



St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Together we enjoy learning, achieving, sharing and praying.
Let Jesus' love shine through in everything we do.



Welcome to St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

St. Aidan's is a place of learning where we inspire and challenge our pupils and teach them the gospel values; the belief that God is at the heart of our enterprise; that all human beings are uniquely created and loved by God and are worthy of respect.



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Foreword: Helen Brown, Headteacher, St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy



St. Aidan's became an Academy in November 2013. It caters for pupils who are baptised Roman Catholics, and whose parents reside in the parishes of St. Cedd's (Goodmayes), St. Teresa's (Newbury Park) and that part of SS Peter & Paul's which lies north of the High Road. We cater for children from 3 to 11 years, and have a separate nursery.



Catholic ethos

In our everyday life we strive to show and reflect the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. It is not just about learning, it's also about faith...and how that faith strengthens our school and its pupils.

I know every child's name

We are a two form entry primary so I am fortunate in being able to get to know all the children as individuals, as do all the staff in our school. We are also very welcoming, with a strong family atmosphere and calm environment. St. Aidan's is culturally diverse, and celebrate and draw strength from such diversity.

Strong Pupil Voice

Through our 'House Forum', pupils have a strong voice. The children choose their charity, organise charitable events and take an active part in school improvement.

Life skills

We encourage the children to be the best they can be. Through our high expectations we promote a sense of pride, determination and a strong sense of achievement. We encourage the children to take risks in all areas of school life which prepares them for the next phase of education and take their place as a global citizen in an ever changing world.

Parent partnership

A key factor in a child's personal, faith and learning journey are their parents. 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 parents, and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time at St. Aidan's.

Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our community. I am confident you will find our school welcoming and supportive. 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, please call the school office on 020 8590 5223.

The Griffith children are all happy and confident, boosted by their time at St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Doña and Roy Griffith live in Newbury Park, Ilford with their four children, Reanna,13, Chanté,11, André, eight and Darrius, six.

Friendly, safe environment

Doña loves the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy and says her four children have all felt safe and happy there. She says: "I know I can trust the school to look after my children. St. Aidan's is a very comfortable, safe environment and staff look after the individual needs of all the pupils."

Embracing all cultures

"I like the Catholic ethos of the school as a Catholic myself. Some of the parents are from different denominations, but I know they enjoy the community spirit of St. Aidan's. Even if Catholicism is not their religion, they enjoy taking part in events," Doña says. "Last year we had an evening at the school to celebrate Indian culture and one parent brought his whole family in to teach us about his religion. I like the fact St. Aidan's embraces all cultures and respects all faiths."

Fostering creativity

St. Aidan's also encourages children to fulfil their creative potential. "Reanna started piano lessons in Year Four, which has had a lasting effect. She is currently taking her fourth grade piano exam and is studying for a GCSE in Music." Doña believes St. Aidan's gives all children a good start with music. "Chanté plays the violin and has learnt African drumming. She performed as part of a group from the school at the Royal Albert Hall. André is learning the violin and Darrius is learning African drumming and xylophone."



Children say

Reanna says: "I enjoyed my time at St. Aidan's and loved being Head Girl. It was interesting attending school council meetings and giving my opinion on how to improve the school. I used to be very quiet before I went to St. Aidan's but while I was there I made a lot of friends. I was honoured to be chosen as the pupil to represent St. Aidan's at an event for Pope Benedict XVI when he visited England. It is a memory I will treasure for the rest of my life."



School day

School hours

Times of School Sessions:

Infants 8.55 - 12.00 1.00 - 3.30
Juniors 8.55 - 12.30 1.30 - 3.30

Nursery Times:

Morning: 8.45 - 11.45am
Afternoon: 12.30 - 3.30pm

Breakfast Club:

Monday - Friday
7.45am - 8.45am

Uniform

Winter uniform is worn during the Autumn and Spring terms. Summer uniform is worn during the Summer term.

Most articles of clothing can be bought from any chain store, however the specific St. Aidan's item of clothing can be purchased from Ilford Ursuline Academy.

School meals and snacks Houses

Hot meals are cooked on site. Our menu is nutritionally balanced giving children a substantial meal using quality ingredients including Red Tractor Meat, organic milk and yogurts and fresh fruit and vegetables. Children can also bring in lunch boxes. Mid-morning snacks are available for the younger children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. From September 2014, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a hot free school meal.



Every child is assigned to one of our four houses, which are named after our local churches:

- St. Peter's
- St. Paul's
- St. Teresa's
- St. Cedd's.

The Chatha family feel blessed by all the love and support from St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Nikki and Jag Chatha live in Seven Kings, Ilford with their sons, Amarvir, ten, Karamvir, eight, and Tejvir, three.

Happy atmosphere

Nikki and Jag originally chose St Aidan's for their eldest son, Amarvir, on the strength of its academic reputation and because the school had received a good report from Ofsted. But they quickly came to appreciate the happy atmosphere at St Aidan's and the way parents were encouraged to become involved with the school. "It is a small community where everyone knows everyone and you feel the warmth whenever you go in there," says Nikki. "It makes you want to stay for a while and talk to the other parents and to the teachers. St Aidan's is a very loving school and the teachers show that they really care about all the children."

