



St Nicholas CE First School

Evaluating Our Impact Beyond St Nicholas

We visited and asked a range of Year 5 pupils that left us in Summer 2024 how they felt we prepared them. These are small snapshots of what they told us...

How has your learning at St Nicholas helped you in middle school already so far?

“Learning about land-use and map symbols in Year 4 has helped us with our focus on map skills in Year 5. I feel like St Nics gave us the important basics and now we are extending on that.”

“We are learning to make a textile product in DT. I remember the different types of stitches that I learnt in Year 2 and Year 3, which I have used in my Year 5 learning.”

“We are learning about The Cheddar Man, so we have remembered what we learnt in Year 3 about The Stone Age, such as how they lived. It has made our learning easier, because we have moved straight on this, as remembered so much.”

“We play a game called Source Tenns in History, it's really fun! I have won lots of games, because I remember learning about different types of sources (primary, secondary, and those that fall under these) in History at St Nics, which has helped me to be successful in things like this.”

“My Music teacher was really impressed because we knew about notes, tempo, dynamic, volume, pitch and pulse from our Music lessons at St Nics. I've also remembered how to play the glockenspiel and recorder for my new lessons.”

“Learning about Lubaina Himid in Year 4 gave me inspiration for what I am learning now in Year 5. It gave me some ideas for creativity.”



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How has your learning at St Nicholas helped you in middle school already so far?

“When we learnt about hygiene, and cutting and chopping skills at first school, this has helped us with making our fruit salads in Food Tech! I still remember the soup tasting we did and that weird [minestrone] one I tried, it was so lumpy!”

“Our new teachers are really impressed with the things we have remembered from our last school.”

“I feel like St Nics Geography helped me as we are learning an extension of this in our lessons in Y5. Y4 helped us to learn the first part and now we are moving onto the challenging extension of it. For example, we learnt about the grid references in Year 4 and now we are learning the harder part of that.”

“When I’ve been doing French, I especially remember colours, school equipment and greetings that I learnt at St Nicholas to help me in Year 5. We now use that in even more detail.”

“I still remember lots of the exciting things we did in Reception and Year 1 that still help us with what we learn and do now.”



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**How did we support you with your transition to middle school?
What could we have done better?**

“We really like how we talked about middle school at different times in Year 4.”

“We loved our transition days so we could get to know our new school and teachers.”

“We wouldn’t change a thing about how St Nics gets us ready – it was perfect!”

“I liked Mrs Deas coming to visit us at school, as we met someone new in a place we knew well.”

“Do what you did for us – that would be perfect.”



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What makes us so successful at St Nicholas?



A strong, 'homemade' curriculum built and designed around our context. We pride ourselves on our curriculum not being fully reliant on third party schemes, but around an accessible, ambitious, and tightly-focused intent.



A curriculum that values the role of cognitive sciences (the role of retrieval, recall, and remembering) and subjects as their own discipline.



A curriculum that has been designed by 'looking ahead' and seeing where our children move onto learning next, so that our children do not unnecessarily repeat what they already know; this is underpinned by our MAT networking.



Excellent relationships with our partner and feeder schools.



A culture of curriculum and teaching practice reflection to inform our curriculum renewal and debate – we do not stand still; we constantly seek to improve and deliver on our children's future.