



*St Nicolas C of E Academy*

*Together We Flourish*

*Communication  
Statement*

*2023*



## **Vision and Values**

Our vision as a Church of England primary school, deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, is to develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a spirit of curiosity, respect for themselves, others and the environment so that they will have the skills, resilience and adaptability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Our vision draws inspiration from the Parable of the Sower which is found in the gospel of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 in the New Testament.

A farmer sows seed in a field:

- Some seed falls on the paths, and the birds quickly eat it.
- Some seed falls where there are rocks, and not much soil. Plants grow quickly, but soon the sun dries them. There is not enough soil, and the plants die.
- Some seed begins to grow in a place where there are too many weeds. The weeds stop the growth of the plants, and the plants die.
- But some seeds fall on rich soil. So, the plants flourish.

We strive to provide the rich soil that enables our children and adults to develop the deep roots that they need to flourish in the love and grace of God. Within our community, our Christian school nurtures growth and supports all to have the courage to face challenge and the resilience to persevere even when confronted by difficulties. We endeavour to provide abundant opportunities which provide a platform for unique strengths and talents to blossom, where everyone feels valued and has respect for themselves and others, and hope for the brightest future.

Our mission, as a school with a religious character, is to provide an education of depth and quality in a Christian ethos which ensures the children and adults have the nurturing and aspirational environment to reach their full potential.

To realise our mission, we endeavour to live out our vision through our school motto:

### **Together We Flourish**

Christian Values are interwoven through our vision, mission and motto and are embedded throughout the curriculum with a particular focus given to:

- Love (Compassion and Friendship)
- Peace
- Thankfulness
- Perseverance
- Service
- Hope

Our one school rule of respect ensures everyone feels valued and is the lens through which all our values are viewed.

### **Equalities Statement**

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

## Objectives

St Nicolas is committed to providing an open and honest communication with all stakeholders within our school community. We work hard to ensure all voices are heard and actions are taken to ensure the well-being and safety of the children are at the heart of everything we do. This statement has been written in order to:

- Highlight means of communication between parents/carers and staff
- Clarify procedures for communication
- Identify actions taken to improve communication
- Answer questions based around communication

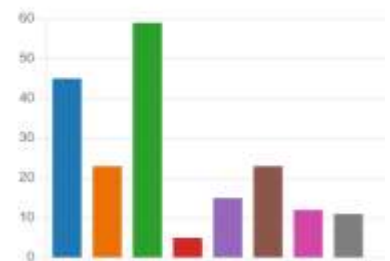
## How do school communicate with me?

We use a wide range of strategies to communicate with families as shown below and from our recent survey it shows the majority are content with the use of Parent Mail.

- ▶ **Face to face on the door meetings**
- ▶ **Phone calls**
- ▶ **Newsletter**
- ▶ **Parent mail/Email**
- ▶ **Text messages**
- ▶ **School website and Twitter**
- ▶ **Home learning on SeeSaw (our online learning platform)**
- ▶ **Parent consultations**
- ▶ **Open days**
- ▶ **Performances, PTA and Charity Events**
- ▶ **Medical bump notes and phone calls**
- ▶ **SATs Meetings and Trips Meetings**
- ▶ **Curriculum Meetings and Leaflets**

How do you want to receive this information from school? (0 point)

[More Details](#)



## How do I contact the teacher?

The best way to speak to a member of staff is face to face at the start or end of the day. If this is not possible, we would ask that you call the school office requesting a call back. You can always leave a message on the answering machine if no one is available to take your call. A member of staff will then speak with you at their earliest opportunity.

If you have a concern about your child, how would you like to contact school? (0 point)

[More Details](#)



Our survey shows this is how families would like to communicate with school about a concern.

### What if I have a safeguarding concern?

If you have a safeguarding concern then you should ask to speak to a designated safeguarding lead within school (Mrs Thorpe, Mr Yeo, Mrs Parsons or Mr Byrne) or you can make a referral to The Warwickshire Front Door Team on 01926 414144 or of course call 999 in the case of an emergency. Further information of support available to families can be found on our website here:

<https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/further-support-for-parents/>

### How will I know if the school is closed?

A list of dates is given each week in the Newsletter and term dates can always be found on our website here: <https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/term-dates/>

In the event of school being closed e.g. due to severe weather, parents will be informed by Parent Mail. Furthermore, an emergency pop up will be added to the school website and a tweet from our official twitter page will be added.

Of course, if you are ever in doubt please call the school office and we will gladly clarify.

### What will the Newsletter tell me?

The parental survey shows the positive way the newsletter is received and the topics you wish to have included. This will continue to be our main way of sharing with you dates, key events and curriculum content.

1. How useful do you find the newsletter as a way of communicating? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

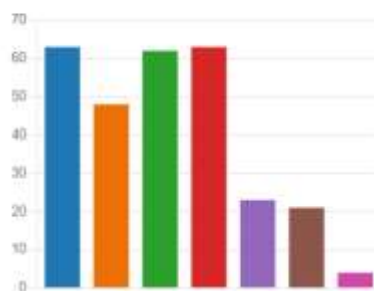
- Extremely useful
- Somewhat useful
- Neutral
- Somewhat not useful
- Extremely not useful



2. What content do you want to be informed about from school? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

- Upcoming Dates
- Curriculum content
- Key events happening in school
- Progress of your child
- SEND information
- Signposting of services
- Other



It is important that you update the school of your preferences for being included in the newsletters as we have many children who cannot be included.

