

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



"Together we love, live and learn"

Our Prospectus  
**2024-25**



# Our Headteacher's Welcome



Thank you for considering St Joseph's for your child.

This prospectus has been designed to give you a flavour of life here at St Joseph's, and we hope it helps you gain an understanding of some of the exciting learning opportunities available for the children in our care.

We are a small, friendly and nurturing school which strives to ensure that by the time the children leave us they have reached their full potential academically, spiritually and emotionally. We welcome children from all faiths or none and pride ourselves on respecting every child's unique talents and abilities.

As the headteacher, I am extremely proud to lead a team that is so committed to achieving high standards whilst providing a caring and nurturing environment. In partnership with you as parents and carers, we ensure all pupils develop the skills to become independent, life-long learners within a happy, safe environment.

We warmly welcome all visitors to find out about what makes our school special. Please call or email the school office to arrange this. My staff and I look forward to welcoming you!



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"Children in the early years get off to a great start. They learn important skills of turn taking, sharing and working together."

**Ofsted Report 2024**

# Early Years' Hub

Our Early Years department, which includes preschool as well as our Reception Class, have created “enabling environments” both inside and outside the classrooms that encourage the children to explore and develop key learning skills including independence and the ability to problem solve through play. This is coupled with small group and individual direct teaching to meet every child’s needs which results in their making rapid progress academically and socially.



## Learning and gaining independence through play

We aim to create a safe, happy and stimulating environment with a wide range of experiences using play and practical learning opportunities. This ensures that the children feel valued, safe and secure which enables them to become confident learners and prepare them for the next step in their education.



# Early Years' Hub

Morning sessions for preschool children run from 8.30am till 11.30am and the afternoon session is from 12.30 till 3.30pm. The children are also able to attend a lunch club from 11.30am till 12.30pm for a small charge.

Flexible 15 and 30 hour funding is available. These sessions are available for children from 2 years of age.

The Pre-school, Reception and Key stage one teachers work and plan together to ensure a seamless transition for your children throughout their first years in school. Being familiar with the school environment helps enormously with transition up to primary school.

Through our parent partnership we support families to feel listened to and recognise that transition can be an unsettling time for all. We make the unfamiliar familiar, enabling the situation to be a positive outcome for both the child and the family.



Moving into KS1, we aim to provide a purposeful learning environment that is both inviting and stimulating. Our environment provides opportunities that engage and challenge the children and continues the development of independence, problem solving and resilience.



# Outdoor Learning

The emphasis on developing leadership skills in the children is continued throughout the school.

We have the most amazing grounds, including two hard playgrounds, a meadow and our own forest area. A specialist teacher provides "Forest School" for all the children regularly throughout the year.

Children are given opportunities and experiences to develop their confidence, independence and problem solving whilst learning key life skills.



In addition to the dedicated Forest School sessions, outdoor learning is encouraged and embraced whenever possible to provide the children with a rich, broad and balanced curriculum which is exciting and challenging.



"St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a happy and friendly community where pupils feel safe. The school sets clear routines and expectations for all pupils"

**Ofsted Report 2024**

# Curriculum

At St Joseph's we strive to deliver an exciting, varied and rich curriculum that meets the needs of all our children. We believe the best way to prepare them for the future is to enable them to acquire knowledge and skills, and to then deepen their understanding. This means that we make meaningful links across our subjects, so that children develop transferable skills, that can be used across the whole curriculum.

Our learning uses a quality reading text as an initial stimulus, rich with vocabulary, to help the children to see the link between language, reading, writing and the further curriculum areas. Each half term we focus in depth on one subject area and begin with a curriculum 'hook' to engage children's interests and make learning enjoyable.

## English



**Pyjamarama  
Day - Book Trust**

We believe the skills of reading and writing are intertwined and aim to instill a love of reading in pupils and inspire their imaginations through the texts we choose to read in class, as these are also used as a basis for our writing. By choosing quality texts the children are exposed to rich vocabulary and excellent examples of themes, plot, character development, sentence structure and more!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are taught phonic skills through a range of resources (including Jolly Phonics and Letters and Sounds) but primarily the phonics programme follows the The Little Wandle.

Children are asked to read at home every day as they progress through the school. Being a good and fluent reader is the keystone to their success in all areas of the Curriculum.

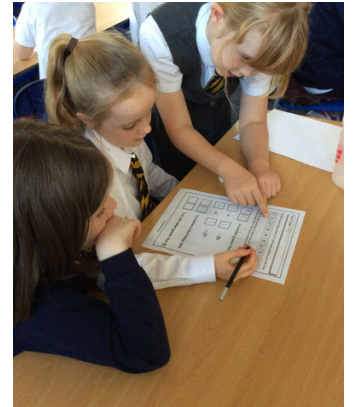
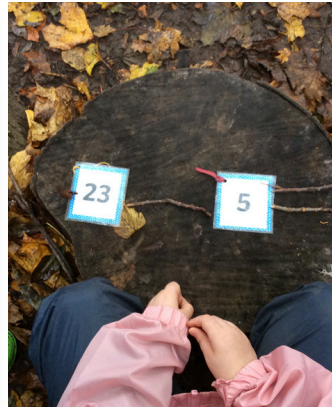
"Staff are highly skilled. Teachers engage pupils well in lessons. They make regular checks on how effectively pupils are learning the curriculum."

