



The Rosary Catholic Primary School

Love, Inclusivity, Aspiration, Curiosity, Respect

Welcome to Rosary Catholic Primary School...

a joyful school where every child is known, valued and loved

Mrs Jenny Knighton, Headteacher, says:

A very warm welcome to the Rosary School. Our school is a small, co-educational Academy for children aged 4 to 11 years. Whilst small, we are lucky to have rich diversity in our school community, with more than fifty percent of our families being of a different faith or a non-faith background. Our strong emphasis on community means there's always a warm welcome for everyone at the school gates every single day.

Fun and varied

We believe that belonging to a secure, supportive and encouraging community helps our pupils feel ready to learn every day. Our school's mission is to deliver an excellent education that is fun, varied and comprehensive to every pupil. Our staff work together to model Christian values and community, encouraging our pupils to foster healthy relationships with one another and grow in their social and emotional development.

A hidden gem in the heart of the community

The school is set in its own grounds consisting of lots of green space including a large playing field, and an environmental garden and forest school area. Our strong links with the local community mean that the school is truly at the heart of it. We value the relationship between home, school and parish. Together, we work all work with a common aim – to be the best we can be. Only then can we expect the same from our children.

Great facilities

Inside the main school building, we have a large hall for assemblies and P.E. All classrooms are large, carpeted and well resourced. For pupils wanting a place to sit and chat or read, we have a summer house to make use of. We also have three separate playgrounds with adventure playground equipment. One of the playgrounds is sole use for our younger pupils, and has a large, covered area and lots of age-appropriate play equipment. There is a well-stocked library with music area, separate small group classrooms for Special Educational Needs and EAL pupils, and a nurturing pastoral room. We have an on-site kitchen and dedicated catering team that provide daily hot meals.

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to also enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. We are also a 'Healthy School', as recognised by the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning for the quality of our health and well-being provision that our pupils engage in to support their learning. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school. We have a mental- health and well being team led by our full time Pastoral Support Lead. The team run a number of targeted support groups including Emotion Explorers, Friendship Matters and Man Kind. All staff are traumainformed and receive regularly training to ensure we have a consistent approach and a universal offer for every one of our children.

Dedicated staff

A school is only as effective as the teachers at the heart of it, and we couldn't be more proud of our dedicated staff. We're passionate about giving our teachers the chance to become the very best they can be, and we invest heavily in their professional development. As a result, we're training partners with the University of Gloucestershire, the University of Bath, Odyssey and Balcarras Teaching Hub and Best Practice Network. The children we

teach directly reap the rewards of this continued commitment to professional excellence.

Parental partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent…as you can see from the parent stories in our prospectus. We work hand-in-hand with parents, to give every child the strongest possible start: academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Get in touch

We would love to show you around our wonderful school. If you would like to make an appointment to visit, please ring on 01453 762774 or email admin@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk.





Rosary Catholic Primary
School offered everything
Kathryn was looking for
when choosing a school
for her son Jackson and it's
given him the best start.

Kathryn's son Jackson is age 6 and in Year 1.

Deciding on Rosary

"The location for school was important to me when I was first thinking about where Jackson should go. I wanted school to be close by so that school felt an easy part of our day and I wanted a school with lots of outdoor space. My neighbour reassured me about the school as I was nervous as we're not Catholic, she explained that she wasn't either but her child was at Rosary and said it was a great school. So good location and a good review all helped make the decision," says Kathryn.

Outdoor and sports activities

"Jackson loves to be outside, he's active and enjoys sport. He loves Forest School at The Rosary. There are after school sport clubs that Jackson has participated in and enjoyed. He's done rugby and he's looking forward to the summer when it will be cricket and fencing. His class went on a school trip to the zoo in Bristol this week, which he loved, but Jackson was upset that it was on the day they normally have PE, that's how much he loves his sport," says Kathryn.

