

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Pre-School Prospectus



Through our loving God, we follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph who helps us to be gentle, caring and hardworking. As we learn together, we love, value and welcome everyone.



We are a welcoming school and Pre-School who endeavour to ensure that the pupils reach their academic potential and have varied enrichment opportunities that build self- confidence, resilience and create lasting memories.





Forward: Miss Tracey North, Headteacher

Welcome to our wonderful, friendly school and Pre-School, providing exemplary education for children aged 3 – 11 years old.

Proud



We are proud to have achieved an OFSTED rating of 'Good' in our most recent inspection where inspectors stated, *'Pupils love coming to school. They are attentive and resilient learners. Pupils talk excitedly about what they have learned and remembered. Pupils rise to the high expectations of achievement set by the school. Therefore, most pupils achieve highly.'*

Ambition

We are very ambitious for our children and have high expectations for them. Through our creative and broad curriculum, our children learn about the world around them. The children develop academic skills and are equipped for successful, life-long learning.

Vison & Values

Our vision is to create a school and pre-school of excellence for Catholic families and families in our locality. All our children achieve their full potential in their academic, social, moral and spiritual selves. Guided by our Gospel values, children are prepared for and are able to cope with the challenges they may face in their future lives.

Gospel values - ***Humility** -seeing life as gift. **Compassion** – having empathy. **Kindness** – gentleness. **Justice** – working for a fairer world. **Forgiveness** – reconciling with self and others. **Integrity** – do what you say. **Peace** – committed to peace making and non-violence. **Courage** – standing up for the truth.*



St Joseph's Pre-School

We are proud of our Pre-School, which sets the foundations for learning in our school community. The children enjoy learning through interactive experiences and are guided by skilled adults. The children join in key stage activities, such as weekly assemblies and early years themed events.



St Joseph's is a Catholic school with a true Christian ethos. We welcome applications from children of different faiths and no faith.

By attending St Joseph's Pre-School, children have continuity in their educational experience and establish good friendships with their peers.



St Joseph's Pre-School, Reception Class and Year 1 Class all follow the learning style as recommended by Early Excellence.

Our Pre-School runs from 8:45am – 3:15pm term times. Pre-School children can also access Breakfast Club from 7:15am and After School Club from 3:20pm.





Enrichment – Trips and Residential Experiences

Each term, the children have a trip or workshop to complement their learning in school. Year 2 went on the public bus to Danbury Park to extend their science learning. We also provide additional opportunities for enrichment – our choir took part in the Barnardo's 'Imagine' concert at the Royal Albert Hall! Places that the children have been to on trips to are:

The Science Museum, The Tower of London, Stow Maries Aerodrome, Hampton Court



Year 5 attend Bradwell Outdoor Centre for a 3 day/2 night residential.

Year 6 go to the Isle of Wight for bespoke activities for 5 days/ 4 nights.

Both Year 5 and Year 6 have the opportunity to go skiing in Italy.



We celebrate events such as World Book Day – these children dressed up as words:
Competition, Shadow, Mythical, Courageous.



Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Our latest OFSTED report described our curriculum as, *'carefully constructed to ensure that pupils are able to build on key parts of knowledge as they progress.'* We ensure that all children have a broad and balanced curriculum that provides opportunities to deepen and expand their knowledge in all subject areas.



We aim to develop children who have the academic and social skills needed for life. We do this through nurturing both their intellectual growth and their social-emotional well-being. Therefore, our curriculum fosters critical thinking, emotional intelligence, creativity, and collaboration alongside academic achievement.





Music & PE

Through our curriculum, we ensure that children have the opportunity to explore music and physical education (PE) in greater depth.

We are fortunate to have a specialist music teacher who works with all year groups, a dedicated guitar teacher, and, starting in January 2025, a piano teacher. Additionally, our students participate in both the Infant and Junior Music Festivals, providing them with valuable performance experiences. Parents enjoy the RockSteady performances that the children and their teacher put on termly.

We have created a fantastic environment for physical education! Having three different PE specialists really enriches the quality and variety of the lessons. The opportunity to apply learned skills through weekly competitions and various sports events keeps the students engaged, develop teamwork, and foster a love for physical activity.





Admission Arrangements



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and Pre-School provides a Catholic education for pupils aged 3 to 11 years. Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be Catholic to attend our school, however, our admissions criteria gives preference (amongst other criteria) to children who are Catholics.