Previous newsletters can be found through our Twitter feed as well as on our website here:

<https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/stream/newsletters/full/1/-//>

### How can I share my views?

We always welcome constructive feedback and work together with families to gather their views using a range of questionnaires as well as talking with individuals and using school groups such as the PTA and governors to ascertain the viewpoint of parents/carers.

If you wish to share ideas, please consider joining one of these groups or talk to a member of staff in school.

## How do we use Seesaw?

Seesaw is intended as a way to share home learning, guidance of what to expect is set out on our website here:

<https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/home-learning/>

It needs to be made clear that Seesaw is a sharing platform for children and families to share work completed and for teachers to acknowledge the work through liking and possibly commenting. Seesaw is **not** a two-way communication tool as staff do not check it every day and **will not** respond to personal messages. If you have a concern or query, the advice is to speak to a member of staff on the door or call the office. Remember you can leave a message on the answering service and someone will get back to you.

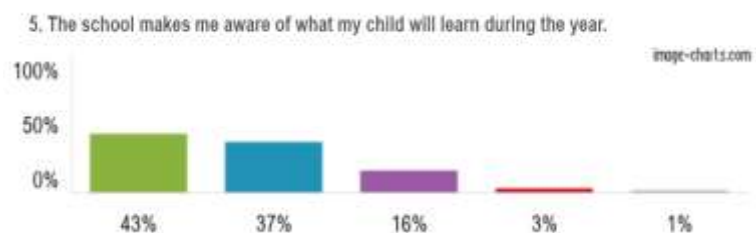
In Reception we use Seesaw to capture significant observations, milestones and achievements, to inform parents/carers of the learning that has taken place via our weekly Reception Roundup and to set any activities such as a weekly reading activity or any other activities which we feel would benefit the children to consolidate their learning at home.

As the children progress through school, this method of sharing work changes to using books more in school and as such the use of Seesaw to share work will lessen from a school perspective.

## How will I know what my child is learning in school?

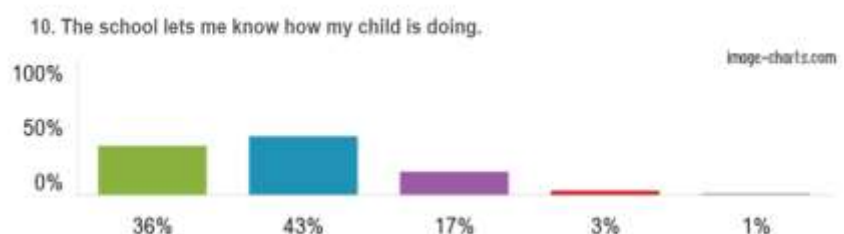
From the recent Ofsted Parent View survey it shows 80% are aware of what is being learnt in school. The Newsletter is a key element to this sharing as well as the website, Twitter and curriculum meetings. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/our-curriculum/>



## How do I know how my child is doing in school?

Again, the vast majority of parents feel they know how their child is doing through our parent consultations and annual reports. We have considered how to improve this further and are developing handouts that explain your child's current attainment.



## How has communication further improved?

Below is a list of suggestions we have been told by parents/carers and actions we have taken:

You Said	We Did
You wanted face to face parent consultations	This year we have returned to face to face consultations due to a majority vote through a parent survey.
You wanted more opportunities to meet with your teacher	We held open afternoons to meet the teacher and look around school Our open-door policy allows families to talk with staff before and after school.
You wanted to understand more what is being taught in school	We created a welcome letter at the start of the academic year to share main changes for each year group. We held curriculum meetings for SATs and trips at 6pm in order to share key information with families. We created a one page curriculum overview for each year group of which a paper copy was sent to all homes in January 2023 alongside being added to the website and sent electronically on Seesaw
You wanted timings to be considered for working families	We gave key dates for performances at the beginning of the year so time could be booked off well in advance. We held meetings at 6pm in order for working parents to be able to attend.
You wanted to help your child more with their maths work	We added videos to our website to explain the teaching of the 4 main operations of maths. <a href="https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/curriculum-support-for-parents/">https://www.stnicolas.covmat.org/curriculum-support-for-parents/</a> We are holding maths curriculum meetings to signpost further ways to support your child with their mathematics this Summer
You wanted to help your child more with their phonics and reading	We created reading leaflets for parents to support with reading We held an EYFS welcome meeting explaining the use of phonics in the Reception year We highlighted training videos from Read Write Inc for parents to access at home on Seesaw
You wanted senior staff to be more visible	Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher regularly meeting and greeting at the school gates.
You wanted to know more about the attainment of your child	We created new progress sheets for parent consultations which clearly state the level of attainment at that point in time and were shared and explained.
You wanted to understand the SEND process further	We updated the website to include an explanation of the process using Warwickshire SENDIAS resources We plan to host an SEND curriculum meeting to explain things further Our Individual Support Plans include a parent and pupil view to gather the voices of all parties
You wanted class photographs changing	We changed companies and asked your opinion on what type of photograph you want
You wanted children to be ready for learning French in secondary school	We changed the curriculum to include a transition unit in French as well as a taster day at a local secondary school. We have communicated with Secondary schools and been told that our Spanish teaching is an excellent start and our children are enthusiastic and quick to apply their skills to any modern foreign language.
You wanted better communication	We used research from the Education Endowment Foundation and Ofsted to discover the most effective communication tools. We created this communication statement to highlight what we do We created a communication survey asking for ideas for further development and took these into account We will continue to regularly review how we communicate with families and consider the parent profile each academic year

If you have any further comments or suggestions please continue to communicate with us:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8BzYMw9RzK>