

St. Joseph's Camberwell

Catholic Schools' Federation





Welcome

to St Joseph's Camberwell Catholic Schools' Federation

Welcome to our school. I hope the information in this prospectus will help you to know and understand what we do.

Our school community consists of pupils, teaching and support staff, parents, carers and governors who all work together to provide a happy, calm, and secure environment in which all children can develop and realise their full potential. In joining our school you also become part of the family of the Sacred Heart Parish.

We are very proud of our school – not only for its successful academic achievements but also for the care and attention that we give to each and every pupil.

Our mission statement is a summary of all that is St Joseph's and we try to live out this statement in all that we do.

Anita Gallagher
Executive Headteacher



What Children Learn

The Curriculum At St Joseph's

The school curriculum is all of the learning experiences available to children in school. Most of these will be in the classroom with the teacher, organised and planned for them, but there are others which are to do with developing positive attitudes, taking responsibility, playing and working with other children. These especially have a significant impact on a child's personal growth and development and are important areas to develop.

We recognise that we live in a diverse society and therefore preparing children to live in a multicultural environment is of paramount importance. Learning about the community in which they live – appreciating and understanding each other's cultural background is an integral part of our curriculum.

Our curriculum is not only academic, but social, moral, spiritual and cultural as well.

At St Joseph's the whole of our curriculum reinforces the beliefs and values of our Catholic identity.

We strongly believe that children learn best when they are happy, motivated and interested; it is with this in mind that we plan a broad, balanced and creative curriculum. At St Joseph's children benefit from a rich and diverse range of learning experiences.

Our school curriculum consists of

- Religious Education including spiritual and moral development
- The National Curriculum
- Additional Opportunities & extra curricular activities

Religious Education

At St Joseph's we believe that Religious Education is the foundation of our curriculum. It is important that we all – parents, carers, school and parish work together to develop children's knowledge and love of God within the teachings of the Catholic Church. We aim to provide children with a firm foundation to build on their experiences so that their understanding of the faith is enriched.

Through our religious education programme we aim to help children to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Develop skills required to engage in religious thinking
- Think and talk about how we live and why we are here

In developing our programme we refer to the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' and the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools

Our school uses the national scheme 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'

The Catholic Life of Our School

Our Catholic Faith influences our whole way of life and it therefore permeates every part of school life. We have acts of worship at the beginning and end of each day, assemblies, class Masses and Liturgies. Feast days and religious occasions are celebrated as appropriate. Parents are welcome to these celebrations.

We have strong links with The Church of the Sacred Heart in Camberwell New Road and the Parish Priest visits regularly.

Sex Education

This is a developmental programme called 'A Journey in Love' in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church for children in the primary years.

More details available from the schools website – SRE Policy

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum applies to all children in England from age 5 to 16.

It consists of nine subjects which must be taught. They are divided into Core and Foundation subjects

The following subjects are known as the 'core' subjects and will have more time devoted to them than the others.

- English: this includes speaking and listening and drama.
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computing
- PE

Religious Education is deemed a core subject in our school

The following subjects are known as 'foundation' subjects.

Design Technology (DT), History, Geography, Art & Design, Music, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship.

For primary schools the national curriculum is organised into three key stages.

Early Years Foundation Stage – ages 3-5

Key Stage 1 – ages 5-7

Key Stage 2 – ages 7-11

There are programmes of study for each subject and from these policies, schemes of work and guidelines are derived.

All National Curriculum subjects are taught in line with government directives. The school has policies on all areas of the curriculum. These are available on request.

Curriculum Aims

We believe that children should leave our school with the ability to:

- Read fluently and with appreciation; together with the skills to use books and material of a factual nature.
- Order their thoughts in a legible written form, to compose simple stories and to give coherent accounts of experiences and observations.
- Apply their knowledge – as set out in the National Curriculum – to practise tasks, the use of problem solving and investigational skills and to be able to apply the skills and techniques of information & communication technology in all subject areas.
- Develop personal and social skills, for example, working well with others as well as alone, taking responsibility for their own work, AND showing leadership.

The above objectives will be easily achieved by some children and not so easily achieved by others; but all children will participate equally in the process, which is concerned with developing individual skills, powers of critical thought, self expression and aesthetic awareness.

Assessment

Assessment of the children's progress is a continuous process and is linked to National Curriculum attainment targets in all curriculum subject areas.

The school follows 'Southwark STAR' as its assessment tool

Reception children are assessed by using Development Matters in all 17 aspects of learning.

Year 2 children take Key Stage 1 assessment tests in their final term. These are then used alongside other assessment data to help the teacher make their final judgments.

Year 6 children take Key Stage 2 assessment tests in their final term.

Parents are invited to the school formally to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their progress, attainment, behaviour and attitudes to learning.

- 1 early in the academic year, in order to meet the class teacher and to discuss how their child has settled in. Targets are also shared with parents.
- 2 in the Spring term for an up-dated discussion on the progress made by their child and set new targets.
- 3 in the Summer term to discuss with the class teacher the contents of their child's annual report which will have been sent out previously.