Making friends in different classes

"Being at The Rosary has had a positive impact on Jackson. He has friends and knows children across all year groups. I've noticed when we've been out and about on a weekend other children, often the older ones will stop and say hello. When he goes to breakfast club there's always someone to welcome him and make him feel at home. He might be the only person from his class there but the other children are always excited to see him and he's soon off playing and having a great time. There's a house system at the school which encourages teamwork and competition, brings a sense of belonging and helps to build different friendships, it's lovely to see," says Kathryn.

Brilliant teachers who inspire learning

"The reception and year I teachers are brilliant, just fantastic. At this age it's all about teaching the children how to learn and they've done a wonderful job with Jackson.

He initially showed no interest in English but his teacher, Mrs. Phillips engages him and sets small challenges each week and his progress has been wonderful. We were at the circus recently and he was trying to sound out the words he could see on the signs. He would never have tried that before, it's incredible to see him progressing and I can't thank Mrs. Phillips enough for working with him like she has," says Kathryn.

Being part of a community and celebrating together

"It really doesn't matter about your religious background, or lack of one, The Rosary are inclusive and welcoming of everyone. I was worried initially but I look back now and know I needn't have been. Jackson and I have some great conversations when he comes home about all sorts of things. It's wonderful to witness him thinking about things and coming to his own conclusions. I think being at a faith school gives children a strong sense of being part of a community and caring for each other, and that's important. It also means they enjoy many of the traditions that feel familiar, like the Nativity at Christmas and the Harvest Festival. I'm really pleased Jackson is at The Rosary, it's given him the best start I could have hoped for and more," says

Children say:

Jackson says: "I love playing on the school field with my friends."





School day: settling in

Our school hours

The school starts at 8.40am in time for registration at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm.

Wraparound care

Part of our wraparound care is operated by local provider 'BarBar' and partly by us as a school. Both are based on the school premises, providing an invaluable service that enables working parents to drop off ahead of the school's opening time and to collect their children after the end of the school day or school run After School Clubs.

- Breakfast Club (run by school): 07.30 to 08.50
- After School Club (run by BarBar): 15.20 to 18.00

Food in school

We are very lucky to have a modern well-equipped kitchen on site. Lunch is cooked from scratch on site by our Head Cook Claire, who has been with us for many years, supported by her assistants. Where possible locally sourced, organic ingredients are used and our meals are high quality, tasty and healthy. Claire often provides us with a personalised menu to celebrate various times of the year, such as Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and World Book Day. Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch from home.

Free school meals

All children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free hot lunch. Parents and carers of all children receiving Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers' Allowance are entitled to claim free school meals for their child.

Drinks

Water is encouraged throughout the day to ensure the children stay hydrated and ready to learn. However, children can have an alternative, non-fizzy, drink with their lunch. Children can also register for our School Milk Scheme. Parents may apply through the school office.

Uniform

The Rosary School colour is navy blue. Acceptance of a place at this school means agreeing to the uniform guidelines of the Rosary School. The uniform gives a visible sign of belonging to the school and helps the development of a community spirit whilst also ensuring equality of status in dress.

Most items can be bought from supermarkets; only the specific Rosary School jumpers/cardigans, ties and PE t-shirts need to be purchased from ParentPay or through the school office.











Micaela's daughters started Reception at The Rosary and they find school is there when support is needed.

Micaela has Isabella age 10 and in Year 5 and Emelia, age 8 and in Year 3.



Micaela instinctively knew that Bella needed extra support at school and once a formal diagnosis was made, Rosary were on hand to help. Micaela says, "Bella has a hidden disability called DLD which means she has a different way of processing information and language. Bella needs people to talk slowly for her and she works best with short instructions. It was hard to get Bella's condition recognised, especially as she had been an early years' "Lockdown" child. We were already working on her speech and language skills. Getting the diagnosis meant we could get the right support for her."

Quick to offer support

"It's frustrating how long the process takes for children and families in these circumstances. As soon as we knew Bella's diagnosis, school were in touch straight away to make sure the right support was in place. They've put things in the classroom to help Bella, for example she has a glossary on her desk which she can refer to. It helps her break down and understand what she's being asked to do" says Micaela.