**Ofsted Report 2024**

Mathematics is essential for everyday life and understanding the world around us. At St Joseph's, maths teaching enables the development of pupils' natural ability to think logically and solve puzzles and real-life problems.

## Maths

Children learn to appreciate that mathematics is a very effective tool to strengthen their learning and prepare them for the challenges of everyday life, whilst maintaining a fascination for the subject. In the same way as in other areas of the curriculum, maths at St Joseph's encourages children to think for themselves, discuss and justify their ideas.

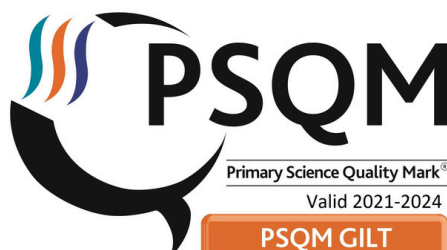


## Science



In science children are encouraged to explore, discover and investigate the world around them. The children are the scientists of the future! We pride ourselves on our outdoor learning where we provide opportunities to learn about topics such as 'living things and their habitats' through hands on experiences.

Children enjoy practical lessons that they will remember, such as walking on the hills to explore rock formation or changes in weather. Science is a great example of where you'll see our children making predictions and solving problems!



# Educational Visits

One of the many exciting things children experience at St Joseph's is a variety of educational visits. The purpose of the visits is to broaden our children's life experiences, engage their enthusiasm for learning and make this learning purposeful. These visits create emotional responses and therefore instil memories that will last forever. Some visits and visitors can exemplify a job, exposing children to wider opportunities and encouraging them in their aspirations.

In Key stage two we aim for the children to experience two residential visits. Learning to look after themselves away from their families for a couple of nights enables them to learn important life skills and grow in confidence and independence. They are hugely popular with the children, gaining memories that stay with them for life.

In addition to visits, we invite different professionals into school such as "The History Man" to further enrich the children's learning experiences.

"There are a range of clubs to help pupils to develop new talents and interests. These include sports clubs, mindfulness, drama, construction, coding and film club. In addition to these clubs, events such as the history workshops, and visits to the farm and local historic buildings, help to deepen pupils' understanding of various" topics.

**Ofsted Report 2024**



# RE & Catholic Life

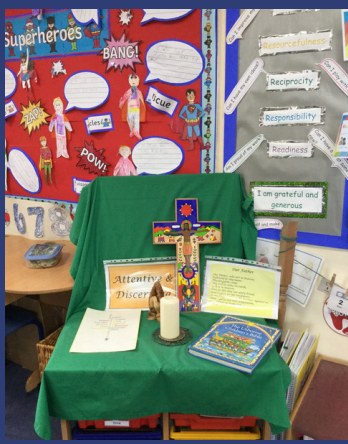
"Leaders have an ambitious vision for promoting equality, developing pupils' understanding of the needs of others and tolerance"

**Ofsted Report 2019**

As a faith school, RE is a core subject. The children are taught about the Catholic faith as well as other world faiths, enabling them to gain respect and understanding for all people of different race and creed.

Throughout the year, key values and virtues are taught not only to foster respect but develop empathy, enabling the children to become responsible British citizens in an ever-changing 21st Century.

We support local and international charities and encourage the children to play an active role in helping in the community.



## Parish Links

loving hopeful  
attentive faith-filled generous eloquent intentional  
learned prophetic compassionate truthful  
curious wise grateful discerning active



Fr Naz is our Parish priest who regularly visits the children in school . We are pleased to enjoy close links with the parish, with groups such as the "One World Group" coming into school to talk about their work supporting those in need.

# PE & Sport



At St Joseph's we enjoy a broad PE curriculum including dance, gymnastics, football, netball, tag rugby and tennis as well as alternative sports such as orienteering. This encourages each child's understanding of team tactics and resilience as well as developing their fine and gross motor skills. We always aim to recognise each child's individual participation and their own personal best. A range of after school clubs are provided by PACES, a specialist coaching company.

Children also have the opportunity to take part in tournaments and matches, both locally and further afield.

## Music



The school provides a range of musical experiences from lessons within our own music scheme to whole class and individual instrumental lessons from Severn Arts. The children are also given opportunities to perform in shows and take part in National concerts such as "Young Voices" at the NEC in Birmingham.



# Wrap around care



We are please to be able to offer wrap around provision before and after school.

The following services are available:

**Breakfast Club** - 7.45 - 8.45am (breakfast until 8.15)

A nutritious breakfast is served up to 8.15am, which includes cereal and toast, milk or water.

**After School Care** - 3.20 - 5pm (snack included)



The children have the opportunity to complete homework that they may have, or take part in the various activities that are provided, which include using computers, board games, arts and crafts, physical activities, playing with outdoor equipment and other stimulating activities suitable for all age groups.

## Our PTFA



St Joseph's has an active Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) that supports the Governing Body and school life as a whole. Throughout the year, the PTFA organise a range of events for children and adults with both social and fundraising elements. These events support and enhance the education of the children at St Joseph's and provide opportunities for our community to socialise and have fun together!

All monies raised during events are used to purchase equipment and resources for the school. The PTFA is an inclusive group and always welcome new members – we are glad of any help that you wish to offer. New ideas for events and activities are also always welcome.