To apply for a place at St Joseph's, please contact the school office for a tour on: 01245 321828 or email: admin@st-josephspri.essex.sch.uk.

OFSTED say: 'Pupils love coming to school. They are attentive and resilient learners. Pupils talk excitedly about what they have learned and remembered. Pupils rise to the high expectations of achievement set by the school. Therefore, most pupils achieve highly.'



What Parents Say About Our School



Parents are regularly invited into school – some parents help as part of the PTA and others come for specific sessions such as ‘Come and Celebrate’ which is held half termly.



‘The children are cared for.’

‘The school has high expectations for my child.’

I would recommend this school to other parents.’



We are lucky to have lots of help from parents regularly. Some parents come and hear children read, others help with class learning such as sewing. Parents readily help with swimming and school trips.



School Information

School Hours

8:40am – school opens, parents accompany children in Pre-School, Reception and Year 1 to their classrooms. Children in Years 2 – 6, walk into school themselves. School starts at 8:50am.

12:00pm – 1:00pm – lunchtime for children in Reception to Year 6.
(Pre-School children have lunch 11:45am – 1:15pm).

3:20pm – the school day finishes.

EYFS and KS1 children have a morning break 10:10am – 10:25am
KS2 children have a morning break 10:30am – 10:45am.

Breakfast Club

St Joseph's Breakfast Club runs from 7:15am to 8:50am each morning for children in Pre-School – Year 6. School staff who know the children run Breakfast Club. Children have a range of foods to choose from for their breakfast and they have the opportunity to make friends with children of all ages in a safe, secure and relaxed environment. All children are taken to their classes ready for learning.

School Meals

St Joseph's has a healthy school award, this means that the food the children have throughout the day needs to be of good nutritional value. School meals are prepared on site and managed by Dolce. There is a range of four different meals daily which the children can choose from, including vegetarian options.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically have their cooked dinners provided free of charge through the Government's Universal Free School Meals offer.

If your child would prefer a packed lunch, they can choose this option in any year group. We ask that children do not bring in any items that contain nuts, and that there is no sweets, chocolate or glass bottles/cans of fizzy drinks. As a healthy school, we promote packed lunches that contain proteins, carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits and dairy products.

Break Times

At morning break time, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have access to pieces of fruit, free of charge. All children may bring in their own fruit or healthy snack.



School Information

After School Club

After School Club runs from 3:20pm – 6:00pm for children in Pre-School to Year 6. The children play together, access a range of resources for fun and make new friends in our nurturing provision. All children attending the After School Club, are provided with a light snack of wraps, toast, fruit, and yoghurt.

Forest School

We have the Branch Out company provide Forest School sessions for all children from Pre-School to Year 6. On Tuesday afternoons, the children get to explore, learn, make and create within the sessions. Children wear non-school uniform when attending Forest School, as they enjoy the sessions in all weathers!



Children in Years 2 – 6 go swimming for a term at the local leisure centre which is just a 5 minute walk from St Joseph's.





School Information



Miss North



Mrs Hillier



Mrs Huish

Miss North is our Headteacher, SENCo and Designated Safeguarding Lead. If you have any questions about special educational needs or safeguarding issues, she is your first port of call. Miss North is available for quick chats on the school gate each morning or by appointment for longer discussions.

Mrs Hillier is our Acting Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. You can make an appointment to see her at an arranged time or have a quick chat at the end of the school day. In the absence of Miss North, all safeguarding concerns are dealt with by Mrs Hillier.

Mrs Huish is our Senior Leader and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Huish is available for quick discussions at the beginning or end of the school day and by appointment. In the absence of both Miss North & Mrs Hillier, all safeguarding concerns should be referred to Mrs Huish.

Classes

Pre-School: Mrs Collins
Reception: Mrs Huish
Year 1: Ms McGonagle
Year 2: Mrs Webster & Mrs Railton
Years 3 & 4: Miss Murray
Year 5: Mrs Hillier
Year 6 Mr London

The Senior Leadership Team are supported by the newly formed Governing Body. School governors play a crucial role in the leadership and management of schools. They are volunteers who are part of the governing body that works alongside the school's headteacher and senior leadership team to ensure the school runs effectively.



Parent & Teacher Association (PTA)

We have an active PTA, who have supported the school in being able to purchase workshops and make improvements to the school grounds and building through their fundraising. The PTA aim to provide opportunities and resources that would otherwise be impossible to offer. If you would like to help the PTA in any way, please email:
admin@st-josephspri.essex.sch.uk



