

*St Joseph's
Catholic Primary
School Prospectus*





Welcome

Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. This prospectus is designed to give you an insight into our school family, our values, our aims and our achievements. The information contained within these pages is useful, but it is no replacement for first hand experience, therefore, you are warmly encouraged to visit our school and see us in action.

St. Joseph's School is a Voluntary Aided school and as such our primary role is to serve the Catholic community of St. Joseph's Parish. We provide an excellent education for the full primary age range including part time Nursery places, in a warm and welcoming environment. It is a privilege to see our children grow and mature during their time with us.

Our school life is based on Catholic Values. It is very important to us that your child is happy and receives the best possible education. We recognise and respond to the needs of each child providing academic support as well as developing them as a person. We want our children to be happy, fulfilled, well-educated and confident, experiencing a caring, positive and fun environment with our faith as the focus of our actions.

We expect, and encourage excellence in the range of activities the school undertakes. Education is a partnership between home, school and parish in which we seek and encourage the participation of parents in the learning process and in the life of our school. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our school family.

Martine Gum, Head Teacher

Our school is a family of faith, hope and love, a place of fun and learning for all.

St Joseph's At A Glance

St Joseph's will not be a school that stands still; it will be a school which looks for new paths to set; a forward thinking and innovative school. (School Development Plan)

- St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has two purpose-designed buildings and shares the wider site with St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Centre. The school has a large sports field and extensive grounds.
- Religious Education is the most important part of our curriculum as would be expected in a Catholic School with 10% of teaching time being given to this.
- Learning at St Joseph's is based around fun and engaging topics. The way in which our curriculum is designed gives children the chance to put their learning 'into context' making links with different areas of the curriculum to make it more meaningful.
- In the Nursery and the Reception Classes there are seven areas of learning and development which shape the curriculum. The three prime areas are: communication and language; physical development; and personal, social and emotional development. These areas are strengthened and applied through four specific areas: literacy; mathematics; understanding of the world; and expressive arts and design.
- We use a variety of teacher assessment strategies and standardised tests throughout the school to ensure children are making appropriate progress and are supported and challenged in their learning. We work hard to ensure children master basic skills but also develop their reasoning problem solving and ability to apply their learning.
- We encourage parents to play an active part in their child's learning from the moment they enter school with a range of home learning tasks and online games to compliment the work that goes on in class. Through regular reading, spelling practice and time spent learning times tables and number bonds, parents play a vital role in their child's education.
- Parents will always be the greatest influence in the lives of their children. Within school we welcome parental involvement and encourage all parents to take an active part in the life of St. Joseph's School. Through the work of our Safeguarding and Attendance Team, we are able to offer lots of support and advice for families.



**‘Love one another
as I have loved you.’
John 13:34-35**

Love

Offering all children the opportunity to develop their potential as fully as possible in a loving, ordered, caring and secure environment where there is room for exploring, for experiencing and for excitement.





Faith

‘When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.’

Building a community where we live, share, experience and celebrate our Catholic faith together; where we understand the dignity of human life rooted in the Gospel.

‘Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is developed well through the rich curriculum.’ Ofsted 2014

Friendship

**‘Just as a body,
though one, has
many parts, but all
its many parts form
one body, so it is
with Christ.’**

**1 Corinthians
12:12-31**

Encouraging positive self-esteem in each person as a crucial factor in developing and maintaining strong relationships.





'St Joseph's is a welcoming and friendly school. There is a calm atmosphere for learning throughout. Pupils are proud of their school and treat each other and their teachers with respect.'

Ofsted 2018



Fun

**'I came that you
my have life and
live it to the full.'
John 10:10**



Providing a happy and challenging learning environment in which all children enjoy and achieve the best they can through a broad, balanced, relevant and exciting curriculum, so that they become articulate, literate and numerate and committed to lifelong learning.

Fostering independence, initiative and flexibility as well as critical and evaluative thinking in order to develop the skills of tenacity and resilience, nurturing children's aspirations.



Hope

**“For I know the plans
I have for you...”
Jeremiah 29:11**



Promoting an awareness of the children's responsibility to themselves, each other and for the wider community and the world, developing respect and a sense of justice and fairness.



