



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Love - Learn - Believe



St Joseph's





# Joel, Joy and Joshua are flourishing in the nurturing and inspiring environment of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

**Julius and Jemimah live in London with their children, Joel, aged eight, Joy, aged seven, and Joshua, aged six.**



## Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

### Foreword: Julian Rakowski, Headteacher

Welcome to our school and I hope this prospectus gives you a snapshot into what makes our school so valued by our community.

#### Thriving

We are a thriving, three-form-entry Catholic primary school with nursery provision, located in the heart of Hanwell in the parish of Our Lady and St. Joseph. Our school serves mainly, but not exclusively, Catholic families and their children.

#### Our responsibility for our children's future

Our school is divided into three age specific phases, meaning that our children's learning and development is more closely aligned to the learning styles appropriate for their age. We take our responsibility of forming and nurturing the citizens of the future very seriously. All our girls and boys, irrespective of their backgrounds, have access to our broad and balanced curriculum and have equal opportunities to succeed.

#### A holistic approach

We are a Catholic school and aspire to find the gift in every child which makes them unique. Our Christian values underpin all that we do in developing our children's journey in faith, attitudes and behaviours. We want our children to become the person they were created to be and to lead a purposeful existence. At St. Joseph's, we do not just study our faith, we live it.

#### Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative, and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school, and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

#### Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional,

ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

#### Dedicated staff

I am very proud of our experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

#### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

I hope you enjoy looking through this prospectus, and I look forward to welcoming you when you visit.

#### Caring staff

Julius and Jemimah are delighted with the great start their three children have made to their education at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Julius says, "The school provides an exceptional nurturing and learning environment and we like the way the staff are also interested in the holistic growth and development of the children."

#### Important values

Julius says St. Joseph's is close to where they live but when Joel was due to start school, they looked at other possibilities as well. "We wanted a school with a Christian ethos because our faith is very important to us and we wanted a place where the children would develop confidence in themselves and their own abilities. We chose St. Joseph's because the school promoted the values that mean a lot to us. I attended a Catholic School as a child and I could tell St. Joseph's was the sort of school where my children would thrive.

#### Attentive teachers

"When Joel started in Reception, he settled in well because the teachers were very kind and helpful. They assessed his strengths and weaknesses and worked with him on them. He is very good at Maths and has developed significantly in all areas," Julius says.

#### Enjoying activities

"Joel enjoyed the quality of the teaching but he also enjoyed playing in the playground and activities such as sports and drama. We like the fact that the school provides a good combination of academic education and extracurricular activities.

#### Diverse community

"Joel has also been helped to develop his interpersonal skills. St. Joseph's is a very multicultural community of parents and children and there is a wonderful diverse atmosphere. The children have friends from different faiths and cultures, but at St. Joseph's they have formed one community with one ethos.

#### Excellent progress

"When Joy started at St. Joseph's she had no problems settling in. She was very positive and buoyant and made a lot of friends. She is exceeding with her reading and with English and is making good progress in everything else whilst enjoying school life.

#### Exceptional teaching

"Joshua came up from the nursery and started in Reception when he was still four years old. He settled in very well and we have been pleased with how the school has worked with him. Their Early Years teaching is exceptional and we are impressed with the way they teach Phonics and how remarkable Joshua's vocabulary has become.

#### Effective communication

"We believe a successful education is achieved through a good collaboration between the parents and the school. Staff at St. Joseph's have always communicated with us very well and have given us good feedback about our children. The school send out regular newsletters and even during the pandemic they continued to communicate with us effectively, with regular feedback on how the children were progressing," Julius says.

#### Happy atmosphere

"We like the way that the teachers are firm when it comes to the work but have fun with the children as well and that parents are always made to feel welcome. I would gladly recommend the school to other parents because of its Christian ethos and because I think St. Joseph's is a very happy place for children."

#### Children say

Joel says, "I love the fact that my school has fantastic teachers. I also enjoy PE a lot."

Joy says, "At school they encourage you to work hard and to do better. I have also made very good friends and really enjoy reading."

Joshua says, "I enjoy playing with my friends and having lots of fun."





# Paul and Chris are progressing in leaps and bounds encouraged by the caring staff at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Barbara and Slavek live in Hanwell with their three sons, Adam, aged 20, who is at Warwick University studying Physics, Paul, aged seven, and Chris, aged six.



