



St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School

Love, Learn & Grow
with Jesus

www.st-josephsprimary.bucks.sch.uk





Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School! Love, Learn & Grow with Jesus

We would like to welcome you to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School; a school whose mission statement of 'Love, Learn, Grow' underpins all that we do. With the Gospel values at the centre of our school and guided by our faith, we live out our Catholic beliefs, developing into lifelong, resilient learners.

We know that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions that you will ever have to make. This prospectus is designed to deliver all the necessary information you require to make the right choice.

We know the importance of an education 'imaginatively designed... for all pupils to excel' (Ofsted 2017) and provide an engaging and challenging curriculum, developing a deep and rich knowledge, which enables all pupils to achieve their full potential, in a safe and secure environment.

We nurture our pupils, in close collaboration with families and the community, to provide a rewarding experience, where our children can impact the world in a positive way, making sense of their faith and their relationship with God and those around them. St. Joseph's provides an education where 'pupils are well-prepared for secondary education and beyond' (Ofsted 2017).

We lead by example, ensuring that our teachers and staff participate in high quality training, sharing knowledge and good practice, a skill that we ensure is transferred to our pupils.

Situated on six acres of land, we provide opportunities to learn beyond the classroom, extending and transferring skills into new areas of learning.

We are a welcoming and open school, which welcomes you to visit at any time, by prior engagement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Caroline Lovegrove
Headteacher

“

We know the importance of an education 'imaginatively designed... for all pupils to excel' (Ofsted 2017*) and provide an engaging and challenging curriculum, delivering a broad and balanced education, which enables pupils to achieve their full potential, in a safe and secure environment.”

***Ofsted**





The History of Our School

St. Joseph's School began its life in the church hall of St Joseph's in 1933. Staffed by two sisters from Holy Cross, it was originally a private school. The parish hall continued to function as a school, until 1954, when six acres of land was located at the top of Priory Road. With support from the Carmelite Province, the land was purchased and a new school built.

The new school (Key Stage 1 block) was officially opened on the 12th April, 1958. Registers recorded 182 pupils, which rose significantly to 263 by the next year. By 1961, the school could no longer house all the pupils and the parish hall became a school again.

On March 20th 1972, the new wing was officially opened (Key Stage 2 block). The schools became a First and Middle School, with two separate headteachers. When middle schools were abolished, St Joseph's combined to become St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

St. Joseph's is a two-form entry school, with an established pre-school. We admit 30 pupils in each class at Reception and 32 pupils per class in Key Stage 2. The school is in the parish of St Joseph's Church and under the Diocese of Northampton.

Our Vision and Values

At St. Joseph's we Love, Learn and Grow Together with Jesus!

LOVE	LEARN	GROW
Love of our faith	Learn about our faith and Jesus	Spiritually
Love others	Learn from others	Socially
Love ourselves	Learn who we are / who I am	Morally
Love life/the world	Learn from our mistakes	Confidently
Love of Learning	Achieve our potential	Academically

St. Joseph's is a caring, welcoming, Catholic community rooted in and guided by Scripture, where all are acknowledged as unique, created in the image and likeness of Christ. All we do is underpinned by our values of loving neighbour and self, truth, community and faith. Our Catholic faith is not only taught but a lived experience and this is reflected in the way in which all members of the community treat each other. We place great importance on relationships and positive behaviour, encouraging respect, co-operation and consideration. Central to success is partnership with parents and we welcome and encourage parental and family involvement in the life of the school.

We are committed to the development of the whole child and therefore have high expectations of all. Everything we do, even the smallest action, takes place in a culture of mutual support and encouragement, which enables all to meet their full potential academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

Our aim is for all children to reach their full potential spiritually, morally, emotionally and academically through:

- developing and growing in relationship with God;
- taking risks in their learning and learning from mistakes;
- developing a love of learning;
- having active and creative minds;
- becoming responsible, independent, life-long learners;
- high self-esteem;
- making a positive contribution to society.





Catholic Life of the School

Central to our day to day life is our Mission Statement 'Love, Learn and Grow with Jesus' and Gospel values. These are embedded in all that we do, both in our work and in our play. Our Catholic faith is not only taught but a lived experience and this is reflected in the way in which all members of the community treat each other. We place great importance on relationships and positive behaviour. We believe it is important to teach and demonstrate Christian values such as respect, honesty, love, patience and tolerance to all in our community.