Helping to settle

When a child receives a diagnosis, their emotional well-being needs to be taken into consideration. Micaela says, "School have been very good at helping Bella understand her diagnosis. She doesn't like having it but school have encouraged her and given her space to talk about it. She feels she can share when things aren't working and she feels listened to. She has teachers and staff she likes working with and building those relationships is helping her confidence."

Enjoying school life

"Isabella enjoys Art and is always happy when she comes home from school with a certificate for having done well. She received lovely feedback recently for a story she had written, school are good at recognising hard work and effort. Emelia likes lunch time when she gets to play with her friends," says Micaela.

Lots of variety

"Both girls are playing rounders now. They've done other after school clubs like gymnastics and origami. School provide a nice mix of activities, lots of variety for the children to try. They've both taken part in choir. Some of the activities are free, others are provided by external providers which parents pay towards, for example athletics," says Micaela.

Lovely grounds

"There are playing fields that the children can use and enjoying being able to run around on in the summer. It was important for me when choosing a school that there was outside space for the girls to play," says Micaela.

Listening carefully

A new Headteacher, has brought positive change and improvement to school. Micaela says, "School were good at listening before, but the new Headteacher is very attentive and acts on what she hears from parents. I believe that's important. Parents want to feel listened to, they want to be part of the school community. After Covid school felt isolated but things are much better now."

Special feeling

"There is something different about The Rosary, you get a special feeling when you go into school and I remember it being there when we first looked around. I'm glad the girls are there, it's a good school," says Micaela.

Children say:

Isabella says: "I like drawing pictures."

Emelia says: "I like playing with my friends."





Curriculum: raising self-esteem and confidence

Our creative and ambitious curriculum challenges and supports every child to reach their full potential We believe in nurturing curiosity and a love for learning, preparing our students for success in secondary school and beyond.

Our curriculum offers a range of first-hand experiences

Curiosity is a key driver for children's learning. We recognise that many of our children do not have the same exposure to experiences that other children benefit from, so our curriculum is planned to provide opportunities for experiential learning and wider experiences relating to cultural capital. We ensure children's learning, where possible, is based on first-hand experiences, visitors to school who inspire curiosity, and trips to places of interest that ensure children have experience of the knowledge they are being taught.

Our curriculum encourages engagement with the local community

Inclusivity is an important value for our school, and we encourage children to be aware of ways they can be part of their local community. Our local area is used as a vehicle for learning about many curricular areas, e.g. local history and geographical features, which encourage children to appreciate where they live and to gain relevant knowledge.

Our curriculum is inclusive, so that all pupils can achieve their full potential

Our **Aspiration** for our pupils means we set high expectations for every child, encouraging them to grasp opportunities and be proud of their achievements in all aspects of school life. Our curriculum provides a clear progression in skills and knowledge in order to learn effectively; the taught curriculum is carefully mapped out to ensure the long-term acquisition of skills.

Our curriculum fosters Christian virtues and develops the social skills and awareness needed to be an effective citizen

Our key value of **Love** is an important aspect of developing children socially and emotionally, learning to build strong relationships with one another and resolving conflicts in a restorative way. It is important that children learn to Respect the views and feelings of others, and that adults model this behaviour too. This prepares them for becoming valuable members









The Rosary Catholic Primary School is an inclusive and welcoming community where Anne-Marie's boys are developing their individual passions.

Anne-Marie has Arthur age 11 in Year 6 and Alfred, age 9, in Year 4, they have an older brother who is now in high school.

Following in their mum's footsteps

"I went to Rosary so it was very familiar to me when we came to looking at where to send the children for school. Initially, as my husband isn't Catholic, he was a little apprehensive but on visiting he soon changed his mind and could see the potential for the boys to thrive. We found the children to be polite and the fundamental Catholic teaching about forgiveness and treating others with kindness shone through. You want your children to learn kindness and respect for others and that's the environment at Rosary," says Anne-Marie.

Developing individual passions

"Both the boys love Forest School and they love playing sport so they enjoy PE day. Alfred loves English and wants to be a children's author when h grows up so he enjoys reading and writing. Arthur enjoys Maths, that's his jam," says Anne-Marie.