## School day: settling in

### Our school times

<b>Nursery:</b>	8.45am – 11.45am. 12.15pm – 3.15pm .
<b>Lower Phase:</b>	8.55am – 3.00pm.
<b>Middle and Upper Phase</b>	8.55am – 3.10pm.

### Wraparound care

Our Early Morning Drop-Off Club is available from 7.45am. If you would like your child to attend, please contact the school office. There is cost to parents at this time.

### Fit For Sport

After School Care is available from the end of the school day to 6.00pm and is provided at a cost, by Fit for Sport; engaging and educating children through fun physical activity.

### Uniform

All children are expected to wear school uniform. Our school colours are brown and gold/yellow. Uniform is available from Juniper in West Ealing and PMG Schoolwear in Hanwell, and plain items of clothing can be purchased from most high street retailers.

### Food in school

Lunchtime in the Infant School is from 12 noon to 1.00 pm, lunch for the Junior School is 12.10 pm to 1.10 pm. Meals are available for all children from Reception to Year 6; these are provided by ISS Mediclean Ltd and cooked on site. All meals are prepared using fresh ingredients, with an emphasis on health and nutrition. There will always be a choice of meals, with a vegetarian option.

### Packed lunches

Packed lunches should be provided in a named lunch box and as a guideline should consist of a sandwich, bag of crisps, piece of fruit, small biscuit bar and a drink. We do not allow fizzy drinks or sweets, or glass bottles. Because of allergy risk, nuts in any form must not be brought into school.

### Free school meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals which are provided by the Government. Older children may also be entitled to Free School Meals; please enquire at the office.

### Drinks and snacks

Milk is provided free to Infant School children, and for older children to purchase if they wish. Water is always available in school throughout the day, and children are encouraged to bring a plastic bottle with them from home. A Free Fruit scheme is currently being run by the Lottery Fund and all children in the Infants receive a piece of fruit daily.

### Wide reading

Barbara and Slavek are delighted with the great progress Paul and Chris are making at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Barbara says, "They are doing really well, both academically and socially, and are always being encouraged by the dedicated staff to work at greater depth and to read widely."

### Good reputation

Barbara teaches at another Catholic primary school in a different part of London, which helped her to set a benchmark for the sort of school she wanted for her younger boys. She says, "When we moved to Hanwell we talked to other parents about the local schools and found St. Joseph's had a very good reputation. When we went to visit it, we formed a very good first impression. The school provided us with all the information we needed and it just felt right for our boys."

### High standards

"We wanted to find a school that was local but was of a similar high standard to the school where I teach, with a strong Catholic ethos and a focus on academic excellence. St. Joseph's has exceeded our expectations on many occasions. Paul, who is just finishing Year Two, and Chris, who is just finishing Year One, have progressed in all areas every year. They both love to read books and write their own stories and that is a credit to the school. We know they are succeeding in Maths, English, writing and reading because of their excellent teachers."

### Wonderful support

"Chris has had wonderful support from the school since being diagnosed with leukaemia. The teachers have gone above and beyond to make the school day enjoyable for Chris, but at the same time safe. Some of the staff met the oncology team so they could understand his treatment and explain it to the children. However, the teaching staff still challenge Chris academically and encourage him to read. All the other children in his class have been encouraged to support him and they have been wonderful."

### Well-designed playgrounds

Barbara and Slavek, who are originally from Poland, have lived in London for 17 years, moving to Hanwell in 2013. Barbara says, "The first time we visited St. Joseph's we liked the location and the quirky layout of the school. It is situated on the outskirts of Bunny Park, where children and parents meet after school. I like the way learning at St. Joseph's is spread across a few smaller buildings so the very young children do not mix with older children until they are ready. They have their own space and their own well-designed playgrounds."

### Keeping in touch

"One of the many things we have been impressed with is the excellent home-school communication. The school communicate very well with parents. The headteacher sends out a weekly newsletter and the children produce a monthly

newsletter. The fact that the headteacher is able to produce a weekly newsletter for the parents, and continued to do so during the pandemic, is outstanding and highly appreciated by the community," Barbara says.

