well-being are paramount in ensuring our children are ready to learn and develop; our Christian roots remind us to value every person equally.

Challenge - *We are challenged and supported to achieve success.*

Life is an exciting adventure and we need to rise to the challenges it brings! We want our children and adults to be comfortable with but wise about taking risks, reaching up ambitiously and attempting tasks that might seem beyond us. We encourage everyone to persevere when facing challenging or tricky activities; we ensure that everyone feels supported both inside the classroom and in every part of our learning environment.



Community - *We work together to build respectful relationships in all communities.*

A tree flourishes when every part of it is healthy and works together. The sense of family at Saint John's is strong and we strive to be a part of our local community, as well as aiming to learn about communities further afield. We have children from diverse backgrounds and this serves to remind us that our community includes people with different beliefs, views and experiences. We celebrate being in the heart of Cheltenham, making the most of all that the town centre can provide. Our links with churches nearby, particularly St Luke's Church and Highbury Church currently, help us to understand that, as well as learning to love God, we need to learn to love our neighbour. We want to reach out to others both locally and globally.

Citizenship - *We learn how to stand firm as citizens of the world around us and beyond.*

Our children come from diverse backgrounds with different experiences and we know that they will be moving into diverse communities in the future; we want to ensure they have all the skills to engage responsibly and with confidence in different circumstances. Personal qualities are considered hugely important at Saint John's and we work hard to help children develop their character, with our Christian values at the root; we are proud of what good citizens our children are when they leave our school. Our Christian values encourage us to build a moral compass, to understand what is right and what is wrong, to stand firm when under pressure and to deal well with the consequences of our attitudes, decisions and actions. We want to be secure in who we are, for our character to stand out because it is outstanding!



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