

St Joseph's Prospectus



“ Aim high
live and learn
with *Jesus*, everyone welcome ”



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Welcome

I am delighted to offer you a warm welcome to our school. I hope that this prospectus will help you decide that our school will be your school of choice providing a stimulating environment in which your child will both be happy and thrive. Choosing the “right” school is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. We are more than happy for you to visit and have a look round the school. You can be guided by pupils, have an opportunity to meet with myself or my deputy, as well as see and learn more about our school.



Our Mission Statement

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School strives to promote the education and development of all our children.

Learning through the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by his example, we celebrate our uniqueness and our distinctive gifts.

Growing in our Catholic faith we have high aspirations for all.



Aim high, live and learn with Jesus, everyone welcome

The school has developed significantly over the last 100 years. It was originally a small private school run by the Sisters of Mercy on a different site in Haywards Heath and then in the early 1960s moved to the current site in Hazelgrove Road and by 2015 will be a two-form entry school with a capacity of 420 pupils. Whilst we have tried to maintain the character of the Victorian building it has been necessary to modernise parts and extend many areas. Major building works were finalised in 2003 when we opened 4 brand new KS1 classrooms. Our most recent building project in 2013 sees the opening of an Early Years block with state of the art facilities together with a new Year 1 class. This in turn makes way for the refurbishment of a further classroom within the existing building and a new multi-purpose learning area.

At St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School we have created a vibrant learning community in which all of our pupils can flourish, supported by talented and dedicated staff.

We enable all the children in our care to attain the knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to high levels of achievement in all areas of the curriculum and equip them to be life-long learners, ready to take their place as active global citizens. We ensure our

pupils are equipped to meet life’s challenges in the knowledge that their Catholic faith will support their spiritual development on their journey. Pupils, staff, governors and parents are extremely proud of their school and together make it a happy, caring environment, where everyone is valued and listened to.

Our academic record shows us consistently achieving well above both national and local targets. This reflects our determination to ensure all pupils achieve their academic potential and are successful when they leave us, gaining places at their preferred secondary schools. This drive is well supported by the broad and balanced curriculum offered to our pupils that sees a significant range of sporting achievements. To this we are able to add a range of other successes encompassing areas such as music, art and drama. Our external accreditations noted elsewhere in this prospectus, mark our focus on continuing self evaluation and improvement.

I very much hope this prospectus provides you with an overview of our school and I look forward to meeting you to answer any questions you may have and hopefully welcome your child into our school community for what I trust will be a long and happy association with St. Joseph’s School.

Curriculum

At St. Joseph's we aim to deliver a stimulating, high quality curriculum with a strong emphasis on the basic skills which will prepare the children well for their future. At the same time, we aim to instil in the children a life-long love of learning.

The children are taught the essential knowledge and skills of English, Maths, Science, Information Communication Technology (I.C.T) and Religious Education (R.E.).

The children apply these essential skills in the study of: Design and Technology (D.T.), Art and Design, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education (P.E.), Modern Foreign Languages (M.F.L.) and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (P.S.H.C.E.)

English

English holds the key to all learning as it is through speaking and listening, reading and writing that we make sense of our world. Reading is promoted as an essential learning tool and a source of enjoyment and interest.

We have a large range of books available, including reading schemes and a huge range of fiction and non-fiction in our class libraries. Each child has a book bag "Chatter" folder, in which books are carried home for shared reading.

All children have a home-learning journal, through which information about their reading books and comments about their progress can be shared between parents and teachers. Joined hand-writing is taught as the children start school. A copy of our handwriting style is available for parents.

Maths

At St Joseph's we aim to develop children who are confident mathematicians able to tackle a wide range of problems and explain their thinking. Children are encouraged to investigate and explore mathematics using a wide range of resources that they are able to choose independently. Children's understanding is further extended through the development of explanation skills, both orally and on paper.

Maths homework is set regularly and children are encouraged to learn their tables in line with the requirement of the National Curriculum. We recognise that confidence in Maths is a life skill and we hold this at the core of our teaching and learning.