### Tasty dinners

"What counts the most for us is that in the morning our boys zoom off on their scooters to get to school and at pick up time they still have smiles on their faces. The highlight of the day for Paul and Chris is always the delicious school dinner. Our children are happy at school every day and the school are helping to create wonderful childhood memories for them. We are now looking forward to the boys joining more afterschool clubs at St. Joseph's, especially the choir and orchestra."

### Children say

Paul says, "My favourite subject at school is Maths because I like adding and subtracting large numbers in my head. At home I love reading and writing my own, very long stories and I have just got merit in my grade two violin exam."

Chris says, "I like to go to school to play with my friends. My favourite subjects are Art and RE. I love the terrific school dinners, especially macaroni cheese and sausages and mash."





# Paddy and Cara are being helped to achieve their full potential in the caring atmosphere of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Donal and Catherine live in London with their son, Paddy, aged nine, and their daughter, Cara, aged six.

## Curriculum: learning without limits

### What does your child learn at school each day?

Full details about our Intent, Implementation and Impact for each of our subjects can be found on our website: [www.stjosephshanwell.org.uk/about-us/curriculum](http://www.stjosephshanwell.org.uk/about-us/curriculum). Your child's year group pages will have specific curriculum information and website links for that age group. The 'Our Catholic School' section hosts the latest news about R.E. and our Catholic life.

One definition of curriculum is, 'All that a child experiences in school, both planned and unplanned'. If you take that definition, then the whole of this prospectus is about curriculum!

### Reading

'Letters and Sounds' is our phonics scheme, and we use a range of banded reading books in the Lower Phase and Year 2.

### Fantastic facilities to support our curriculum

Our school expansion resulted in a fantastic campus for primary education with endless specialist facilities. At St. Joseph's we have:

- An art studio.
- A dance studio.
- A music classroom.
- A music instrumental room.
- A sensory room.
- A MUGA (Multi Use Games Area).
- Three hall spaces.
- Excellent playground provision.
- An outstanding Early Years learning environment.
- Professional lighting and sound for productions.
- Superb class and group teaching spaces.
- Fast Wi-Fi throughout the school and computers in every classroom.

In addition, we have specialist teaching for music (from Year 1), Spanish (from Year 3), swimming and visiting music instrument teachers and choir leaders.

### The curriculum is divided into three stages

1. **Early Years Foundation Stage:** from ages 0-5
2. **Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7
3. **Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11

### Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government's Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children in Early Years are also taught Religious Education.

### Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- MFL - Spanish
- Design and Technology
- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education.

### Valuing kindness

Donal and Catherine are very satisfied with the well-rounded education their children are receiving at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Catherine says, "The staff don't just reward academic success, but are equally concerned about the children growing up to be good people and will also reward a child who does a nice, kind thing to help someone else. We are very pleased St. Joseph's value good behaviour so much that in the weekly newsletter they list who has won the 'Good Disciple' awards. It is lovely to see them praising the children who do caring things."

### Good feeling

Donal and Catherine chose St. Joseph's for their children because of the feeling of the school. Catherine says, "I remember walking round the school for the first time and it reminded me of the one I attended as a child. The atmosphere seemed really familiar. We looked at all the schools in the area and St. Joseph's was the last school we visited. We went to their open day and immediately liked the school. When we came out, we both agreed it was our number one choice."

### Caring staff

"When Paddy joined Reception, he was given lots of care and support. That's one of the things we love about St. Joseph's, the fact that the staff all care.

From the ladies in the office, to the teachers and the TAs, to the lunch time assistants, they all really care about the children and want to do their best for them. The school achieve good results academically, but, for us, it is more important that our children are being educated in such a caring atmosphere."

### Happy at school

"In the afternoons, Paddy and Cara come out of school happy. We are confident they are both being well looked after and know the staff have been trying to get the best out of them. We are pleased the teaching staff look at the challenges every pupil faces and will work with the child to get the best possible out of them."

### Gentle encouragement

"When Cara started in Reception, she was so excited, she just skipped into school. She has a good sense of humour and I know the staff value that in her. She was a May baby, so she was young in the year, and enjoyed playing and having fun. But in Year One they stepped up the work. To get her to focus, the teachers have taken a gentle approach with her and it has really worked. In her latest report, she was given good grades for effort and attainment. The staff are really good at engaging the children."

