



St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School Prospectus



Loving to Learn; Learning to Love

Dear Parent / Carer,

Head Teacher's Introduction

Welcome to St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School. The school operates one-form entry classes providing education from the age of 4 to 11. The Nursery offers provision for 3 year olds.

Choosing a school for your child can be among one of the most difficult and far reaching decisions which you face as parents.

We are committed to offering the best standard of education for each individual pupil, with full and equal opportunities for intellectual, social, physical, moral and spiritual growth. We aim to respond to every child's changing needs, equipping children with the skills to meet the demands and needs of a changing society, whilst encouraging and developing the partnership between home, school and parish.

I do hope that this booklet offers some insight into our school.

If you have any further queries or you would like to visit the school, please do not hesitate to contact either the school office or myself.

Yours sincerely,

L Park
Head Teacher



ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (WITH NURSERY)

Cottage View, Portsmouth, PO1 1PX

Telephone – 023 92821055

Fax - 023 92815065

E-mail – admin@stjohns.portsmouth.sch.uk

Website: www.stjohnscathedralschool.org.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION

St. John's is a Voluntary Aided, Catholic Mixed Primary School, with its own Nursery Unit.

The school is maintained by Portsmouth Local Education Authority and the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

SCHOOL HOURS

Key Stage 1 8.45-8.55 am – 12 pm 1 pm - 3.20 pm

Key Stage 2 8.45-8.55 am - 12 pm 1 pm - 3.30 pm

Nursery 8.40 am - 11.40 am, 11.40 am - 12.40pm, 12.40 pm - 3.40 pm

VISION AND MISSION

We believe that a bright future starts with an excellent education.

Our vision is to ignite a love of learning that enables every child to achieve their very best. We aim to provide the excellent teaching and genuine nurture that will enable all of our children to be happy, resilient, creative citizens who have the skills, knowledge and passion to change the world.

Our mission at St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School is to educate the whole child through the Gospel values of Christ and provide academic excellence within a Catholic community, where all are loving to learn and learning to love.

In the school's last OFSTED inspection it was said that "the atmosphere at the school is calm, joyful and purposeful. Pupils behave extremely well and take great delight in learning and working together." (July 2022)



GOVERNORS

Dr Vivienne McCabe	Chair of Governors – Foundation Governor
Mrs. S. Powell	Foundation Governor
Canon James McAuley	Foundation Governor
Fr Ryan Browne	Foundation Governor
Mr. J. Grinsted	Foundation Governor
Mr. C. Iheanacho	Foundation Governor
Mrs F. Santana	Parent Governor

Clerk clerk@stjohns.portsmouth.sch.uk



UNIFORM

Children are expected to wear the school uniform which is as follows:

Grey skirt or pinafore dress or
Grey uniform trousers or shorts
White polo shirt with or without school logo
Teal school sweatshirt or sweatshirt cardigan with logo
White / grey socks or grey tights.
Yellow and white gingham check dress may be worn in summer with white socks
Sensible low heel black school shoes or black / white sandals
School baseball cap with logo (optional)
Blue Rucksack

N.B. Trousers must be of an appropriate material i.e. not denim, cord or track suit, and of a tailored appearance. Skirts should be of a reasonable length.

Parents of children not wearing correct uniform should contact the school to offer an explanation.

P.E. / Games

All children are expected to have a change of clothing for these activities **all clearly named** in a drawstring bag

Navy blue shorts
Light blue T-shirt
Trainers for outdoor activities
P.E. Bag

During winter months, children can wear plain navy tracksuit bottoms when playing sport outside

If children are playing hockey they will need long navy football socks, shin pads and a mouth guard.

For safety reasons no bracelets, necklaces or fashion jewellery should be worn. **Only stud earrings** will be permitted which must be removed for P.E. Long hair should be securely tied back.

Hair

Children are expected to have smart sensible haircuts. Dyed hair, shaved heads or inappropriate haircuts are not permitted. Plain teal or yellow hair accessories should be used to tie up hair.

SAFEGUARDING

The Head Teacher is the designated safeguarding lead and the Deputy Head Teacher is the deputy safeguarding lead.

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies are written in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Everyone at St John's is responsible for keeping children safe and we endeavour to work with families at the earliest possible opportunity to offer support and advice.

Concerns regarding possible neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse that meet the Portsmouth threshold will be shared with a member of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH). Parents are informed before a referral is made. (Unless there are reasonable grounds to suspect that by doing so we would put the child at greater risk of harm.)

All teachers, support staff and volunteers at our school are subject to DBS and background checks for the safety and protection of our children and the recruitment process is overseen by a member of staff or governor trained in 'safer recruitment.'



ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential for children's educational development.

It is not permitted for parents to remove their children during term time for holidays. The Head Teacher is only allowed to permit absence in exceptional circumstances e.g. bereavement.

It is very important that you notify the school if your child is absent for any reason so that registers are correct. A telephone call, email or message through study bugs on the first day of absence should be followed up with a written note on your child's return to school.

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

The National Curriculum is a framework used by all maintained schools which sets out the programmes of study, on the basis of Key Stages and subject content that must be taught to all pupils.

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
	Year Groups 1&2	Year Groups 3,4,5&6
	Ages 5-7	Ages 7-11
Core Subjects		
English	✓	✓
Maths	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓
Foundation Subjects		
Art and Design	✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓
Design and Technology	✓	✓
Languages		✓
Geography	✓	✓
History	✓	✓
Music	✓	✓
Physical Education	✓	✓

Further information can be found on the National Curriculum website.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Although Religious Education is not part of the National Curriculum, it is statutory and as a Catholic school, we place the greatest importance on it in the everyday life and teaching of the school.

