

# Keep Learning



**ST URSULA'S CATHOLIC  
JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
*Diocese of Brentwood*

*We celebrate God in all we do!*

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# Welcome to St Ursula's Catholic Junior School

Foreword: Clare D'Netto, Headteacher,  
St Ursula's Catholic Junior School



St. Ursula's Catholic Junior School is a Voluntary Aided Catholic School, situated in the Diocese of Brentwood. It was founded in 1957 by the Ursuline Sisters, Brentwood to provide a true Catholic learning environment for children of Catholic families.

## Magical time

Childhood is a magical time, a time when memories are made and foundations laid. At St Ursula's we love to learn and make memories. It is not only our rich and varied curriculum that inspires children to learn about the world, and the word of God...but also the dedication of our highly experienced teaching and support staff.



## Parent partnership

Another key factor in a child's exciting learning journey are parents. And you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, that parents 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.

We know the importance of the relationship between parish, family and school in teaching your child about the word of our Lord and bringing the Holy Spirit closer to us all.

## Eco Awards and School Travel Plan

A part of caring for this planet is a commitment to sustainability, and we have achieved national recognition at the Eco-Awards. We also encourage staff and pupils to be 'eco-aware', and make sustainable choices in transport.

## Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our wonderful junior school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff who listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the quality of education we can offer your child.

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question, please call the school office on 01708 343170.

## Faith school:

*We celebrate God in all we do!*

We teach the facts of our Faith to our children and so bring them hope and eternal love. We teach them how to praise God and care for those most in need. Through such a faith, our pupils will truly see the beauty and goodness of creation, and to care for our wonderful planet in all aspects of our school life.



## Service to God and society

As Pope Francis said, a Catholic school's single objective should be to shape children ... "to grow as mature, simple, honest and competent persons who know how to love faithfully, who know how to live their lives as a response to God's call and their future professions as a service to society."



*Pekun and Olajumoke Fayokun have two children currently enrolled at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School. Olaolu is 10 and Oladamola, 9.*

**Pekun and Olajumoke want their children to have the best possible start in life, and that is why they are so happy with what St Ursula's Catholic Junior School has to offer**

## Even more than before

It has always been important for Pekun and Olajumoke that their children should attend a school which actively embraced their Catholic faith, but they naturally wanted the educational standards to be high as well. With St Ursula's Catholic Junior School they have both those requirements - and much more.

"Our elder daughter attended St Ursula's and she did well there," says Pekun. "We never had to worry about anything but in recent years, since Olaolu and Oladamola have been there, we have seen it getting even better. In fact, our first daughter is rather envious of her siblings as St Ursula's has even more to offer than before!"

## Enjoying the challenge

As far as the teaching standards are concerned, Pekun is impressed with the level of work his children are expected to tackle. "Their spelling and maths assignments are often quite challenging and beyond what we would have expected from past experience. I really like the fact that the school realises that children have more potential than they might be given credit for and that if they are pushed to achieve they are likely to do so. Our children actually enjoy having to work that bit harder to get it right and I am pleased with how the school makes a real effort to stretch them."

## Life experiences

It is not just in the classroom that St Ursula's excels, believe Pekun and Olajumoke, but in the way the children are given opportunities to broaden their horizons by means of clubs, after-school activities and outings. "In the last few years the school has put on so many more activities, things which they might not otherwise have the chance to take part in. There are sports clubs, music lessons, visits to local attractions and more, and most are subsidised to make them affordable. This is a wonderful thing for the children, increasing their knowledge, life experience and their physical fitness, and all this is a way of developing their overall intelligence."



# School day: we celebrate God in all we do!



Children use the  
'willow dome' to pray,  
read books and reflect.



## School hours

The school playground opens at 8.45am, and at 8.50am the bell goes and pupils are in class, being registered at 8.55am. Morning break is 10.30am-10.45am. The school day ends at 3.15pm. Morning, lunchtime and end of day prayers are said daily.

Breakfast and after school clubs are available outside of school, see the school office for provider details.

## Uniform

All pupils should wear school uniform. A full uniform list is available from the school office. All items of clothing must have the child's name clearly marked. School Uniform is available from Havering Schoolwear Shop at [www.haveringschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.haveringschoolwear.co.uk).