ICT

As technology continues to develop and advance, we look to provide children with a rich experience of ICT, which supports and enhances learning across the curriculum as well as building attitudes and skills which will allow children to adapt to this changing world.

At St Joseph's, we aim to equip learners with the skills and knowledge to use technology appropriately and responsibly, with an awareness of the opportunities and risks both inside and outside the school environment. With better ICT capability, children can maximise the benefits technology can offer; supporting and extending knowledge and understanding and widening opportunities for independence and creativity.

From laptops to tablets, robots to audio and video recording, children are invited to explore ways to share and extend their learning through digital media and programming both independently and collaboratively through our Virtual Learning Environment.

Foundation Stage

This stage describes the time children spend in Reception. The curriculum for the Foundation Stage underpins all future learning by supporting, nurturing and promoting the child's development in all areas. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum with the philosophy that learning should be planned and structured with relevant and motivating activities and an emphasis on fun. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors with a range of child initiated and adult led activities.

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 comprises Year 1 and Year 2 (children aged 5-7). At this stage the children will be developing their confidence and independence, and experiencing much of their learning using a cross-curricular approach that enables them to use their developing skills. At the end of Year 2, parents are informed of their child's progress and levels of attainment in keeping with national statutory procedures.

Key Stage 2

Children in Years 3 to 6 (children aged 7-11) are taught to become more aware of, and responsible for, their own learning and behaviour. At the same time they are expected to develop an increasing ability to co-operate with each other and show greater initiative in all aspects of school life. Towards the end of Year 6, all children will take the national tests or equivalent, currently the Key Stage Two National Curriculum Tests (NCTs).

Assessment

Assessment is used as a tool throughout the school from Reception to Year 6 to identify individual needs and to monitor progress. This ongoing assessment ensures pupils are challenged at an appropriate level commensurate with their stage of development. Further details are contained within our Assessment Policy.

RE

All members of our school community are on a faith journey together. We recognise that we are all at different stages of this journey and as a community we support each person as they continue their journey, deepening their relationship with, and knowledge of Christ.

Prayer and worship are central to school life and children are encouraged to pray individually and as part of our community. There are many opportunities for worship within the school and as part of our parish.

All are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Word of God through liturgies, assemblies and Mass. We follow the "Come & See" programme for Religious Education, in line with the recommendations of the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. This follows the liturgical year and explores the richness of the teachings of the Catholic faith and Christian knowledge.

Although we are a Catholic school we have regular multi faith weeks where children are taught about other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. We have extensive multicultural books and resources to support our teaching of other faiths throughout the school.



Gifted and Talented

Our approach to supporting Gifted & Talented children is governed by our Mission Statement, which underpins everything we do at the school. It starts with quality teaching and is supplemented by extension and enrichment both within and outside the school.

Children can be selected to access either the school's or West Sussex County Council's enrichment programme.

Gifted

Those pupils who are capable of excelling academically in one or more subjects.

Talented

Those pupils who may excel in practical skills such as sport, leadership, artistic performance, or in an area of vocational skill.



Special Educational Needs

The Governors recognise the individuality of all children and the fact that they are at different levels of development, physically, emotionally, intellectually and socially. Staff recognise the need for differentiation in setting tasks for their pupils. The teaching staff who identify a particular pupil who is experiencing a problem, either socially, emotionally or intellectually, consult with the Special

Needs Co-ordinator and Headteacher. Discussion then follows outlining the best way of meeting pupils' needs, using resources from within school, or centrally funded advice.

Regular reviews are held between the Special Needs Co-ordinator, class teacher, Headteacher and parents.



Pupils with Disabilities

The school is accessible to pupils with physical disabilities. There is a disabled toilet and a lift to enable easy access into the school. There are 4 classrooms on the first floor, to which access may be difficult. However, in the event of a child being unable to access

the first floor, the classrooms would be reorganised so that the particular year group would be taught in a classroom on the ground floor.