Inclusive parent community

"There's no specific catchment area for school, children and their families join the school community from all over the area. It's a town schoo and so parents come together for coffee mornings I used to go when the boys were younger and it was very supportive, a place where parents could openly discuss the stresses and strains of parenting. The PTFA is inclusive, they try to get everyone involved and I volunteer a couple of times a month to listen to children read and I know other parents do it as well so there's lots of ways to be part of school life," says Anne-Marie.

Science Fair and residential trip

"The boys have just enjoyed the Science Festival and then there is the "Parents Get Lost" residential trip later in the year which my eldest is excited for. They do everything from climbing to kayaking, all the fun outdoor activities. Arthur is very excited for that trip," says Anne-Marie.

Getting ready for high school

"Arthur's embarking on his SATS so I think once they're out of the way he'll feel better. He's looking forward to heading to high school and being able to walk to school with his older brother. He's ready for what high school brings and he's looking forward to experiencing school with a wider group of people. He's ready for what high school brings because of the excellent foundations built at the Rosary and he's looking forward to experiencing, "says Anne-

Celebrating achievement

"There's a weekly assembly where everyone comes together on a Friday and achievements are celebrated. Children get an achievement certificate for anything that they have done that has stood out in the week, that can be for anything, being kind, working hard or producing an excellent piece of work. They have a system called "Gold Footsteps" and if you've been on the gold footstep five times for example in the week then you receive a sticker. It's a way of recognising good behaviour and effort with work in class. They can move down as well as up the footsteps so it's all about encouraging positive behaviours," says Anne-Marie.

Supportive and positive for the future

"I've always found Rosary to be inclusive, it's a friendly community and everyone is welcome. There are people from different religions and I think that's important for children to see and be aware of. I've found school to be incredibly supportive, their pastoral care is excellent. I've had support for the boys in various ways over the years and I really can't stress how valuable that has been. The new Headteacher is making positive changes, she's a positive force and it's great to see how she's leading the school forward" says Anne-Marie.

Children say:

Arthur says: "I'm looking forward to making new friends at high school."

Alfred says: "I like the books we read."

Enriched curriculum: trips, visitors, clubs and outdoor learning

Forest School

We are very fortunate to be able to offer regular Forest School sessions to every year group throughout the year at the Rosary School. The children learn a lot from these outdoor lessons and our school grounds are a great resource in which to foster a love of the natural world. At the heart of forest school is the aim to provide regular opportunities for all our pupils to feel at ease and connected to nature and the outdoors.

Clubs

We run a wide range of after-school clubs which currently include:

- Judo
- Fencing
- Dance
- Rugby Netball
- Tennis
- Board games
- Computing Origami
- Storytelling
- A small number of clubs are run by outside coaches so are subject to a small charge.

We intend that children should master music to such an extent that they can go on to have careers within music and make use of it effectively in their everyday lives. Our children will be taught music in a way that ensures progression of skills and follows a sequence to build on previous learning.

We have an excellent school choir, a weekly recorder club, whole-class instrument tuition and one-toone lessons for piano, quitar, ukelele and drums are available on request. The pupils also get the opportunity to rehearse and perform at Young Voices.

Pupils are given opportunities through physical education (P.E.), to develop important qualities and skills that can be used in all aspects of life; teamwork, patience, leadership, and self-discipline. Exercise is also key to our health and wellbeing. Our approach to P.E. is to deliver a creative and engaging curriculum, which introduces pupils to new and exciting sporting challenges. We offer an extensive range of sports through our curriculum, including football, netball, rugby, cricket, rounders, fishing, wonderball, shonkball, multi-skills, tennis and swimming.

Visits and visitors

To further enrich our curriculum, all children are offered a range of visits, both locally and further afield. Recent trips include Bristol Zoo, Museum in the Park. Swindon Steam Museum. We the Curious. Cadbury World, Black Country Museum, Weston-Super-Mare, Robinswood Hill, PGL Residential, our local cinema and Stroud Subscription Rooms to watch the pantomime. We also annually visit the Stroud Literature Festival. Cheltenham Music Festival and Cheltenham Jazz Festival.

Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists and musicians, as well as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and people from our local community such as Resthaven Retirement









Charlotte says that Rosary Catholic Primary School is welcoming to everyone and a place where children work hard and have fun.

Charlotte's older boys attended The Rosary and now William, the youngest, age 9, is in Year 4.

Moving to a new school

Charlotte and her family moved to the area and chose The Rosary for its great location. Charlotte says, "William always rushes to get into school every morning which I think is a good sign. He's been there says Charlotte. since Reception; my older boys were also at The Rosary but started part way through primary school We liked how welcoming the school felt when we first visited. It felt like everyone was excited to be there."

Outdoor space

"One of the other things that impressed us about school was the outdoor space. Coming from London it was lovely to find a school with such fantastic green space for the boys to use. William loves Forest School, which takes place every three weeks; he's always counting down to it being his week to do it," says Charlotte.

Everyone is welcome

The Rosary is a Catholic Primary School and families of all faiths are encouraged to join the school. Charlotte says, "I've always found the school to be inclusive. While there is a Catholic element to school life, you don't have to be Catholic to appreciate the moral values that are upheld at The Rosary. Being kind to others, and being polite, understanding and forgiving are what any parent would want for their child, I'm a Christian, not Catholic, but it's interestina hearing what William is learning about faith in general. I like that the pupils learn about different faiths and ask questions about them; they can then decide for themselves what they believe.

Lots of activities

"William loves being hands on, so his favourite things are Forest School and Science experiments. He loves creating things and working as part of a group. He loves PE and they've been playing Dodgeball recently which he has really enjoyed. School brings in external specialists to teach the children different activities. Sometimes it's a sport. other times it could be Music or something else creative.

They had someone come in and teach them fishing in the school hall - not with real fish, it was with magnets - but William thought that was great fun. It's fantastic that they can experience these different activities ahead of moving to high school,"

Teachina styles

"The school has both male and female teachers. which I think is important for the children. At The Rosary there is a healthy balance of discipline and freedom, so that the pupils have a lot of fun within fair boundaries," says Charlotte.

Great school

"The Rosary feels like a well-balanced school, with pupils from a variety of backgrounds. It is also small enough for William to have friends across the year

The school offers wonderful trips every year, such as the Cheltenham Jazz and Science Festivals and the Stroud Book Festival. The pupils visit local farms and there is a residential trip in Year 6 that everyone looks forward to. There's always something exciting happening. It's a lovely school," says Charlotte.

Children say

William says: "I love History, PE, Forest School and Science experiments."





Values and Ethos

Our school vision

- We will provide every pupil with an excellent education.
- We will model Christian community and love and welcome all families whatever their background.
- Our school will be a thriving, inclusive community where everyone can flourish, through high-quality teaching and varied, hands-on experiences.
- · Pupils will be equipped for secondary education and beyond, with equal emphasis on pupils' academic success, their social, cultural, and spiritual development, and their emotional wellbeing.

Our school values

- Inclusivity
- Curiosity Aspiration
- Respect

Our School Mission and Ethos

Our Catholic faith is at the very heart of our school and this is evident as soon as you step through the doors of the Rosary School. Everyone within the school works very hard to treat each other with care and respect.

We do our best, following in the footsteps of Jesus

"Pupils enjoy being part of the Rosary School and are proud of it. They value the opportunities they are given to contribute to the Catholic life of the school "

"This is an inclusive school and the sense of community is strong."

"Staff are strong, positive role models in the way they value and care for each other and their pupils, consequently relationships are strong."

(Diocesan Inspection 2017)











For Naina and her four daughters, The Rosary **Catholic Primary School** is like a family away from home, and always will be.

Naina has Puja age 11 in Year 6, Amba age 10 in Year 5 and Eshani age 7 in Year 3, they have an older sister in high school.

The Rosary family

The Rosary has a diverse mix of families and Naina enjoys how much the children learn from each other. Naina says, "We're not Catholic, we're Hindu and I specifically chose Rosary because I want the girls to understand that religion isn't separate to everyday life, it can be part of life and guide the way we live. Rosary is nurturing, it feels like the girls move from our family life at home to their family life at school. My eldest daughter, even though she's no longer there, loves to come and pick her younger sisters up with me so that she can see her old teachers. They all take the time to say hello and check in with her, it's like she'll always be part of the Rosary family."