## School meals and snacks



Lunch is from noon to 1pm. Children can bring in packed lunches or have school lunch. School lunch has a choice of three hot meals. All children eat together in the hall at, what the children have called, "family tables". Each table has a jug of water and cups.



*Gemma Curran lives in Romford with her three children. Shania is 9 and attends St Ursula's Catholic Junior School.*

**Gemma's life had taken many twists and turns, but she can now feel secure about her daughter's future with the support and understanding of St Ursula's Catholic Junior School**

## On the up

"We have moved several times for various reasons and it has been a bit unsettling, especially for the children," Gemma explains. "Shania especially felt the effects and when she got to St Ursula's she was below the level she should be in her education, and she didn't have much self-confidence. Within the last year and a half she has made excellent progress in every way and has caught up to where she should be, as well as being much happier in herself and it is St Ursula's I have to thank for that."

## Back up to speed

"It was St Ursula's which picked up why she was failing and her teachers knew how to get her back on track," says Gemma. "They also arranged for her to have some counselling to improve her self-esteem and she is so much happier and more confident now. The school's approach has been completely effective and has helped amazingly in turning things around for us."

## Faith

Gemma's Christian faith is obviously a great support to her and the fact that at St Ursula's that faith is actively celebrated makes the school even more special. "I feel that the teachers are on our side in every aspect of our lives," she says. "We work together to make sure Shania is getting all the help she needs, and they have given me a new lease of life, too. I am in a much better place now because of St Ursula's; it is run by lovely people and I feel very blessed."

## Children say

Shania says:

"I feel like I can talk to the grown-ups when I have a problem and they sort it out. I have made lots of new friends, I have learned lots and I feel relaxed at St Ursula's and able to learn."





# Curriculum: we celebrate God in all we do!



Learning is fun at  
St Ursula's Catholic  
Junior School



## National Curriculum

Pupils experience a rich, broad and balanced curriculum in Years 3-6. Areas of the curriculum are:

English	Mathematics
Religious Education	Science
Art and Design	Computing
Design and Technology	Geography
History	Spanish
Music	Physical Education

## School Curriculum

The school curriculum is regularly enhanced and enriched with stimulating and exciting extra learning opportunities. For example there is a great outside learning provision, cycling proficiency training, World Book Day, film making day, ancient Greek workshop and children are encouraged to join in the many trips we offer. Recent class trips have included Mountfitchet Castle, Brentwood Cathedral, Natural History Museum, Walsingham House Retreat, Lion King Theatre trip in London, the O2, Kentwell Hall - Tudor Day.

## Our Faith



We are a prayerful community and meet daily as a school, or as a class, to be calm and spiritual. The school works closely with local parish priests and they support pupils' and teachers spiritual development.



*Eda Niland and her husband James have three children including eight-year-old Summer, who attends St Ursula's Catholic Junior School in Romford.*

**Eda's daughter was two years behind in her education but St Ursula's Catholic Junior School has put in the dedication, time and effort to bring her up to target**

## Education interrupted

Both Eda and James have jobs which take them to different parts of the world for extended periods of time and this means, of course, that their children have to get used to changing schools more than usual. Since Summer attended St Ursula's Nursery School when she was three, the family have lived in Europe, Asia and Australia and have only recently returned to the UK.

Eda was keen for Summer to return to St Ursula's but was shocked to find that she would be required to join a class which would be effectively two years ahead of her ability level. "Summer's education had been significantly interrupted because of our moves so she was already about a year behind," explains Eda.

## Impressive support

Although Eda had home-schooled Summer as much as possible, with a new baby to take care of this became more difficult and she acknowledges that Summer did indeed struggle for the first few months. "I told her teachers how concerned I was about the situation and we had several meetings with the Headteacher to discuss how best to deal with it," she says. "I have to say how very impressed I have been with the constant support the school has given us, and with their help and dedication Summer has been able to improve greatly. She is now virtually on target for her age and I couldn't be happier."

## Children say

Summer says: "I am now in year four with some awesome teachers. At home my mommy helps me every day after school with my homework. I really enjoy learning and I like my school."