We follow the diocesan 'God Matters' approach with all classes studying the same unit at the same time but in progressively more detail and with more complex scripture. However, RE is not simply confined to the RE lessons, but is an integral part of life of St John's and is central to how we teach, how we develop relationships and how we see the world around us.

Every year group also explores another faith to understand the beliefs and practices associated with it. Through visits, religious artefacts and persona dolls, children are encouraged to develop an understanding and respect for all faiths.

LEARNING AT ST JOHN'S

Our vision is to ensure that all of our pupils feel safe and happy, whilst being supported and challenged to meet their full potential across a broad and balanced curriculum. We aim to prepare them to be responsible, Christian citizens of the 21st century in our ever-changing world.

We believe that every child is made in the image of God and as such will be treated as a truly valuable and unique member of our school community. The Gospel values are at the heart of all we do at St John's and our curriculum aims to make these real and relevant in every area of school life. This is echoed in our mission statement – Loving to learn; Learning to Love.

We have designed a relevant, purposeful curriculum, which we believe reflects the mission of our school, prepares our children as life-long learners and meets the needs of our diverse community. Both through the curriculum and throughout the school day we look for opportunities to teach and model the principles of Catholic social teaching.

A creative approach to the curriculum makes learning enjoyable for the children whilst giving them the chance to transfer and embed key skills and knowledge. Through a variety of topic based and discrete teaching, our children are able to explore their local environment, their personal heritage and people, places and issues in the wider world. Our curriculum is very much values led. As well as the Gospel values permeating every area of the curriculum, we also endeavor to instill the values of British citizenship such as democracy, freedom and developing an appreciation of our British culture. These we address through themed assemblies, well-chosen topics and an ethos of tolerance and respect.

Through excellent teaching, personalised learning and our close partnership with parents, we aim for our children to become resilient, life long learners.

To find out what we are learning in each class, how we teach reading and phonics and our topic overview, please visit our website.



PARTNERSHIP

We fully acknowledge and welcome a strong and supportive partnership between school, home and parish. Parents are encouraged to join us for termly assemblies, Class Celebrations of the Word, Class Masses and the regular events to share/celebrate children's learning. The website and newsletters are intended to keep you up to date and you are of course very welcome to make appointments with your child's teacher to discuss any issues.

We operate an 'open door' policy with teachers being available at the beginning and end of the day on the playground to pass on messages or short updates. Members of the Senior Leadership Team are also available every morning and evening on the playground and appointments can also be made for more in depth discussions.

Parent/Teacher consultations are held twice a year. You will be able to make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss their progress, attainment, behaviour and general happiness.

Our school is a very important part of the community of St John's Cathedral. The clergy are regular visitors to the school, celebrate Masses and Celebrations of the Word with us and offer the staff support and challenge in their roles. Children take an active lead in Masses at the Cathedral and we encourage all our families to join us.

We are also part of the Edith Stein partnership, a group of local Catholic primary and secondary schools who work together sharing good practice and developing the Catholic life of the schools.



SCHOOL MEALS

St John's is a nut aware school

School Meals

Dining facilities are available for children who eat school dinners or bring packed lunches from home. School meals should be ordered online in advance. Packed lunches should be healthy and not include chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. There are Supervisory Assistants who supervise the children during the mid-day break.

Free School Meals

Universal free school meals are provided for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Key Stage 2 children may be entitled to a free school meal if you are receiving Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or Child Tax Credit. Forms and guidance notes are available from the school office. Parents are responsible for filling in the form, which must then be sent to Julie Sabiston, Entitlement Officer, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2EA.

Dinner Money collection

School dinner money is paid in advance online.

Water Bottles

Children should bring a clean water bottle to school each day. This must contain only water and will be available throughout the day. Juices, squash and flavoured water are not permitted in class but may be sent in for lunchtime.

School Milk

All children in Nursery and Year R are provided with free school milk until their 5th birthday.

Fruit Scheme

Our school is part of an NHS initiative to provide fruit for children. All children in the Nursery and Infants receive a piece of fruit each day to eat at playtime.



After School Clubs

We value the place of extracurricular activities in a child's social, emotional and physical development and offer a wide range of clubs to appeal to as many children as possible. We currently offer football, choir, hockey, games, netball, maths, ukulele and multi-skills clubs to name a few. Details of after school activities may be obtained from your child's class teacher.

We have a very popular and successful school choir who perform at various school, parish and community events throughout the year.

Car Parking

Car parking provision is extremely limited in the immediate vicinity of the school but is available in Bridge Street Carpark, only a short walk away. We ask that you are considerate to other road users, pedestrians and our neighbours by not Parking in or across driveways or on the yellow zigzags outside of the school./

Car parking in front of the school is for staff and for other authorised visitors only. We request that car users be aware of children at all times.

Security

All outside gates are locked once the children are in school. Access, apart from admission and dismissal times is through the main entrance, where all visitors should report to the office reception.

Accident Procedures

If any child sustains an accident they will be carefully observed and particularly with bumps to the head given a letter to inform you of the incident. In the case of illness or serious accident you will be informed immediately. **Please ensure the school office has at least 2 contact numbers and these are kept up to date.**



CONCLUSION

We hope that this has given you an insight in to our busy, friendly and successful school community.

We firmly believe that when children know that they belong to a community that cares, they can and will realise that with hard work, determination and resilience they can reach their goals. Here at St John's, every pupil will be valued in their own right and with your co-operation and support we can all work towards giving an education that will enable your child to reach their full potential and be better prepared to take up their own place in society.

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