Special Educational Needs

Our aim is to ensure that we meet the needs of all individuals within our school. At any given time there will be some children who experience greater difficulties in learning than average for those in the same age group. These difficulties may be specific e.g. Autism, Aspergers Syndrome, Dyslexia or related to learning in reading, writing and/or Maths. Some may also be emotional or behavioural which can affect learning.

Support for children will vary according to need. For some it will be differentiated work within the class, whilst for others it may mean intervention in small groups. Progress is closely monitored and reviewed at regular intervals. If there is continuing cause for concern, then the school in conjunction with the parent/carer seeks support, advice and further assessment from the Educational Psychology service and other appropriate agencies as necessary. Parents/carers are involved at every stage.

Children with a formal Statement of Special Educational Needs are supported according to the provision identified in the statement or Education, Health and Care Plan.

Parents/carers are invited to discuss the Action Plan/Personalised Plan concerning their child's needs with the class teacher and/or the SEN co-ordinator.

The school policy for SEN is also available for parents to view.

Access For Pupils With Disabilities

At St Joseph's, we are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils. We have installed a lift which provides access to all floors and to the rooftop playground.

We have an accessibility plan that outlines our aims for increasing access to the school by pupils with disabilities.

Able, Gifted & Talented

The School uses a diverse range of strategies to identify and provide for Able, Gifted and Talented children:

- a wide range of teaching and learning styles
- setting and effective group work
- open ended problem solving and decision making
- holiday workshops or residential visits
- extension (moving through the curriculum at a different pace)

Educational Visits

We place great importance on the value of well chosen educational visits to support children's learning and throughout their time in St Joseph's children have many opportunities to participate in educational visits.

Parents are notified of any planned visits well in advance, and are asked to complete separate consent forms for all off site activities, other than swimming sessions and non-hazardous, local visits which do not require transport.

Residential Visits

Each year children in Year 6 have the opportunity to go on a residential visit for a week. The children have the opportunity to participate in some great activities. Whilst the emphasis is on enjoyment and fun, they learn many skills such as cooperation, consideration for others and working as a team. It also provides them with the opportunity to overcome fears and fulfil personal goals and helps them develop further as individuals.

Extra –Curricular Activities

Although space is very limited in our school we make every effort to offer extra-curricular activities. Over the past year we have had Taekwondo, music lessons in flute, violin, drums, clarinet, guitar and brass. In Key Stage 1 we have Art Club, Drama Club, Gymnastics Club, Football Club, Multiskills Club and Phonics booster classes. Children also participate in football and other sports activities at various times. Opportunities are also available for pupils to participate in lunch time art/craft/gardening clubs.

School Homework Policy

Aims

To reinforce basic literary and numeracy skills and to encourage pupils to develop independent research skills and interests.

Scheme

The core of the scheme lies in the home-school reading programme. All children and parents are expected to participate in this programme in order that children may become proficient and habitual readers who enjoy reading for pleasure.

- A reading book appropriate to each child's level of achievement is given to every child. Normally, the teacher will expect a younger or less experienced child to read in collaboration with their parent/carer. Older and more proficient readers, however, will be expected to read independently but with an adult monitoring their progress. Parents are expected to sign reading diary every day.
- Both teachers and parents will be expected to record their comments on the reading record in order to monitor the child's progress effectively.
- During their school life children are also be set work which will help to develop other literacy skills as well as their numeracy skills.
- Not all homework will be in the form of formal exercises or assignments and older children will be expected to extend the work covered in other curriculum areas. To achieve this end parents/carers and children should carefully read and discuss together the school newsletter called TERMTalk, which is issued to the children at the start of each term. This information leaflet gives details of the curriculum which is being followed by the children in class.
- By actively involving themselves with the topics set out in each issue parents and carers will be able to
 - help foster their children's independent research skills and study interests
 - consolidate the work being covered in the school
 - lead children to anticipate and prepare for some of the curriculum topics
 - prepare older children for their future secondary schools.

Time allocated for homework

Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 children may expect to take approximately 20 minutes each day on their reading, phonics or other homework assignment (1½ hours per week).

Year 5 & Year 6 children may expect to spend approximately 30 minutes a day (2½ hours per week) on their homework.

Children can also access the online 'My Maths' homework site set by their teachers. They will be given a login number at the beginning of the year. This site enables the children to practise maths skills/problems they have been working on at school.



St Joseph's Camberwell Catholic Schools' Federation

Pitman Street, Camberwell, London SE5 0TS

Infant School

Tel: 020 7703 9264

E-mail: infantadmin@stjosephs.southwark.sch.uk

Junior School

Tel: 020 7703 3455

Email: junioradmin@stjosephs.southwark.sch.uk





St Joseph's Camberwell Catholic Schools' Federation

Pitman Street, Camberwell, London SE5 0TS