### Supportive TA

"Cara likes English and writing because she has a good imagination. She was not confident with Maths, but one of the TAs realised this and praised her when she did well. This has taken the fear out of it. They are good at identifying a problem quickly and solving it gently. Cara loved her teacher in Year One and was sad to have to leave her," Catherine says.

### Extracurricular fun

"St. Joseph's put on really good Early Morning Drop-Off and after school clubs for the children and they take the children on lovely school trips. This year, I went with Paddy's class to the London Wetland Centre and could see how much the children enjoyed it. I wasn't able to go on the trip with Cara's class, but I know they had a lovely day at the Bekonscot Model Village in Beaconsfield."

### Children say

Paddy says, "Our school is lovely. I'm proud of my work and really like my friends."

Cara says, "St. Joseph's is great. I love my teachers and my friends and the stuff we get to do."







## Enriched curriculum: trips, events and celebrations

### Trips

Year group trips are linked to the curriculum. We take the children to places such as:

- Wetland Centre.
- Bekonscot Model Village.
- Legoland.
- Houslow Urban Farm
- Hampton Court Palace.
- Discovery Centre.
- Hanwell Zoo.
- RAF Hendon.

### Residential

In Year 6 there is a residential trip to Boreatton Park PGL.

### Events and themes

Our themed weeks include Anti-Bullying Week and Eco-Week. We also hold themed days e.g. Victorians, Evacuees, Greeks and Romans etc.

We celebrate World Book Days, World Maths Days and Black History Month. We also have workshops on subjects such as Dental Care, African Drumming and Cycle Safety... and have visits from the Emergency Services, where police officers and fire service personnel talk to the children about their jobs.

### Pupil Roles

Pupil Chaplains are elected to be peer mentors, and our Eco Worriers (who 'worry' about the environment) help to promote the school's commitment to sustainability and care for our planet.

### Celebration

As a faith school, we celebrate mass in Church, hold Advent Services and liturgies, and every day give thanks for the enrichment that our Christianity brings to our lives.



## Clubs, PE, sport and music

### Clubs

Our wide range of clubs are run after school by our staff. These currently include:

- Football.
- Tag Rugby.
- Basketball.
- Knitting Club.
- Mindfulness.
- Coding.
- Netball.
- Making Club.
- Hockey.
- Drama.
- Lego Club.

### P.E. and sport

At St. Joseph's, we want our children to understand that physical education in a safe supportive environment is a unique and vital contributor to their physical development and well-being. Our broad and balanced physical education curriculum intends to provide pupils with increasing self-confidence in their ability to manage themselves and their bodies within a variety of movement situations.

### Fitness for the future

We can see that P.E. develops the children's knowledge, skills and understanding, so that they can perform with increasing competence and confidence in a range of physical activities. These include dance, games, gymnastics, swimming and water safety, athletics and outdoor adventure activities. Our children gain an understanding of their bodies when they are in action.

### Music

The music curriculum at St. Joseph's ensures children sing, listen, play, perform, compose, improvise and evaluate across a wide range of styles, historical periods, musical genres and traditions.

### Skill progression

Planning is informed by and aligned with the National Curriculum and supported by progression of skills.

Repeating a musical skill allows pupils to strengthen their musical understanding in order to improve the quality of their musicianship. All children have the opportunity to develop these musical skills practically and creatively.

### Opportunities for all

As our children progress through the school, they develop a critical engagement with music allowing them to listen with discernment, evaluate and compose. Music lessons are inclusive and all children have access to music regardless of their academic ability. We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.





# Elijah and Eloise are enjoying being challenged by the friendly teachers at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Oliver and Martine live in Norwood Green with their children, Elijah, aged seven, and Eloise, aged five.

## Admissions and getting involved

### How to apply for a place at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

In order to make an application, you should complete the e-admission form from the local authority (paper copies are also available) and return it to them.

- Ealing Council, Perceval House, 14/16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL
- Tel: (020) 8825 5522 (9am to midday).
- Website: [www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)

#### Criteria for admission

You should also complete our Supplementary Information Form (SIF). The information on the SIF enables the Governing Body to assess your application fully against the school's criteria in the event of oversubscription. Please return the SIF (in person or by post) to the school, together with all other relevant paperwork required for the application:

- Certificate of Catholic Practice if relevant.
- Proof of Baptism if relevant.
- Evidence of exceptional need if relevant.