Prayer and worship are central to our school. We provide opportunities for children's spiritual growth and development through participation in a variety of forms of worship; daily prayer, Masses, liturgies, assemblies and dedicated themed retreat days for KS2. Pupils are actively involved in planning and leading worship, both in class groups and whole school settings. These events provide opportunities for the whole community, including parents and the parish, to come together. All shared acts of worship take place in an atmosphere of reflection, where we encourage all to listen to God speaking to us and to respond to his message.

The children regularly put their faith into action showing compassion and empathy for others. They enjoy raising money for charities of their choosing and other worthy causes. Fundraising activities raise the children's awareness of the wider world, their duty towards their neighbour and encourage an appreciation of others' circumstances.



Early years and Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Our early years comprises of Pre-school and Reception. We are committed to providing the very best education and care for all children and believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life to enable them to reach their full potential.

Our Early Years environment is a self-contained attractive, well-resourced area which provides safe learning both in and outdoors.

There is a balance of child-initiated and adult led activities to ensure children gain the necessary skills to excel on their educational journey. There are many opportunities for family members to come in and experience the learning.

Our Pre-school and Reception follow The Development Matters Curriculum. This curriculum has four key themes and principles:

A Unique Child

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways.

Within the Foundation Stage curriculum there are seven areas of learning:

Prime Areas

- **Personal**, social and emotional development – making relationships, self-confidence and self-awareness, Managing feelings and behaviour
- **Physical development** – moving and handling, health and self-care
- **Communication and language** – listening and attention, understanding, speaking.

Specific Areas

- **Literacy** – reading, writing
- **Mathematics** – numbers, shape, space and measure
- **Understanding the world** – people and communities, the world, technology
- **Expressive arts and design** – exploring and using media and materials, being imaginative.

Across the Early Years setting we use Tapestry, an on-line system, which allows teachers to create an individual Learning Journey for every child. This empowers parents with instant access to their child's learning, highlighting skills achieved and enabling parents to build on these at home.

“

I like the teachers, they are all interesting and make learning interesting.”

James





KS1 / KS2 Curriculum

Throughout both key stages we provide a varied and rich curriculum, which is adapted to meet the needs of each individual. All children have access to the National Curriculum which includes the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. We ensure that these areas are taught in an imaginative, stimulating and engaging manner. We understand the importance of a well-rounded curriculum and for this reason many of the foundation subjects are taught through a topic based, cross curricular approach incorporating History, Geography, Computing, Art and Design, Design Technology, Music, PE, PSHE and Modern Languages (Spanish).

The curriculum is enhanced with themed days to engage children's interest and immerse them in specific topics.

We are extremely proud of our attainment and progress at KS1 and KS2 and are confident that at key transition points our children are happy, skilled learners, ready for the next stage and challenge of their educational journey.



Religious Education 'Come and See'

Religious education at St. Joseph's follows the 'Come and See' programme and the Liturgical Life of the Church. Each topic within 'Come and See' has three elements: Exploring the children's life experiences, developing their knowledge of the Catholic Faith as revealed through Scripture, Doctrine, Prayers and tradition and assimilating their learning into everyday life.

Children learn and demonstrate their understanding of this area of the curriculum through various media such as art, music, drama, prayer as well as more formal methods of teaching and learning. Other world faiths are taught through World Faith Days and focused weeks.



English

We deliver a rich English curriculum, developing the important skills of: reading, writing, discussion, debate, drama, speaking and listening. From Early Years onwards we promote reading for pleasure.

Through daily phonics lessons, Guided reading sessions and library visits we aim to emphasise the importance of books and literature, supporting children to become enthusiastic and confident readers. Through engaging and exciting lessons, we aim for all children to become independent, critical readers and writers, who have the ability to express themselves and share their ideas. Reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar skills are taught explicitly and children are challenged to apply this learning across the curriculum.

Maths

Maths at St. Joseph's is taught daily and we use a variety of methods to ensure a secure understanding of basic mathematic concepts. Children are encouraged to practise and apply these skills across the curriculum. Emphasis is put on the application of learning, developing the skills of problem solving in practical and real-life situations.

Maths days and challenge afternoons, working with and competing against other schools, enables the children to experience Maths outside of the classroom and build on the skills and confidence gained.