Family

***'Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.'* 1 John 3:18**



The Religious Life of our School



- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School operates within a caring Christian community. The Religious and Spiritual growth of the child is developed through celebrating Mass, collective worship and daily prayer.
- Religious Education is taught through the scheme, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'. By using these resources and linking our teaching to the Liturgical Year, the children develop a Christian understanding and also the experience of other faith traditions.
- We help children to understand that religion is to be lived out, and as such is at the centre of all we do. We actively celebrate the liturgical seasons, events and feast days through Penitential services for example Lenten Journey, Advent gatherings and reflections.
- Individual classes, Key Stages and the whole school gather together to celebrate the Eucharist regularly, both in school and at St. Joseph's Church.
- Each day begins and ends with prayers whether in the form of whole school collective worship or within each class.



Sports

- PE is planned to develop children's skills, fitness and ability to work in a team. We strive for excellence and inclusivity, encouraging children to achieve their own personal best.
- Children are offered opportunities to compete in both internal and external competitions.
- We are well resourced for P.E. using both the school halls and the school grounds. The Foundation Stage outdoor area gives the children in Nursery and Reception the opportunity to take their learning outside as much as possible.



Educational Visits

A wide range of educational visits linked to the curriculum are undertaken as part of the learning experience for all children.

Children in Year 6 take part in a three day residential visit to the Robinwood Centre and those in Year 4 visit the Conway Centre in North Wales, again for three days. Children in Year 2 have a two day visit to the Burwardsley Outdoor Education Centre.

In addition to out of school visits, artists, theatre, music and other groups often visit the school to give performances further broadening the curriculum.



Extra-Curricular Activities

- We offer a wide range of clubs including; Football, Gymnastics, Street Dance, Cheerleading and Judo, Mad Science, Theatre and Fencing amongst others.

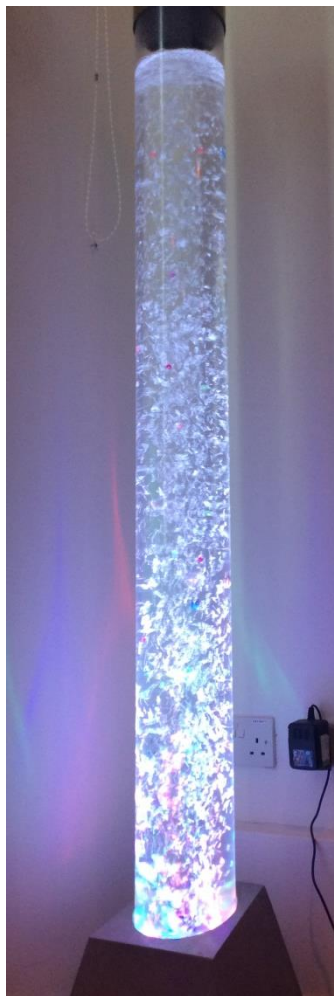
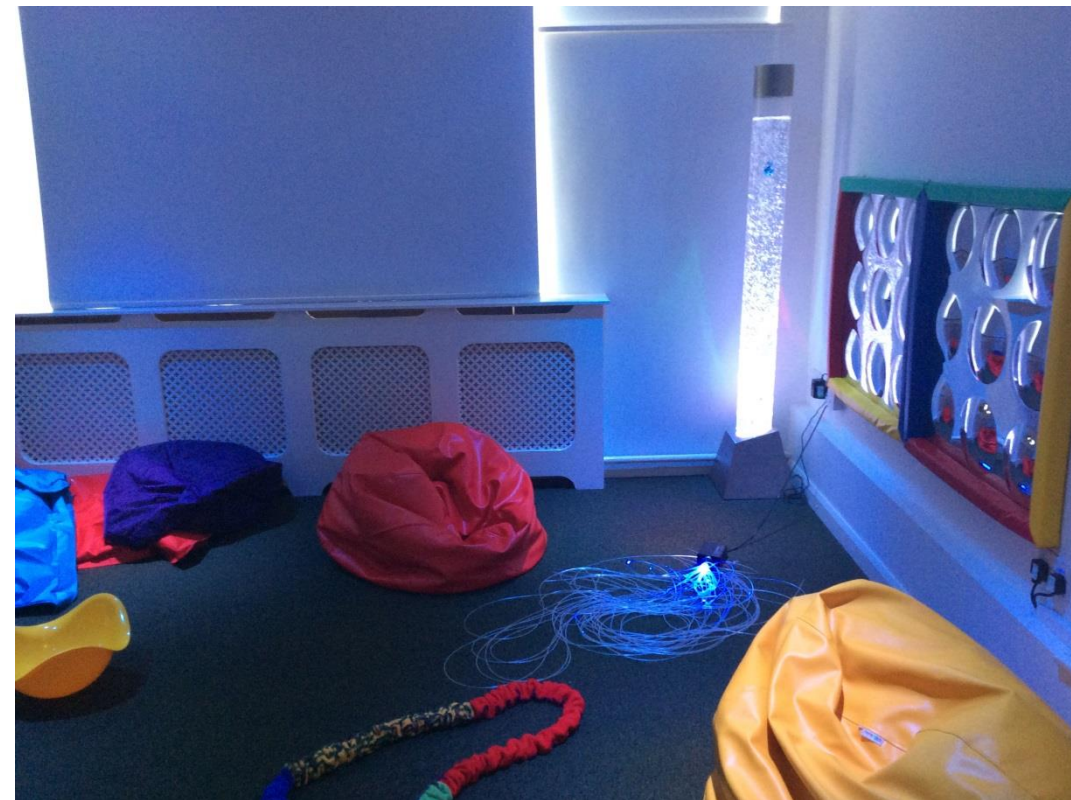


