



St Joseph's Catholic Infant School & Nursery

Together we grow in God's love

Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Infant School & Nursery

Foreword: Ruth Boon, Headteacher

It is with great pride that we welcome you to our wonderful school.

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School is a Voluntary Aided school within the Diocese of Brentwood. Our thriving school community includes Nursery classes and links to our Junior School, Tollgate Teaching Alliance and the Aquinas Learning Trust.

Everyone matters

St Joseph's is a place where children are provided with an excellent education in a safe and stimulating environment where their welfare needs are known and planned for. Everything we do is overlaid with a Catholic perspective and gives us a distinctive ethos. Everyone matters, everyone is respected, children and staff; everyone helps, prays for, works for and takes care of each other. Pupils and members of our community are valued for what they are rather than what they can do. Every child is provided with the foundation to become a lifelong learner growing in confidence and self-esteem as well as developing a positive attitude to learning.

Our children 'reach for the stars'

Our community is inclusive and the learning experiences we offer are created to engage, excite and challenge. All children are expected to 'reach for the stars' and 'be the best they can be'. The Catholic faith is very much at the centre of our school life. The common values we share are promoted through our school life; it gives us a world's perspective which is evident in the social justice projects we take part in. The academic standards children achieve are outstanding and consistently, year on year, above the national and local average. A strong work ethic is promoted in all aspects of learning and combined with positive social attitudes and mutual support.

Our fantastic facilities....

Our grounds provide great opportunities for outdoor learning, as well as play, sport and family events. This year we have seen a three-million-pound refurbishment take place which further demonstrates our commitment to make continuous improvement and invest in the education of our children.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative, encouraging 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, we recognise that it is essential to support the whole child. Pastoral support and well-being is at the heart of our school ethos. It underpins everything that we do and along with the quality of teaching and learning, it is what our community is all about.

Parent partnership

St Joseph's also values the school-home partnership as essential in helping pupils achieve their best. By working and communicating effectively with parents and carers, we ensure students' achievements and needs are recognised, celebrated and met in a positive, inclusive learning environment. We have established an environment that is welcoming and accepting of parents, and we work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

I hope that our prospectus gives you an insight into and understanding of our core values of ambition, responsibility, citizenship, creativity, empathy and faith. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please call the school office on 0208 539 3000 to arrange a visit and see why our school is so special.



School day: settling in

Our school day starts at 8.45am and the school day ends at 3.20pm.

Wraparound clubs

Breakfast Club

We have a Breakfast Club which runs from 7.45am - 8.45am daily.

Tea Time Club

Our Tea Time Club runs from 3.20pm - 6.00pm daily. Snacks and a light tea are provided.

Booking forms are available from the school office.

Uniform

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform. Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community. The school uniform is kept as simple and practical as possible and the colours are white blouse, shirt or polo shirts with grey trousers or skirts and red cardigans/jumpers with the school logo. We also have a school blazer from Reception to Year 2. We are proud of the children in full school uniform; they are our finest ambassadors.

Where to buy

Branded uniform can be purchased via a phone app and/or the school office.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious school dinner or bringing a healthy packed lunch into school.

Free school meals

For children in the Foundation Stage, and Years 1 and 2, the government provides free school meals.

Break-time and drinks

All Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes have a morning break-time snack of fresh fruit or vegetables. Chewing gum, sweets and chocolate bars are not allowed in school. We encourage children to drink water regularly during the day.



Creative curriculum: *exciting, challenging and enjoyable*

Themes

Our children follow a curriculum which is brought to life through a variety of theme days, visits, theatre performances and creative projects.

Confidence, communication and physical development

We believe that a happy child is a successful one, so we work together to present a curriculum that is exciting, challenging and enjoyable. We plan the curriculum based on our knowledge and the ongoing observations about how each child learns best. We look in depth at each child's needs, interests and developmental stages.

Positive attitudes

We aim to foster positive attitudes towards learning, and develop confidence, communication and physical development. Learners are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which they are encouraged to explore, think creatively and be busy and active within a range of environments.

The curriculum is divided into two stages:

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



Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
2. Communication and Language.
3. Physical Development.
4. Literacy.
5. Mathematics.
6. Understanding the World.
7. Expressive Arts and Design.

Key Stage 1

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics.
- Literacy.
- Science.
- Design Technology.
- History.
- Geography.
- Art.
- Music.
- Physical Education.
- Religious Education.
- Computing.
- Philosophy.
- Personal Social, Health and Education (PSHE).

Music

Music is an important part of school life. We often find it easier to learn through songs, sounds and rhythms and music forms an integral part of our curriculum. Children benefit from a specialist Music Teacher. We embrace music in a variety of exciting ways:

- Making and playing instruments with recyclable materials.
- Exploring rhythm, sounds, pitch, instruments and cymbals.
- Listening to music as we keep fit and enjoying music that helps children relax.
- Using rhythms for skipping and working out.
- Composing rap styles of music about hygiene, staying healthy and gardening.
- Listening to nature's own sounds.

Singing

The children enjoy a regular singing session where hymns, carols, traditional and new songs are learnt and enjoyed by all. Our pupils use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.