Science

Our Science Curriculum takes into account the natural environment and the children's desire to investigate the world around them. Children are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them, to explore, ask questions, research and derive answers about living things, materials, phenomena and processes.

Through all Science lessons children engage in questioning, planning, predicting, fair testing and recording findings in a systematic way. Our fantastic grounds provide a wonderful opportunity to take Science learning outside the classroom.



Challenge for all

We provide a secure, yet challenging educational environment for every pupil, which stimulates their development and enables them to reach their full potential. We support, differentiate and scaffold learning for those with additional needs and provide our most able children with enrichment tasks, which broaden their skills and understanding.

We work with a range of external professionals to support pupils with special educational needs and through joint working with other school provide enhanced curriculum opportunities to stretch and challenge our most able.

Learning Characteristics

At St. Joseph's we believe that being a successful learner is being able to identify key learning behaviours to implement in completing tasks and challenges. Our children (Junior Leadership Team) developed our key learning characteristics which are embedded within every lesson and form part of our school reward system. Part of our pupils' self-assessment of their learning involves reflecting on the key learning characteristics that enable them to achieve.



Our Learning Rainbow



**MOTIVATED
MILLIE**



**CURIOUS
CHRIS**



**INDEPENDENT
IAN**



**TEAMWORK
TIM**



**BOUNCE-BACK
BETH**



**REFLECTIVE
ROSE**



Children as Leaders

Here at St. Joseph's we recognise that we are developing the next generation of leaders. To this end we provide a variety of leadership opportunities. Our Junior Leadership Team work closely with the Senior Staff to enhance school improvement.

The School Council, elected by their peers, are the student voice of the school and implement projects suggested by the student body. Faith Ambassadors support the Catholic Life of the School in organising charity events and opportunities for worship. Year 6 take on the role of Play Buddies and support our KS1 children during break and lunchtime, organising games and activities.



PSHE / Pupil Well being

At St. Joseph's we place great emphasis in developing the 'whole child'. Through our PSHE / citizenship programme, pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

We advocate a 'growth mindset' ensuring we develop emotionally literate, resilient learners, who are able to succeed in all aspects of life.

Music

Music is an integral part of school life, in Key Stage 1, children have whole class music lessons which allow them to develop skills in listening, singing and playing tuned and untuned percussion instruments. In Key Stage 2, whole class lessons continue, with children having more formal opportunities to learn the recorder, DooD, ukele and djembe (African) drums. In addition children have the opportunity to learn woodwind and brass instruments, keyboards, piano and guitar with peripatetic teachers.

Extracurricular music opportunities include joining the school recorder group, the choir and the school orchestra. Through these groups children have the opportunity to represent the school by taking part in acts of collective worship, Masses, visits to local nursing homes and through more official events such as Chalfont St. Peter Feast Day.



PE

PE forms a core part of our school curriculum and we are committed to children having healthy body and mind. We provide a wide variety curriculum options such as gymnastics, dance, games, athletics and swimming.

Through these all children learn to communicate, cooperate and compete with each other. We encourage participation in school clubs, joining local clubs and taking part in intra and inter-school competitions.

The school has many successful teams, such as netball, football, athletics and cross country.



Extracurricular activities

We strongly believe that every child should be given the opportunity to experience the wider curriculum. For this reason, we offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. Some are organised by outside agencies and others by school staff.

Some of the clubs we offer include tennis, soccer, hockey, film club, chef's club, chess, French, ICT, dance and drama and arts and crafts.

Our clubs are designed to enrich and extend the children's interests and develop skills. All clubs are booked through the office on a half termly / termly basis.



Partnership with parents

Strong, committed partnership between our school and our parents plays a crucial role in ensuring that our children develop a love for learning that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

We strongly encourage parents to volunteer within school, join us on trips and attend key events such as assemblies or year group Masses. Our teachers are available for a weekly 'drop in' session with parents or more formal appointment can be arranged at a convenient time.

Friends of St. Joseph's School (FOSJS)

The Friends of St. Joseph's School began in 1998 as an additional fund raising body for the school. The friends are a volunteering group of parents who organise events to raise money for the school to aid with building developments or providing key educational resources, such as interactive boards or enhancing the playground equipment.

They ensure that there are opportunities for parents to meet and develop friendships as well as playing a key role in enhancing relationships between the school, community and parish.

