



ST TERESA'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

"Smiles greet you everywhere at St Teresa's. Pupils are happy, articulate and polite." (Ofsted 2023)



WELCOME FROM NIKKI PETERS, HEADTEACHER



I am very proud to welcome you to our wonderful school.

A thriving learning community

I have been at St. Teresa's since 2010 and was thrilled to be appointed as Headteacher in February 2016. Educating children is a great responsibility and I feel extremely privileged to be the Headteacher of such a thriving learning community.

Faith comes first

Our faith is at the heart of all we do. As a school community we endeavour to live our lives as disciples of Jesus by treating each other with the respect and kindness that we each deserve. Our Parish Church, Corpus Christi, is situated within our school grounds and we work very closely with our Parish Priest, Canon Simon, to develop the children's faith as they progress through the school.

Dedicated staff

There is a real sense of community within our school. Everyone is valued for their contribution to our school's success, and I am very fortunate to have such a dedicated, dynamic and enthusiastic teaching and support team.

Together we strive to ensure that the values, experiences and education we provide will enable our children to learn together and build the strong foundations necessary to achieve success in life.

Fostering a love of learning

I believe it is our role to give all children the opportunities to shine and reach their full potential by offering a broad and balanced curriculum. We provide a safe and caring environment where all children receive the support and encouragement needed in their journey through school life. As a community we aim to inspire children to develop a love of learning so that they are equipped with the attributes, skills and knowledge that will serve them well beyond their time at St Teresa's.

Partnership with parents

As Headteacher, I believe that working in close partnership with parents is fundamental in ensuring we provide the very best education and support for all the children in our care. We value your role as parents and educators and are here to ensure the very best possible experience for your child so he or she is always safe, happy and successful. You will see this reflected in the family case studies within this prospectus.

Get in touch

Please take the opportunity to visit our school in action; I am sure you will be impressed by what you see! To make an appointment, call us on 01189784310 or email admin@st-teresas.wokingham.sch.uk

Swati's initial impression of St. Teresa's School was exceptionally positive, and the school has exceeded her and her husband's expectations

Their son, Krishna, is currently in Year 4.

Positive start

Krishna began his journey at St. Teresa's in Reception. As newcomers to Wokingham, his parents selected St. Teresa's based on the welcoming energy they felt when visiting the Open Day school event. "Krishna is very sociable; he has many friends and enjoys making new ones. His favourite subject is Maths, and he thoroughly enjoys the entire curriculum. He loves his teachers and the teaching assistants, who are approachable and proactive in addressing his needs. For instance, in Year 1, they provided valuable support with his reading," says Swati.

First Impressions and Open Days

"We researched several schools before selecting St. Teresa's. Being new to Wokingham, we aimed to make an informed decision, and the positive environment made a significant impact on us. My husband and I attended separate open days due to work, yet both of us left with the same positive impression about St. Teresa's. I appreciated that older students conducted the tours, showcasing a student-led open day," says Swati.

Engagement in Clubs and Activities

"Krishna has thoroughly enjoyed participating in various clubs and activities. He has taken part in chess club, explored 3D printing, and engaged in diverse activities, including Lego and football clubs.

Additionally, he has begun exploring different languages such as French. The school maintains a well-rounded balance between fun activities and learning," says Swati.

Emphasis on Good Citizenship

"The school teaches the children how to behave as good citizens and that's very important. I remember Krishna being awarded a 'Smiley'; teachers give them out for all sorts of good behaviours. Krishna received his Smiley for helping someone when they had fallen and it's that kind of recognition that I think is very important," says Swati.

A Joyful Approach to Learning

"Learning is fun for Krishna. Although he sometimes downplays what he's learned, he often surprises us by sharing new things he's picked up at school. He doesn't view it as learning; he's simply having a great time. We are consistently impressed with his progress, and the feedback from his teachers boosts his confidence," says Swati.

Memorable Experiences

"Krishna took part in the Young Voices event, where over 8,000+ children came together to sing, and he thoroughly enjoyed participating. World Food Day was another highlight. Krishna was eager to represent India and delighted in sharing our culture.

He assisted at our table, serving Indian food to his friends, who especially enjoyed our chicken curry and rice. It was heartwarming to see everyone embrace the experience. The event wasn't about fundraising but rather sharing diverse cultures through food, a beautiful way to foster community spirit," says Swati.