Lunch Times and Play Times

- Meals are cooked on site daily and provide a varied selection of dishes within a healthy eating programme.
- Milk and fruit is provided during the morning for the children in the infants.
- Toast can be purchased in Key Stage 2.



SEND



- Our Sensory Room and 'Thrive Room' provide a base for specific nurture and intervention programmes for those children who need this support.
- Parents are consulted both before a special needs programme is embarked upon and throughout its duration. St. Joseph's School complies with the Special Needs Code of Practice.

Well-Being

- As a school we invest a great deal not only into children's academic achievement, but also their emotional wellbeing.
- As well as investing in trained **ELSA** staff (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants), we have also adopted the **Thrive Approach**, supporting children's emotional and social development and helping them feel happy and secure, able to enjoy friendships, relate well to others and be ready and able to learn.



Our school Therapy Dog, Teddy, helps us to provide emotional support to our pupils.



Behaviour and Rewards

We encourage a positive approach to dealing with situations that arise in school. We have an electronic 'Dojo' system that encourages good behaviour, work and attitude.

Our Special Mention Certificates, awarded every Friday highlight the achievements of individuals.

Unacceptable behaviour is dealt with in a climate of forgiveness but it is recognised that with any reward system there must be sanctions. As a result of this our children understand the boundaries and are aware of the consequences of their actions.



At St Joseph's we have:

- **P**ositivity
- **R**espect
- **I**ndependence
- **D**etermination
- **E**nthusiasm

Behaviour is good and pupils feel safe in school. Ofsted 2014

School Uniform

- Black/grey skirt or trousers, white shirt, purple school sweatshirt or cardigan, school tie.
- Black shoes of a sensible style.
- In the Summer, a purple and white checked cotton dress may be worn as may sandals of a sensible style and colour, but must cover the toes.
- Flat rectangular book bag.

PE Kit

- Plain purple shorts with white school T-shirt.
- All children wear trainers for outdoor lessons.
- During indoor sessions the children will either wear black pumps or go bare foot depending on the activity.
- Tracksuits may be worn in cold weather for outdoor lessons.
- PE Kit must be kept in a named draw string bag.



School uniform may be purchased from www.myschoolstyle.com and some items are available through the school office. All clothing, bags and footwear should be clearly marked with your child's name. Shower-proof school fleeces are available but are for outdoor use only.



Contacts

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Website: www.stjosephs.cheshire.sch.uk

Useful Contacts

Diocese of Shrewsbury

Diocesan Education Office

Curial Offices, 2 Park Road South, Prenton CH43 4UX

Telephone: 0151 652 9855

Facsimile 0151 653 5172

E-mail: education@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Cheshire West and Chester Council

HQ Building, Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP

Telephone: 0300 123 7039

Website: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

School Admissions:

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 1AH

Telephone: 0300 123 8123

E-mail: enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Free School Meals:

Telephone: 0300 123 7039