“

We get taken on loads of school trips and all the teachers are kind and caring which makes our school happy and fun. Also in Year 4 you get to make your own bread”

Olivia



General Information

Background information

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a co-educational Voluntary Aided School, for children aged 2-11 years. The school is owned by the Diocese of Northampton and is maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council.

Admissions

Parents wishing to apply for a place for their child must complete the online co-ordinated admission form. In addition the Supplementary Information form must be completed and returned to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. For more detailed information, including the timeline, see Buckinghamshire County Council's website: www.buckscc.gov.uk.

St. Joseph's Primary School admits 60 children in Key Stage 1 rising to 64 children in Key Stage 2. The school serves the Catholic Parishes of St. Joseph's in Chalfont St. Peter, St. Teresa's in Beaconsfield and The Most Holy Name in Denham. Its catchment area includes Denham, Iver Heath, Gerrards Cross, Beaconsfield, Chalfont St. Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, Seer Green, Jordans and Stoke Poges. Children outside these areas are admitted as space allows. Baptised Catholic children receive priority for admission, but there is also provision for children who are not Catholics. Full details of our Admissions Policy whether starting school for the first time or transferring 'in-year', is available on our school website.

The school day

The school day is from 8.45am to 3.00pm. Children may not leave school between these hours without written permission from a parent or guardian. The times of the lunch break and the additional morning and afternoon breaks depend on the age of the children. There is no afternoon break in Key Stage 2.

Homework

All classes throughout the school are set homework and details are shared with parents at the start of each year. New parents receive details of the school's homework policy. Class teachers are always happy to clarify how homework will be set.

Uniform

The school uniform is a dark green sweater and dark grey trousers/skirt. All children are expected to wear the uniform. Uniform specific to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School e.g. sweaters and sports shirts, is ordered direct from Marks & Spencer via their website. Other non-specific items, e.g. trousers and skirts, are readily available from various retailers.

A comprehensive uniform list is available on our website. Watches and small stud earrings are permitted, but we prefer that children do not wear jewellery unless a child's culture requires it. For safety reasons jewellery must be removed for games and PE.

Religious worship

As St. Joseph's is a Catholic School, the practice of the faith permeates all levels of school life. Mass is regularly celebrated in the school and in the parishes and parents are very welcome as space permits.

Health and pastoral care

All staff are concerned with the happiness and welfare of the children. Several staff members hold the "First Aid in the Workplace" qualification and all other staff are trained in Emergency First Aid.

Safeguarding children

At our school, the health, safety and well-being of every child is our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child to achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.

To promote a safe environment for pupils, our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks, as recommended by Buckinghamshire County Council in accordance with current legislation.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

St. Joseph's is a truly inclusive school, and recognises the unique worth of every child. It adheres to the SEN Code of Practice (2015). St. Joseph's is committed to, and proud of, its provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Please make an appointment to speak to the SENCo if you would like to discuss your child's particular needs.

Gifted and Talented

Gifted and Talented education is integral within the curriculum and all children are given the opportunity to shine. St. Joseph's has a gifted and talented policy and each subject development plan incorporates provision for Gifted and Talented pupils.

There is an identification procedure in place, recognising all subjects and talents (core subjects as well as talents in the foundation subjects including music, art, PE and drama).

We provide enrichment days and the opportunity to spread good practice through the Networked Learning Community of Local Schools.

This school provides an ethos where all achievements are valued and success is celebrated. This is evidenced by weekly award assemblies that not only reward a 'Star of the Week' for each class, but also acknowledge success outside of school e.g. drama, dance, swimming, sports, music and and uniformed movements. We also use the time to celebrate the achievements of our sporting teams, choir, orchestra, etc. These are culturally and socially inclusive.

Assessment

Teacher assessment in the core subjects of Mathematics, English and Science takes place on a continuous basis, to inform planning for individuals and groups. The foundation subjects are assessed through planned activities within the normal classroom routine and also by some online assessments.

Educational Visits

Every year there are visits and outings to places of educational interest. These have included days out to local museums, study centres and wildlife parks. Theatre groups and other outside agencies often visit the school to support particular curriculum areas. There are also two residential school trips in Key Stage 2. For certain activities, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution.



“

My husband and I were blown away when we visited your school. It was clear that everyone was valued and respected. All the teachers that we met were friendly and the Reception classrooms and play areas were a pleasure to visit.”

Prospective Parent



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