Celebrating Cultures and Diversity

"St. Teresa's is a wonderful school, with excellent teachers and students. It fosters an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity. Krishna's name was added to the Golden Book for his presentation on Hinduism, showcasing Indian traditions and Holi festival. I now connect with parents whose children, inspired by Krishna's showcase, wish to participate in similar celebrations. The respect and understanding among students for various cultures is inspiring," says Swati.

Children say:

Krishna says: "I love going to school and meeting all my friends."



SCHOOL DAY: *SETTLING IN*

Our school hours

Our compulsory school day begins at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm.

8.50am – 12.00pm Morning Lessons
10.30am – 10:45am Morning break for whole school
12.00pm – 1.00pm Lunch
1.00pm – 3.20pm Afternoon Lessons

Wraparound care

Breakfast Club runs from 7.55am to 8.50am and includes a healthy breakfast. The children can participate in various activities during the session. After School Club runs from 3.20pm to 6.00pm (Monday to Thursday) and 3.20pm to 5.30pm on Friday and includes a healthy snack. There are a range of outdoor and indoor activities for the children to enjoy.

Uniform

As a school we love our smart uniform, which we believe gives our children a sense of pride in themselves and a feeling of belonging within the community. We have made sure that not only is it of high quality, and therefore long-lasting, but also reasonably priced, and all items are available through the school office.

Pre-loved uniform

We are also able to offer a second-hand uniform shop run by one of our parents which can be used to either purchase or donate uniform. Please contact st.teresas.secondhanduniform@outlook.com for more information.

Food in school

We are fortunate enough to have our own on-site catering staff, who provide a great range of nutritionally balanced and delicious meals. Children can choose from a variety of meat or vegetarian options, sandwiches, fruit and yoghurts, hot and cold desserts, baked potatoes and more. Pupils on our School Council have a lot of input into our lunch menus, and have recently suggested both sushi, and a hot soup for the colder weather.

Packed lunches

Children who would prefer to bring a packed lunch from home are welcome to do so, but we encourage a healthy mix of ingredients.

Free school meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals under the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals funding. If you receive certain benefits or have a low income, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals in Year 3 and beyond. Please speak to the school office if you think this may apply to your family.



The positive energy at St Teresa's School is the reason Mark and Fiona Slater moved their family to Wokingham

Mark and Fiona have Emma age 10 in Year 5 and Sophie age 8 in Year 3.

A new start

Mark and Fiona were looking to move to the area from Buckinghamshire due to work commitments. They had specific criteria they wanted from a school, and they were delighted on finding St Teresa's. "The girls are doing amazingly well. We're very happy and they are flourishing at St Teresa's. Emma joined in Reception and Sophie started in the pre-school. We didn't live in Wokingham when we had to choose a school for Emma. We were looking to move to the general area due to work but had made no firm decisions on location. It was St Teresa's that made us choose Wokingham" says Fiona.

"We were looking at all the Catholic schools in the Berkshire area and we picked St Teresa's. We then found a house next to the school. Looking back, it was the perfect fit for us" says Mark.

Meeting all our needs

"We didn't think we would find a school that would have everything we needed. We knew we wanted a Catholic school, and a breakfast and after school club was important to us as we both work full time. The presence of a pre-school for Sophie just meant every box we were looking for was ticked as having both girls at the same place was the ideal," says Fiona.

"On the visit day the staff were engaged and energetic and this made them stand out from the other

schools we visited. The facilities and the building were well maintained and cared for and everything felt very positive," says Mark.

A great team

"St Teresa's have an excellent team. As well as having fantastic teachers, the support staff and the teaching assistants are brilliant too. They have a lovely playground, with a trim trail and play equipment. 'Smiley Assembly' takes place on Fridays which is a really positive event where the children are awarded certificates for their achievements. The girls are doing well academically, and this is in part due to the positive encouragement they get, - it's so valuable," says Mark.

Learning about the world

"Mark and the girls are Catholic but I'm not. From my perspective I wanted the girls to learn about other faiths and cultures. There are children at St Teresa's with parents from all over the world. Through RE the girls have learnt about different religions and I think that's very important," says Fiona.

"I love the fact that the girls are at school with families from many countries. The diversity is brilliant and opens up a lovely understanding of the world and all the different people in it," says Mark.

Opportunities for everyone

"Emma plays football and in the past they've taken part in in baking, gardening and knitting clubs. There is a good variety of sports and non-

sports activities on offer. They are both in the chamber choir which they absolutely love, and they get to perform in a variety of places. They have had one-off opportunities as well, such as attending fencing, multi-sports and rugby events with other schools," says Mark.

