

# Picture News Policy



Policy updated by Miss Gray (Picture News leader): May 2026

Policy approved by Governors: June 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Taylor".

Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr M Grogan".

Headteacher

Policy shared with staff and shared on the school website: June 2026

***'Never settle for less than your best'***

## PICTURE NEWS POLICY

### Our school motto

Never settle for less than your best.

### Our Vision

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, each member of our community will flourish as resilient, respectful and adaptable individuals prepared for life's journey. Along the way we will encourage and inspire each other to continue growing as beacons of light in our own lives and the wider world.

### Our Mission Statement

St. George's Central seeks to provide quality education rooted in the Christian faith, serving the spiritual, moral, and educational needs of the community of which it is part.

### Introduction

At St George's Central, we believe that children should broaden their knowledge and experience beyond what they already know. We believe that our children should be exposed to a range of cultures, values and beliefs. We also believe that they should treat the opinions of others with respect. Picture News focuses on a different news subject every week. A picture of the news story and an over-arching question are used to prompt reflection and debate. We believe that, in developing children's debating skills, Picture News helps to promote tolerance, speaking and listening skills, respect and a deeper understanding of the fundamental British Values.

### Aims

- Develop the speaking and listening skills of all children.
- Broaden the vocabulary of children.
- Educate children about the fundamental British values by putting them into the context of global issues.
- Develop links between personal, school and community values.
- Encourage children to demonstrate respect and tolerance.
- Expose children to a range of current issues including political, religious, cultural, environmental, social, moral, and spiritual.
- Support children in becoming active citizens, who can evoke change and influence the world we live in.
- Give children the confidence to speak out about issues that interest them.
- To expose children to a range of global, national and local issues.
- Develop children's understanding of the wider implications of world events.

### Teaching and Learning

- Children take part in Picture News lessons each week.
- An explicit link is made to a different British Value in each lesson.
- The class teacher will provide some background information to the story and ask the 'big question', which accompanies the story.
- Teachers give children time to reflect on the issue and children are then encouraged to use sentence starters to construct their argument.
- Within the Picture News lesson, healthy debate and discussion are encouraged.
- Opportunities are provided for children to follow-up interests and tackle issues raised.
- Each Key Stage 2 class contributes to the interactive display in the library on a weekly rota.
- Teachers in the Early Years Foundation Stage provide children with an EYFS version of the same story. Links are made in the continuous provision and practical follow up activities are provided.

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*Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12*

### Cross Curricular links

As well as providing opportunities for children to explore a range of global events and issues, Picture News supports learning and development in the following areas:

#### **British Values**

- Each week, a different British Value is the focus of the lesson.
- Allows children to make meaningful links between British Values and current news stories.

#### **PSHE**

- Recognise ways in which they are different or similar to others.
- Treat themselves and others with respect; how to be polite and courteous.
- Listen to the beliefs and opinions of other people.
- Encouraging playing and work cooperatively and collaboratively.
- Talk and share their opinions about things that matter to them.
- To listen and respond respectfully to a wide range of people, including those whose traditions, beliefs and lifestyle are different to their own.
- Discuss and debate topical issues, respect other people's point of view and constructively challenge those they disagree with.

#### **English (Spoken Language)**

- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers.
- To ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge.
- Use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary.
- Articulate and justify answers, arguments, and opinions.
- Give well-structured descriptions, explanations, and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings.
- Maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments.
- Use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas.
- Speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English.
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, roleplay/improvisations, and debates.
- Gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s).
- Consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others.
- Select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.
- Learning how to disagree with others respectfully.

### Recording and reporting

Children's written responses to the weekly lessons are added to the interactive display in school. These are collected and stored for evidence of progression across the school. Children are also encouraged to add responses to the virtual discussion board on the Picture News website. Other work related to Picture News is shared on Twitter with the hashtag #SGCPictureNews. Teachers may use their observations of children's progression in Picture News to inform their assessment of children's performance in related subjects.

### Subject leader

The role of the Subject Leader is to:

- Understand the requirements of the subject.
- Prepare policy documents.
- Ensure that resources are provided for class teachers in a timely manner.
- Keep a record of written responses from all members of the school.
- Ensure the Picture News display board is updated promptly.
- Provide teachers with a bank of sentence starters and any other resources which may contribute to the development of skills in Picture News lessons.

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### **Governors**

The subject leader will encourage positive links with the link governor to keep the governing body aware of all major issues related to Picture News in the school.

### **Conclusion**

At St. George's Central we believe that it is our professional duty to share this policy with all new members of staff, parents and carers on request. The policy will be reviewed in the light of experiences, new developments, or requirements. The leader will discuss any aspect of this policy on request

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