And for Nursery also:

- Proof of address.
- Council Tax bill or government correspondence. (If you have neither contact the office for acceptable evidence).

If you do not complete the forms described above and return them by the deadline, the Governing Body will be unable to consider your application fully and it is less likely that your child will be offered a place. Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed.

### Getting involved

#### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Our PTA aims to allow our school to benefit from the additional funds it will raise and the increased opportunity for parents to be more involved in school life. Throughout the year we will be organising regular PTA meetings to discuss our aims and plans and to keep everyone informed of what we are achieving, so please do come along.

#### Parent plus

We hold events to welcome parents to get involved in our school life, such as music and poetry evenings. We greatly value the wider family relationship.

#### Governors

The Governing Body has three main roles:

- To set the strategic direction of the school
- To act as a critical friend to the school
- To hold the school to account

The Governors work closely with the Leadership team of St. Joseph's to support and challenge every aspect of school life for the benefit of the children and staff. The drive for school improvement is relentless but very rewarding for the whole community.

#### Volunteering in school

We actively welcome parents and family members into school to help with reading.

#### Excellent progress

Oliver and Martine are both delighted with the progress their children are making at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Oliver says, "Elijah and Eloise are both flourishing there and are achieving above what is expected for their ages in every area of the curriculum."

#### Family tradition

Oliver and Martine wanted their children to go to St. Joseph's as Oliver had been a pupil there, as had all his brothers and sisters, and he knew it was a good school. Oliver says, "My family had a big connection with the school and many of my nieces and nephews have also attended it and made good progress there."

#### Polite pupils

"As a secondary school teacher myself, I have seen children who have come up from St. Joseph's recently and been impressed with how polite and well behaved they have been and so I knew it was still a good school."

#### Friendly teachers

"Elijah and Eloise are both enjoying their time at St. Joseph's. They look forward to going to school every day and have connected well with their teachers. The staff are all very friendly and we have been very happy with the teachers and the TAs who have taught them."

#### Challenging work

"Elijah enjoys Maths because he loves numbers and he is constantly being challenged with more difficult work by his teacher. His reading is also coming on well and they are pushing him by giving him more challenging reading material. We are pleased they are trying to get the best out of him and that he is stimulated by being challenged and continues to achieve above expectations."

#### Fun activities

"Elijah also enjoys playtime and PE lessons and going on trips with the school. He likes dressing up days, when they are celebrating things such as World Book Day, or raising money for charity by doing fun things."

#### Reading success

Oliver says Eloise started in the nursery at the school when she was three and thoroughly enjoyed learning through play. "She was really looking forward to going into Reception and wearing the school uniform and being in a classroom. She is now progressing well in all areas of learning and enjoys how she is being taught and is keen to impress her teacher. Her reading has really come along since starting in the main school and she can now read a whole book on her own."

#### School values

"There is something special about St. Joseph's, partly because of the community spirit there and partly because of the Christian values that underpin everything the staff do for the children. The school motto, 'Love, Learn, Believe,' sums it up perfectly," Oliver says.

#### Great choice

"We are pleased the children are receiving a well-rounded education and that it is not just all about academic learning. There is a real camaraderie among the families whose children attend St. Joseph's and we enjoy meeting up in the park behind the school for picnics and to say goodbye to each other at the end of each term. We are very happy that we chose St. Joseph's for Elijah and Eloise and that they are progressing so well there."

#### Children say

Elijah says, "I like going on the trips, the dressing up days and learning about different religions."

Eloise says, "I like all my teachers."





# Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School builds God's kingdom here and now by being:

- **A welcoming school**  
Where everyone cares for and respects each other.
- **A learning school**  
Which inspires creativity and challenges through guidance and encouragement all members of the community to learn and aim to be the best they can.
- **A vibrant school**  
Which celebrates its variety and creativity and seeks to meet the needs of each person by working together in this ever changing world.
- **A holy school**  
Where prayer and worship are valued and we the community serve as a living witness to the Gospel of Christ.

**Love - Learn - Believe**



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York Avenue  
Hanwell  
London  
W7 3HU

Tel: 0208 567 6293

Email: [ask@stjosephs.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:ask@stjosephs.ealing.sch.uk)

Website: [www.stjosephshanwell.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshanwell.org.uk)