Enriched curriculum: *trips, visitors, P.E. and clubs*

Trips

Groups are often taken on educational visits to complement their learning in school. Recent school visits have included:

- Natural History Museum.
- Transport Museum.
- Science and Toy Museums.
- Tower of London.
- Colchester Zoo.
- Countryside Live show.
- Greenwich Museum.

Local visits too!

Children often participate in local visits too. Recently these have included visits to local nature areas, mini golf and play centres, fire stations, farms and local retailers, etc.

Visitors

Visitors to school have included:

- Local paramedics.
- Local fire service.
- Local doctors.
- Dogs Trust speaker.
- Rabbi.

Life experience

Visitors provide our learners with real life experiences that can help them relate what they learn at school to the world around them and develop their confidence.

Sport and P.E.

We believe that physical development is a key component to success across the whole curriculum and we have excellent P.E. provision. Children at St Joseph's take part in a varied range of sports within class P.E. lessons, as well as clubs, intra-school and inter-school events. Children benefit from a specialist Sports Coach.

Enhances academic learning

We strive to provide new and varied physical activities for children as we believe that P.E. and sport enhances academic learning and leads to healthier, happier and more productive lives. We also develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance through gymnastics and performing dances using a range of movement patterns. Our aim is that all children participate in physical and sporting activities for two hours each week. The P.E. programme includes gymnastics, dance, football, swimming, tennis, games and more.

Wide range of clubs

The school offers an exciting range of extracurricular activities and clubs such as:

- Street Dance.
- Cookery.
- Science.
- Cheerleading.
- Multi-Sports.
- Gymnastics.
- Tennis.
- Lego masters.
- Computer Club.
- Sewing.
- Choir.
- Martial Arts.



Inclusion: *a curriculum for all*

Special Educational Needs

We believe that all children need to feel safe, happy and valued at school in order to learn, progress and develop their well-being. Our staff are committed to ensuring this and work closely together with parents and other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for all our children. All our teachers are responsible for the progress, attainment and well-being of all children.

Working individually with a child

Particular consideration is given to the specific needs of the child and support is offered relevant to each child's needs. Therefore, staff may consider it appropriate to engage in small group activities, i.e. 1:1 work or differentiation of the curriculum, within the classroom, to make it readily accessible for the child. Parents are encouraged to be a part of this process and support staff meet regularly with parents to report on progress. If you are concerned that your child has additional needs, please contact the Class Teacher or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs. Children are given additional opportunities to develop holistically through challenge and activities.



Admissions and getting involved

Admissions arrangements

Reception intake

Brochures containing criteria for all local schools are available online via the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Applications can be made online from September at www.eadmissions.org.uk and parents are encouraged to use this route if at all possible. Parents also need to submit a paper application to the school. This can be obtained by contacting the school or popping in to meet staff.

In year transfer

Some families move during the academic year and seek a new school. When this happens we welcome a visit before you make an application to the Waltham Forest Admissions Team. When a place has been allocated, we then invite both pupil and parents/carers into school to meet with the Headteacher or Senior Leadership so that a smooth transition can be arranged from your child's old school to here.

Certificate of Catholic Practice

Parents/carers who want to support their application with a copy of the Certificate of Catholic Practice need to make an appointment with their parish priest to obtain and complete the certificate. The child's original baptism certificate will also need to be seen by the school. It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure all supporting documentation is returned to the school office on or before 15th January for that year's September intake.

Application process

The closing date for September applications is on the 15th January of that year. You will be notified of your child's placement by the following April.

School admissions

- In person: The Magistrates, 1 Farnan Avenue, London E17 4NX. By appointment only 9.30-4.30 (Monday) and 1.30-4.30 (Wednesday)
- Postal address: School Admissions, Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF

Voluntary helpers

We always welcome volunteers from our school and wider community to help with activities such as school visits, or supporting children in class, etc. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please speak to your child's Class Teacher or the school office for more information.

Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes Parent Governors as well as representatives from staff, the local authority and the local community. The primary responsibility of the Local Governing Body is to act as 'Champions for the Children' and it is their educational experience that is paramount. We discharge this responsibility by supporting and challenging every aspect of school activity from the highest academic aspiration to everyday housekeeping to ensure there is overall improvement, progress and achievement and that each child is encouraged to realise fully their individual potential.

It is wonderful to have parents/carers, with their many varied skills and viewpoints, on the Governing Body. There are so many helpful ways you can become involved with this school; being a governor is just one of them. Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.



Vision and Values

Our Mission Statement underpins all that we do; it is lived out in our daily lives in school.

'Together we grow in God's love'

In partnership with our parents and community, we share, inspire and motivate our children so they can be the best they can. We believe passionately in education and strive to provide a rich and varied curriculum to enrich our children's lives.

We aim to provide the foundation so that every child becomes a lifelong learner. The experiences gained with us are designed to have a lasting value.

As Catholic educators we strive to ensure children learn, not simply to excel academically, but to excel emotionally and care for each other. Our children learn to respect themselves, each other and the world around them. We are proud of our children and all they achieve. They are our finest ambassadors.



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