Choosing the right school

"We took our time, and we knew specifically what we wanted and needed when we were looking for a school for the girls. St Teresa's ticked every box, and we haven't ever regretted our decision. It's a brilliant school where each child is approached as an individual. They know when children are ready to be challenged and when they need some extra help," says Mark.

Positivity from the top

"The balance between academic achievement and building children's confidence is excellent. The school have helped our children become well-rounded individuals and this is down to the values of the school. Our head teacher is a hugely positive influence on the children and her staff. She's instrumental in how everyone comes together in such a positive way, and the deputy is also full of energy. It's infectious!" says Fiona.

Children say:

Sophie says: "Lunch time is my favourite time of the day."

Emma says: "Our school dinners are super yummy."



CURRICULUM: CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Education: a shared commitment

At St Teresa's learning is not confined to a classroom; it is the purpose and responsibility of the whole school. We believe learning is a sacred endeavour, and all learning helps us to fathom the mysteries of life. We recognise that education is a shared commitment by all members of our community: children, parents, staff, governors, our Parish and Diocese and our MAT. To ensure all of our children achieve their full potential it is essential we all work closely together to support the process of learning.

Confidence and independence

Learning occurs everywhere, from the moment the children arrive at school in the morning until they leave at the end of the day. We believe in teaching our children to be confident individuals who are able to independently tackle any situation, inside or outside of the classroom environment with a resilient, determined attitude.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage includes all children in our Pre-school and Reception classes. The curriculum is divided into core and specific key areas of learning and development.

- Communication and language, Physical development, Personal, social & emotional development.

The specific areas of learning:

- Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design.

The learning characteristics:

Playing and exploring, Active learning, Creating and thinking critically.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Maintained schools in England are legally required to follow the statutory National Curriculum which sets out in programmes of study, on the basis of key stages, subject content for those subjects that should be taught to all pupils.

We go beyond the national curriculum

However, the curriculum at St Teresa's goes beyond covering the National Curriculum objectives by focusing on each Individual child's holistic development.



St Teresa's Primary School is attended by Emelia and Freya, their parents Lois and Phillip, believe children are at the heart of everything school does

Lois and her husband Phillip have Emelia in Year 6 and Freya in Year 1.

Moving part way through school

Freya, Lois' youngest daughter has been at St Teresa's since pre-school. Emelia joined in Year 4, moving schools part-way through her primary school journey. "The girls are getting on very well. Freya loves school, it has been a hugely positive start to her educational journey. Emelia moved to St Teresa's in Year 4," says Lois.

The right move

"Emelia wasn't getting on massively well at her other school. We wanted her to be in an environment that would build her self-esteem. Since moving, Emelia is doing amazingly. Her anxiety and self-esteem have improved so much and school have been brilliant at helping with that. Pastoral support and developing coping strategies have just been some of the ways school have helped her. Emelia went on the school residential trip just recently from Monday to Friday and that was an amazing achievement for her and a wonderful experience. That wouldn't have happened two years ago. Her confidence has soared and she's made lots of friends, she's doing well academically thanks to the support of school," says Lois.

Enjoying school and the extra opportunities

"Emelia loves art, RE and PHSE. Freya loves everything. Freya has joined computing club this term which is a new skill for her to learn, she would also like to join Lego club next term.

She enjoys phonics and writing. Emelia has been to a local outdoor climbing centre to help build her confidence which she enjoyed and set her up well for her residential. She's played in the netball team and football team. Emelia is in the chamber choir and gets lots of opportunities to sing in the local community including at Portsmouth Cathedral and local care homes. "Emelia has thrown herself into that side of school. She's found her place in school thanks to her involvement with the choir," says Lois.

Children are at the heart of everything

"St Teresa's has a community feel, it's a very warm and welcoming school, the children are at the heart of everything they do. The staff are consistent and they're always on the playground at the end of the day. They are approachable and we've had regular meetings and communication," says Lois.

Moving to high school

"We're looking at secondary schools now. It is a daunting process, but Emelia knows now, having made the change before, she can do it again. School make Year 6 a very special time for the children and that helps to build them up before the transition process. They have a head girl and head boy and their deputies, as well as sports, music and house captains and these roles are all for Year 6's so that sense of responsibility for the older ones is lovely.

When they return from their residential, they are given a special tie which the head teacher presents to them and again, it's just little things like that; it makes it a special time for the Year 6's and helps prepare them for moving on," says Lois.

St Teresa's welcomes everyone

"There is a Catholic element to life at school, but the school has grown and diversified massively in terms of all the different faiths and cultures that attend. Everyone needs to be embracing of the overarching Catholic values, but these are no different to what most people want for their children in terms of caring for each other and making school a happy place to be, it gives school a sense of heart," says Lois.