# Parents and pupils: we celebrate God in all we do!



## Keeping in touch with parents

Parent partnership, and keeping in touch about a pupil's learning journey, are important to St Ursula's Catholic Junior School. Every month the Headteacher sends out a newsletter to parents, and every half-term, a newsletter is sent to parents from the class teacher, letting them know what their child will be learning and how they can support them. Parents can also log on to St Ursula's 'virtual school' via the school website, where there is a parent room on how to support your child in their learning, as well as specific year group rooms.

There are also termly parents meetings with written reports informing parents of attendance percentages, levels of attainment in RE, reading, writing and maths etc.

## Invite in to school

We invite parents in to the school, once a term, with a different focus e.g. the Autumn Term invite featured maths...and the Spring Term invited featured e-safety. Parents are also invited to share in children's worship by visiting assemblies or Mass.

## Pupil voice

We have many pupil groups that actively and successfully lead events. For example our Junior Travel Ambassador group link with local and regional groups on sustainable travel. Also, the Eco-School Council lead fundraising and eco-awareness, RE Monitors group organises class worship and prayers, and E-Buddies are responsible for e-safety.



## Golden Assembly: celebrating achievements together

Every Friday we have a Golden Assembly, where certificates and Stars of the Week are awarded for children who live by the school's '5 Star Code of Conduct':

1. respectful to adults and pupils
2. spiritual, calm and prayerful
3. caring towards the environment and others
4. enthusiastic towards learning and friendship
5. self-assured and able to recognise when wrong.

## Behaviour and respect

People outside of school regularly praise our pupils on their outstanding behaviour and smart appearance. We believe in encouraging positive behaviour. It is our intention to encourage children to be self-disciplined and grow up with respect for other people and property. This means learning tolerance and control.



## Beata was worried that her daughter would struggle with school transition, but St Ursula's Catholic Junior School showed her how to find her wings and fly

### "The best in the world"

It would be difficult to find a parent who was happier with her children's school than Beata, who describes St Ursula's Catholic Junior School as 'The Best in the World'! Passionate about education, Beata is delighted to have found a school which so closely shares her views.

"Two years on from starting at St Ursula's Catholic Junior school, Melita is now right at the top of her classes, doing incredibly well and making us very proud. I am certain that it is because the school recognises children's potential and does everything possible to help them to make the most of their abilities."

### First steps to independence

Melita settled in to school fairly quickly, making friends and enjoying her lessons. However, when the time came to transfer from infants to St Ursula's Catholic Junior school it was Beata who appreciated the support which St Ursula's Junior school willingly provided. "My husband and I have no extended family in the UK so there are only the four of us and we are a very close unit," she says. "As a very shy child, I was so worried that Melita would feel overwhelmed and unable to cope without me, and I almost felt that I would be losing her when she went into her junior year.

"The Headteacher explained to me that children are like butterflies and need to use their wings, which was a lovely thing to say. My fears for Melita were unfounded and she has absolutely flourished. In fact, it took me much longer than Melita to adjust! The headteacher made a point of ringing me to reassure me that everything was fine and their kindness and sensible approach helped me a great deal."