“ It is wonderful that music is so central to the children’s education ”



Homework

At St. Joseph's we recognise the value of working together to enhance your child's educational experience here. We have a home/school agreement which we ask parents to support. All

children are expected to participate in homework activities to reinforce and extend their learning. Further details are contained within our Homework Policy.





“Children are allowed to be themselves”

“ St Joseph’s
provides a
warm and
inclusive
welcome ”



Admissions

The Governing Body, as the admissions authority, is responsible for admissions to the school.

The school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) is 60, in order to comply with Government infant class size regulations.

A full copy of the Admissions Policy is available from the school office, or school website www.st-josephs.w-sussex.sch.uk

The admissions arrangements and criteria are reviewed annually.

School Uniform

Pupils at St. Joseph's have always had the tradition of wearing a distinctive uniform, as this encourages a sense of identity and pride. We expect that all parents who accept a place at St. Joseph's will ensure that their child wears the correct uniform. A copy of the School's Uniform Policy is available from the school office.



Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality are expected of all pupils. They are essential for children to fulfil their potential at school. Should your child be absent from school, the school must be notified by 9.30am on the first morning of the absence. On return to school, children MUST provide a written note to their class teacher detailing the reason for, and duration of, the absence.

This procedure is necessary to enable absences to be authorised by the school. Non-authorised absences, which will include those

generated by a lack of punctuality, are examined by the Education Welfare Service and will be subject to follow-up in the context of the pattern of a pupil's overall attendance.

Leave of absence for pupils during term time for any reason is actively discouraged. Requests for such absences must be made in writing to the Headteacher and permission will only be given in very exceptional circumstances.





“ Excellent
extra
curricular
activities ”

Child Protection/Safe Guarding



The Children's Act 2004 gives every child the right to protection from abuse and exploitation and the right to have enquiries made to safeguard his or her welfare. At St Joseph's, we have policies and procedures in place for handling any cause for concern that may arise.

The school has Designated Child Protection Officers. Staff monitor the children's welfare and report any concerns to them. The school has a legal duty under the Children's Act to refer cases causing concern to the relevant authorities.

Children should not be left unaccompanied in the playground before or after school. If you need to change your collecting arrangements, please ensure we know who is responsible for collecting your child. The person responsible for Child Protection is Mrs Catherine Walker. Any concerns regarding Child Protection should be addressed to the Headteacher.

Complaints

“ I love the community and family feel that exists at St Joseph's. There is a desire by the school not to stand still, but to keep moving, to get better and to be outstanding ”

At St. Joseph's we welcome an open dialogue between parents / carers and the school. Should you have any concerns with your child you should contact your child's class teacher in the first instance and then refer your concern to the Headteacher. However, should the need arise to make a formal complaint a copy of the complaints procedure can be obtained from the school office.

We aim to deal with all complaints speedily and sympathetically. We learn from complaints and all complaints are logged, investigated and replied to.





How to find us

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

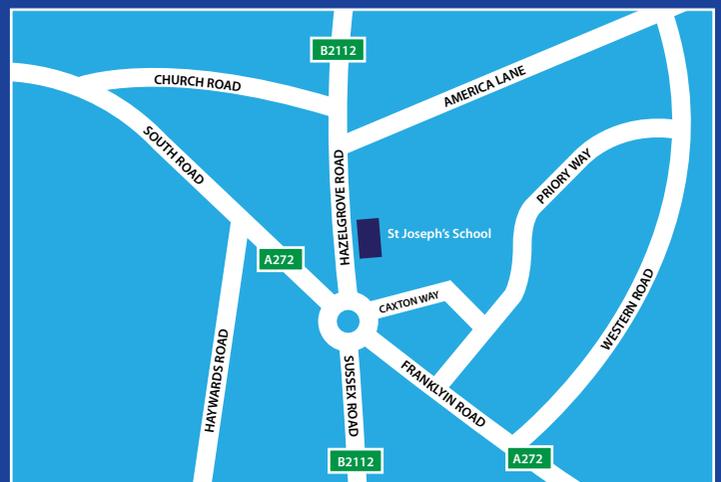
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