Advice for new parents

"I'd say to any parent thinking of St Teresa's to go and visit, the opportunities they afford children are fantastic and there's a wonderful vibe to school. I'd recommend it one hundred percent," says Lois.

Children say:

Emelia says: "Everyone at the school is very kind, I am pleased I came here, I have settled in really well."

Freya says: "I get to see my friends every day. Learning is fun!"



ENRICHED CURRICULUM: EDUCATIONAL VISITS, RESIDENTIAL TRIPS AND PHILANTHROPY

Educational visits

We firmly believe that children learn best from their own first-hand experiences and to this end we endeavour to take the children on trips that enhance and enrich topics from the curriculum. Examples of our trips include:

- West End Theatre Trip.
- Brooklands Motor & Aviation Museum.
- Ufton Court.
- Windsor Castle.
- The Planetarium, Winchester Science Centre.
- Alice Holt Forest Experience.
- Kew Gardens.

Residentials

At St Teresa's the joy of residential experiences starts for the children in Year 4 with a 2-night trip to Grittleton House in The Cotswolds. Year 6 finish their final year at St Teresa's with a visit to a PGL site from Monday to Friday to develop confidence and resilience.

Building a wide range of skills

We really value giving children the opportunity for rich and varied experiences and the chance to build a wide range of skills while at school. As well as our extensive range of trips and visits we also have various class and whole school activities throughout the year. These include a Computing Week, Science Week and regular scooter and bikeability sessions. We are incredibly fortunate to work in close Partnership with two local independent schools, Lambrook and Leighton Park, thereby providing additional adventures for our children to enjoy. Theses have included a historical diorama, chocolate making and a hockey masterclass to name but a few.

Philanthropy

Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need.

The Mini Vinnies meet together in school and with members of the local Parish to live out their mission of **See, Think, Do**. Throughout the years our Mini Vinnies have turned their concerns into action by:

- Making cards for those who may be sick, isolated or lonely.
- Visiting local care homes to sing and complete inter-generational activities with residents.
- Running food collections for a local food bank.
- Supporting other children in their school or parish.



Tanya Marie's boys have just started St Teresa's School and are making wonderful progress already

Tanya Marie has two boys one in Reception and one in Year 1.

Each child is an individual

Tanya Marie's boys started St Teresa's in the preschool and have had a promising start to life at school. "They love going to school. The teachers are passionate about what they do, they are caring and look after the children so well. They look after each child as an individual and try to support them as best they can. The boys have never said that they don't want to go to school, even on a weekend they ask if they can go to school," says Tanya Marie.

Part of the church community

"My husband and I are both Roman Catholic and we attend Corpus Christi Church which is the church attached to St Teresa's. We wanted a school in Wokingham and we wanted a Roman Catholic school so St Teresa's was an easy decision for us. We feel part of the school community. The boys see their teachers at church on a Sunday and everyone always says hello. The priest is involved with school life and they see other pupils at Sunday school during church," says Tanya Marie.

Making memories

"The boys enjoy Stay and Play which is when parents are invited into school and we all get to see what the children have been doing. They always look forward to Christmas and the Nativity. They enjoy going to school every day and they love to see their friends," says Tanya Marie.

Learning through movement

"They have started learning Phonics. They do a lot of hand movements and singing which they come home and show me. The teachers incorporate a lot of movement with their learning which is great for my older son as he has quite a short attention span. The teachers know how to engage him and keep him focussed. The children don't realise they're learning. My younger son only started Phonics in September and already he's reading books and blending his words," says Tanya Marie.

Excellent communication

"The communication with the school is excellent, I can't fault them. We always know what's going on. They email, call and on occasion have to schedule meetings so we're always up to date with what's happening and how the boys are doing. The teachers are always on the playground and available informally to chat to. We're very open with school and I think that helps, the more you put in the more you get back and I believe that's important. They want parents to be informed and feel part of school life. The school newsletter shares whole school news and the emails and updates on the app help you keep informed about your child. School is very welcoming in terms of communication, from the receptionist to the head teacher, everyone is approachable and ready to help," says Tanya Marie.

Reaching their full potential

"I'm looking forward to seeing how the boys grow and develop at school. We have support from school and they go above and beyond. I have no concerns as to the boys reaching their full potential, the school knows exactly how to encourage them. They haven't been at school for long but the foundation they are building is very good," says Tanya Marie.