### Children say:

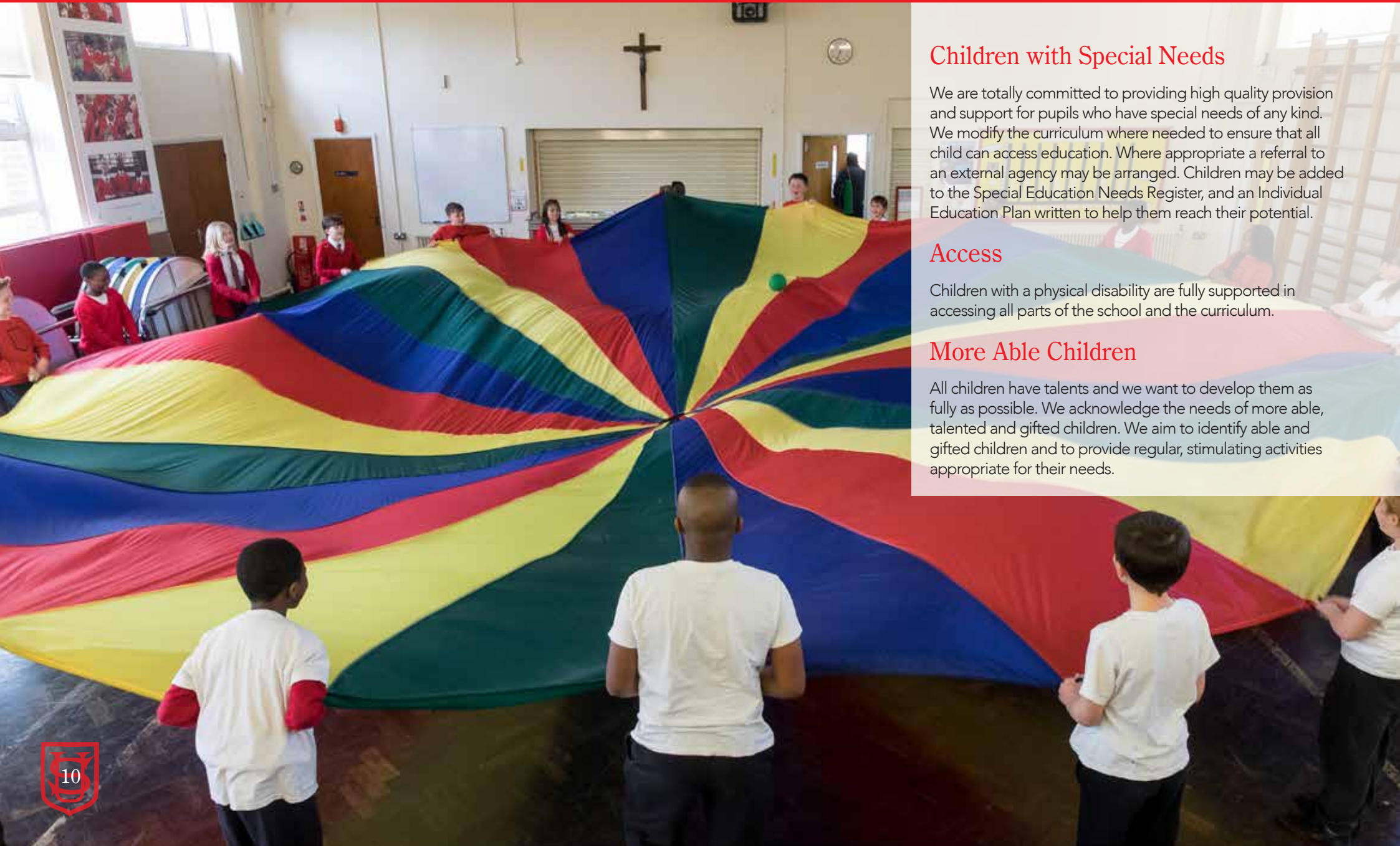
Melita says: "I am very proud to be part of St. Ursula's Junior School. My school is one big family... I always can't wait to get there in the morning, it is just so nice!"

*Beata and Vaidas live in Harold Hill with their daughters Melita, eight and Minela, five.*





# Inclusion: a curriculum for all



## Children with Special Needs

We are totally committed to providing high quality provision and support for pupils who have special needs of any kind. We modify the curriculum where needed to ensure that all child can access education. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged. Children may be added to the Special Education Needs Register, and an Individual Education Plan written to help them reach their potential.

## Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school and the curriculum.

## More Able Children

All children have talents and we want to develop them as fully as possible. We acknowledge the needs of more able, talented and gifted children. We aim to identify able and gifted children and to provide regular, stimulating activities appropriate for their needs.



*Azahara and Kingsley Nwajere live in Romford with their children Ada, 9, Chidimma, 8, Destiny, 6 and baby Ikechukwu who is nearly one year old.*

## Azahara has found nothing but support and reassurance with her daughter's health and welfare at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School

### Language barrier

Azahara brought her children to the UK from Spain in order to join her husband who works here. As neither she nor any of the children were able to speak English it was fortunate that a Spanish friend was able to recommended the school for the three oldest children, one which had also been recommended by neighbours, and that was St Ursula's Catholic Junior School.

"We are Catholics so it was important to us to send the children to a Catholic school but I had much to worry about wherever they went," Azahara explains. "Not only did the children not speak English, as Ada is diabetic I needed to know that she would be safe at school, but how would she be able to communicate?"