Encouraging independence

"I was brought up in a household where we believed learning and having knowledge is like a superpower. I want them to enjoy discovering what they want to learn. Eshani loves reading, she's 7 but she's reading books for 9- and 10-year-olds. Rosary have encouraged her, they talk to her about what she's reading and that support is so valuable. Amba loves Science and Art. When her teacher asked her what no one else knows about her, Amba mentioned how much she loves Art and it's those little moments where the teachers are inquisitive that encourages the children to be curious and want to learn. Puja loves Maths and Science, she'll come from home school thrilled with a Science experiment her teacher has shown her. I'll often find her with a book about whatever they've been learning in class, she'll stay up late reading, hungry to learn more and that to me is all you can ask for, that they want to learn," says Naina.

Support for families

Mrs. Matarazzo is the Pastoral School Lead and has been instrumental in supporting Naina and her family. Naina says, "The team at Rosary are incredible. I've always felt supported by the senior team and they advocate for family life. They'll put your children and their needs first. Mrs. Matarazzo is wonderful and their holistic approach is second to

They take the time to understand each child, their circumstances and work hard to put appropriate support in place. When we've worked with Mrs. Matarazzo in the past she's been incredible and the support has meant the girls could continue with their school life consistently without unnecessary interruption. The additional support they needed at the time was seamlessly delivered. The team deserve an award, they're brilliant," says Naina.

Special ways of caring

"Eshani has a positivity box that she keeps in her bedroom. It was part of the work Mrs. Matarazzo organised for her when she was feeling anxious and there were changes going on at home. The box has messages of positivity from Eshani's teachers and other people she'd been working with. She still goes and reads the messages from time to time and I think she'll keep it forever. It's things like that, special ways that Rosary care and support the children that as a parent mean so much," says Naina.

A brilliant school

"Rosary fosters an incredible sense of community, you see at sports events when everyone comes together and cheers for each other. The children know other children from across the year groups and the teachers, it feels like there is love and attention for every child, and every aspect of every child. It's a brilliant school and an instrumental part of mine and the girls' lives," says Naina.

Children say:

Eshani says: "I love reading and finding new books."

Amba says: "I love drawing and painting."

Puja says: "I love solving problems in Maths."





Admissions and getting involved

Admissions

Although the Rosary Catholic Primary School is a Catholic School within the Diocese of Clifton, it is 'Open to All' regardless of religion. You must apply by January of the year your child is due to start school. We can admit 30 children into our reception year. You can apply by completing the online application below through Gloucestershire County Council.

If you would like your child to attend the Rosary Catholic Primary School and are transferring from another school, then you can complete the online application at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or on a paper form available from and sent to: Coordinated Admissions, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL1 2TP.

In both cases, there is also a second form that must be filled out and returned by post, email or hand delivered to us. This can be found on our school website.

Getting involved

PTFA

We have a thriving PTFA set up to provide opportunities for the children that would otherwise not be achievable through our regular funding. Run by committed and passionate parents, carers and friends of the school community, the PTFA has organised a variety of fundraising events such as discos, movie nights, summer and Christmas fayres and second-hand uniform sales. If you have any questions, thoughts, ideas or just want to say hello, drop them a line at ptfa@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk

Local Governing Committee

Our local governing committee is made up of an enthusiastic group of people drawn from the local Parish, the wider community, parents and members of staff. They help to ensure we are supported and challenged and oversee strategic decisions. The day-to-day running of the school is for the Headteacher to manage, rather than the trustees or committee members. If you would like to become a member of the local governing committee, please contact the school office.

Volunteering

Volunteers play a vital role in the life of our school, generously giving their time to support learning and enrichment across all year groups. Whether listening to children read, helping on school trips, or assisting with classroom activities, their contribution is deeply valued by staff and pupils alike. Our volunteers help to create a warm, inclusive environment where children can thrive. We are always grateful for the positive impact they make on our school community.









The Rosary Catholic Primary School

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