

# Our school curriculum

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his address at St. Mary's University College, Twickenham, challenged all young people to think about their education, their future, when he said,

*'What kind of person would you really like to be?'*

*A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person.*

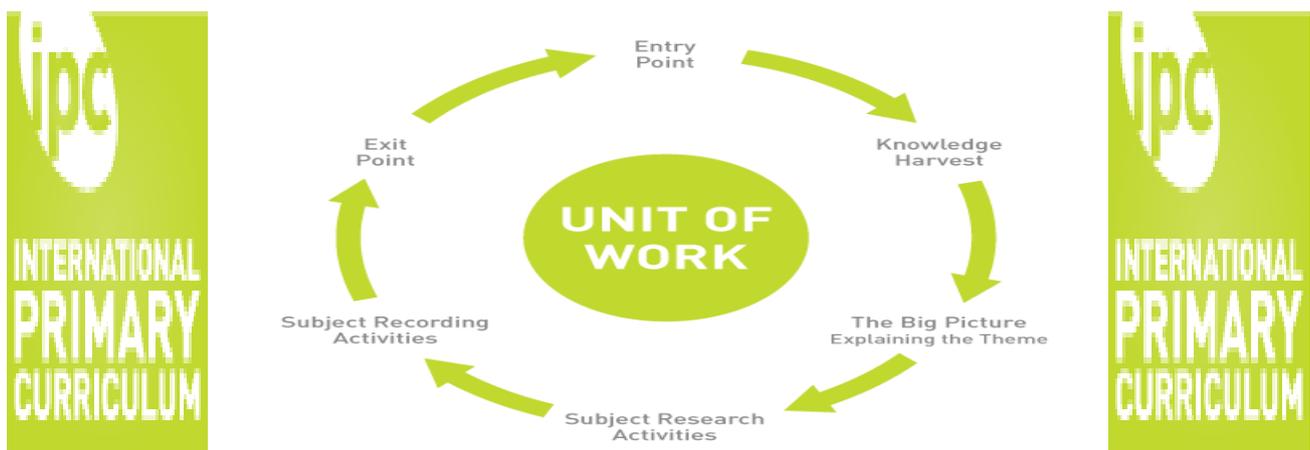
*And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints.'*

At St. Joseph's, as such, we believe that all learning is about God and the curriculum is imbued by that fundamental belief. It comprises of all the opportunities for learning in school and reflects the broad aims of the school, extending children's knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live and how they can both now and in the future contribute to, 'The Common Good.' The curriculum is broad and balanced so as to educate the whole child, nurturing the God-given gifts of each.

During the summer term 2014 we adopted the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) as the basis for our curriculum. The IPC is a comprehensive curriculum with a clear process of learning and with specific learning goals for every subject, for personal learning and for international mindedness. It has been designed to ensure rigorous learning but also to help teachers make all learning exciting, active and meaningful for children. Learning with the IPC takes a global approach; helping children to connect their learning to where they are living now as well as looking at the learning from the perspective of other people in other countries. The IPC is used in over 1,600 schools in more than 92 countries around the world.

English and Mathematics are taught as discreet subjects, but with cross-curricular links made through the IPC, thus making these subjects more relevant and bringing the learning more alive. In addition, Religious Education is taught through the 'Come & See' programme, again with cross-curricular links made with the IPC topics. We ensure that all aspects of the IPC are faithful to our Catholic teaching and view of the world and our place within it.

The learning process for each topic (which last about half a term) is illustrated below, starting with the entry point:



The subject goals cover the knowledge (the facts and information children might learn), the skills (those practical abilities children need to be able to do) and the understandings (the deeper awareness of key concepts which develops over time). There are subject Learning Goals for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Information Technology, Design Technology, History, Geography, Music, Physical Education, Art and Society.

For further information visit <http://www.greatlearning.com/ipc/>

Take time to look at our International Primary Curriculum display in the main entrance for examples of the learning journey taken by some of the children. Also, see the next page for more details of the units to be explored in each year group.

*'The community of St. Joseph's School follows the example of Christ, accepting and respecting everyone, as we learn and grow together, safe in His love.'*

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Here are the topics planned for the year. Some topics will last a term, others will be shorter. Further details are provided in the newsletters at the start of each term. To find out more about each one, again follow this link: <http://www.greatlearning.com/ipc/the-ipc/units-of-work>

## Early Years

RD & RH

- Autumn: Nursery Rhymes, Fairy Tales, Christmas Story
- Spring: Bears (IPC), Treasure (IPC)
- Summer: Transport (IPC), Up & Away (IPC)

## Milepost 1 (Years 1 and 2)

1M & 1S:

- Autumn: The Magic Toymaker
- Spring: The circus is coming to town & Greenfingers
- Summer: Hooray ... Let's Go On Holiday!, All About Me

## Milepost 1 (Years 1 and 2)

2G & 2JG:

- Autumn: It's shocking!, Super humans & People of the past
- Spring: From A to B & We are what we eat
- Summer: Flowers and insects & The Stories people tell

## Milepost 2 (Years 3 and 4)

3T & 3G

- Autumn: Different places, similar lives & How humans work
- Spring: Land, sea and sky & Temples, tombs and treasures
- Summer: They made a difference, Feel the force & Let's plant it

## Milepost 2 (Years 3 and 4)

4OJ & 4Y

- Autumn: Explorers and adventures & Digital cameras
- Spring: Scavengers and Settlers & Living together
- Summer: The nature of life, Saving the world & Shake it!

## Milepost 3 (Years 5 and 6)

5I & 5UF

- Autumn: The Great, the Bold and the Brave! & Myths and Legends
- Spring: Making new materials & Space Explorers
- Summer: Weather and Climate

## Milepost 3 (Years 5 and 6)

6C & 6B

- Autumn: The Holiday Show & AD900
- Spring: Fairgrounds
- Summer: Being Human & Out of Africa