I was very anxious because of this, and because she had left all her friends behind in Spain I didn't know how she would cope."

### Problem solved

When Azahara explained her concerns to the Headteacher she started to feel reassured. "The first thing the Head said was 'there is no problem', and that they had staff who were trained and could help. She set up a meeting with the school Nurse who was great, and who helped me to make appointments with the local hospital which I wouldn't have known how to do. Everything was so different in Spain: I had no idea how the medical system worked here and I had been used to having to go into school every day to test Ada's blood sugar levels. I had had no idea that the staff at St Ursula's could do this for us instead."

### Children say:

Ada: "All the people in our school look after us really well, even if you have a condition like me, and they don't treat me any differently. The teachers teach really well, we have good fun, and I like doing hard maths!"



# Clubs: we celebrate God in all we do!



We have many clubs and activities.



## Music

Violin  
Trumpet  
Cornet  
Saxophone  
Clarinet  
Flute  
Piano  
Recorder



## Sport

Tag rugby  
Football for girls, boys and mixed  
Netball  
Basketball  
Hockey  
Gymnastics  
Tennis  
Cricket  
Athletics  
Cycle training



## Dance

Cheerleading  
Irish dancing  
Street dancing  
Contemporary dancing

## Arts

Craft Club  
Lego Club  
Drama

We also have a Gardening Club, and a Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning Club.

*Katarzyna and Rafal Cholewa live in Romford with their children Maciej, 10, Emilia, 7 and Zofia, 2.*

## Why Katarzyna and Rafal Cholewa selected St Ursula's Catholic Junior School for their children

### Two criteria for selecting a school

Katarzyna had two main criteria for the school she and Rafal chose for their children, that it should be a Catholic school with a good Ofsted report, and she was glad to find that St Ursula's Catholic Junior School offered both of these.

### "My views are listened to"

However, she is pleased that it also adheres to other principles which are close to her heart: "I have always been happy with the standard of education but, particularly in recent years, I have noticed a new and more positive attitude which I like very much. As a parent, I want to feel that my views are listened to and taken seriously and now I feel that they are."

### Big Pedal, big benefits

St Ursula's has won several awards for its promotion of environmental awareness, healthy living and sustainable travel and is doing a great deal to urge children and their parents on to two wheels instead of four.

"That bit of exercise in the morning might tire the body a little but it is well-known that it stimulates the brain a great deal,



so children arrive at school refreshed and mentally receptive. I have definitely noticed that in my children, and the journey is thoroughly enjoyable, too."





# Admissions: we celebrate God in all we do!



All pupils currently attending St Ursula's Catholic Infant School, have an automatic right to transfer to St Ursula's Catholic Junior School. If you are transferring from another infant school, then you need to complete an 'In year Application Form', and visit <http://www.havering.gov.uk/Pages/Category/School-admissions.aspx> for further information, or contact:

Admissions Team

c/o Town Hall  
Main Road  
Romford  
RM1 3BD  
Tel: 01708 434600

Email: [schooladmissions@havering.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@havering.gov.uk)

## Applications

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants.

## Visit St Ursula's Catholic Junior School

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place are invited to look around St Ursula's Catholic Junior School at any time. To arrange a visit contact the school office.



# Getting involved: we celebrate God in all we do!



## Governorship

The Governing Body is mainly made up of 'Foundation Governors', appointed by the Diocese of Brentwood. We have seven Foundation Governors, one Staff Governor, two Parent Governors and one Local Authority Governor. Governors work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.

For more information on School Governors, please contact the school office.

## St Ursula's Parents and Friends Association

The Parents and Friends Association (PFA) at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School comprises of all parents, teachers, friends and governors. We encourage all to participate in the school community and contribute in any way to its success. During the school calendar, the PFA runs numerous events in order to raise funds which are used to support and compliment the school's prioritised needs.

The PFA is keen on welcoming more parents to join...no matter how little the time you can commit. Please contact the school office for more information.





# How to find us: we celebrate God in all we do!



*Come, O Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit,  
and we shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.  
O God, who did instruct the hearts  
of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
grant us in the same Spirit  
to be truly wise  
and ever to rejoice in His consolation,  
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.*



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