School feels safe

"School feels very nurturing when you visit. In Pre-school and Reception it is child led learning and the interests of the children lead the way. There is a fantastic indoor and outdoor play area. There are lots of activities for the children to do. The playgrounds are separated by age groups and are age appropriate so the children feel safe and secure," says Tanya Marie.

A great team

"St Teresa's is a fantastic school. The team at school is brilliant and well established and the head teacher gets involved at every level and sets a great example. It has a great ethos," says Tanya Marie.



Wide range

Our range of before school, lunchtime and after school clubs is so broad, we're sure there will be something for every child. The choice of clubs is reviewed regularly and based on the stated wishes of the children. Our range of clubs currently includes:

- Chess.
- Gaelic Football.
- Girls & Boys Football.
- Multiskills.
- Science.
- Quiz.
- Cooking.
- Hockey.
- Knitting.
- Yoga.
- Mindfulness.
- 3d Printing.
- Brickies.
- Computing.
- Gardening.
- Playdough.

Sport and P.E.

Promoting a healthy mindset

Children are taught how to lead a healthy lifestyle by eating sensibly and exercising regularly to promote the life-long passion for sport. Through teaching high quality ambitious lessons, children will practise skills in a range of different activities and situations, alone, in small groups and in teams. All children will be physically competent and confident through the planned, progressive curriculum and comprehensive extra-curricular programme.

They are confident in their progression of skills and have good knowledge of vocabulary.

'Can do' attitude

Our children are given the skills in chosen activities to achieve high levels of performance in a range of increasingly challenging situations. We promote a keen interest in PE - willingness to participate eagerly in every lesson, highly positive attitudes and behaviour and the ability to make informed choices about engaging fully in extra-curricular sport.

For example: Football, Tag Rugby, Gymnastics, Hockey, Tennis and Dance.

Music for the mind

At St. Teresa's we believe that all children should have the opportunity to increase their self-confidence, imagination and creativity. Our Music curriculum provides all children with a high-quality music education, which inspires a lifelong love of music and freedom of self-expression.

Singing for the soul

Singing is food for the soul; at St. Teresa's it helps all pupils to feel a sense of belonging. We have two excellent choirs who rehearse and perform a wide variety of music and help to uphold our strong choral tradition. Our children are proud to share their talents with the local community through visits to residential homes, school celebrations and religious occasions.

Genres and performances

All children listen to a variety of genres of music and freely give their thoughts and reactions through different media including writing, speaking, art and drama. Our children gain an appreciation for different styles and tastes. All pupils have the opportunity to compose their own music, using a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

Through opportunities such as class assemblies, Christmas celebrations, drama productions and singing concerts, children develop skills and knowledge that enable them to perform both confidently and collaboratively.

St. Teresa's Chamber Choir

The St. Teresa's Chamber Choir is a force to be reckoned with! The goal of the

Chamber Choir is to spread joy and light through music and song. They boast an extensive repertoire including hymns, anthems, West End hits, radio hits and more. The children lead the singing at every school Mass and are well known within the parish community, even performing at some Sunday services and special occasions in Corpus Christi Church! They are regular visitors at local care homes and their enthusiastic, smiley performances are always well received.

A sense of achievement

Through being in the Chamber Choir, the children gain many valuable experiences, enjoy countless opportunities and grow in confidence and maturity by the day – all with a huge sense of achievement and enjoyment, and never without a smile. They really are a joy to behold!



Our aims, vision and values

Our aim is for all members of our School Community to be:

'Safe, Happy and Successful together with God'

We achieve this by following our SAINTS Beatitudes:

Strive- a willingness to do your best.

Accept- a willingness to be a kind person to everybody, no matter what.

Integrity- a willingness to be honest in what I say and do.

Nurture- a willingness to care for others and the environment.

Talents- a willingness to use and develop our gifts.

Service- a willingness to serve without being asked or expecting a reward.

These Beatitudes remind us how to be Disciples of Jesus and how we can spread His love through our words and actions.

'Let all that you do be done in Love' (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Our Vision

St Teresa's Catholic Academy is a special place full of learning, laughter and friendship where all children are happy, feel safe and are valued. We believe that learning should be fun, purposeful and challenging. As a school, we develop a love of learning that is inspired by quality teaching, which builds upon each pupil's individual strengths and talents. We aim to develop confident learners who take ownership of their learning and are proud of their achievements. Our vision is that St Teresa's continues to develop as a valuable resource for our community - providing services and activities that help to meet the needs and aspirations of our pupils, their families and the wider community.



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