Traumatic time

The Chatha family felt the full strength of that love and care at the time that they needed it most, when Amarvir became seriously ill. Nikki says: "He suddenly became very poorly when he was in Year Two and was quickly diagnosed with leukaemia, which, of course, was a terrible shock for us. As soon as I informed the school, we received fantastic support from them. He had only been in Year Two for three weeks but the head teacher and his class teacher immediately came to see him to cheer him up and brought him messages of support from his classmates. Their love and concern made all the difference to such a traumatic situation."

Extra support

Amarvir had to miss most of Year Two and was able to go back only part time in Year Three and Year Four. Nikki says: "He has now been given the all clear and is back at school full time. He has been given extra support by St Aidan's to help him make up for the time he has missed academically. The school have been absolutely fantastic throughout what has been a terrible time for us. The teachers offered us support during his illness and Amarvir's friends and their parents were also really caring and showed that they hadn't forgotten him."



Children say

Amarvir says: "I like my teacher and all my friends, who showed how much they cared about me when I was ill. They sent me 27 Get Well cards and encouraged me to come back to school when I was better. Playtime is so much fun because all the different years play together in the same playground." Karamvir says: "Playtime is so much fun because I love to play football in the playground."

National Curriculum

Key Stages

The National Curriculum at St. Aidan's is divided into three stages:

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

Nursery & Reception

Our nursery takes children from three years of age. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy

- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social and Emotional Education
- Languages.

Faith

Following the example of St. Aidan, our Patron Saint, we emphasise the importance of caring and learning by recognising Christ as central to all we do. We aim to create a caring Christian community as an extension of home, where the children know they are loved, feel confident and secure and become caring members of the community.

Mass

Mass is celebrated in school at the beginning and end of the school year and on all Holy Days of Obligation. Class Masses are held weekly and parents are invited to attend. Priests from the three parishes are welcome in the school and they often visit to lead school services. We also make frequent visits to our three parishes.

Keeping in touch with parents

Pupil progress is assessed regularly and achievement is recorded, and written reports are sent home during the year. Parents can make an appointment to discuss their child's education at any time. We also report to parents during the summer term, and parent evenings are held in the autumn and spring terms.



Why Soodesh and Valee selected St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy for their son Micah

Soodesh and Valee Chocken live in Newbury Park, Ilford with their children, Micah, five, Iravian, two, and Vaahini, seven months.

St. Aidan's top the list

Soodesh and Valee carefully studied the Ofsted reports of several schools when looking for a primary school for their son, Micah. "St. Aidan's came out top of the list for us," says Soodesh. "So you can imagine how elated we were when we knew Micah had been given a place at the school. Since he started he has been very happy and we are confident that we made the right decision."

Comforting atmosphere

Soodesh likens St. Aidan's to a security blanket because the school feels so comfortable. "It is like walking into my child's second home. The head teacher knows every child and every parent. There is always a friendly member of staff greeting you at the main entrance and providing a warm welcome to the school. I feel confident because the school has an open door policy for parents and will address every issue the child may have."

Catholic ethos

"I wanted to send my child to a Catholic school because of the discipline and educational methods they use and because I wanted Micah to develop a humble and giving attitude," Soodesh says. "The school has really lived up to my expectations and I am now very keen for Micah's younger brother and sister to follow him to St Aidan's."

"To any parent considering sending their child to St Aidan's, I would say that they can feel absolutely confident that the child will be in safe hands and get a head start in life. They won't just be taught to add up and read, they will be taught how to solve problems and use their creativity."



Children say

Micah says: "I love playing in the garden outside the classroom and when I am inside I love making models."

Our Curriculum



Extended curriculum:

Every year group experiences at least two off-site visits a year, these have included, Old MacDonalds Farm, Paradise Wildlife Park, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood and Redbridge Drama Centre. Throughout the school the children have extended their learning and knowledge with visits to Eastbury Manor, Colne Valley and the eagerly anticipated Year 6 residential at Kingswood Activity Centre.

Mantle of the Expert

We use Mantle of the Expert in our school to deliver a more exciting approach to learning. This type of enquiry based learning allows the children to develop their conceptual understanding through drama and real life situations.

Musical life of the school

Music is a very important part of life at St. Aidan's. Every child from Year 2 learns a musical instrument. Our choir and African drummers have performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

The O'Connor sisters have all blossomed in the jolly atmosphere of St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Donna and Danny O'Connor live in Newbury Park, Ilford with their daughters, Kiera, Cliona and Caoimhe.

Mixing well in the playground

Donna says the whole atmosphere at St. Aidan's is jolly. "There is a real buzz about the place and the playground is a good place to make friends, with older years looking after the younger children and different year groups playing together. All the parents know each other because of the inclusive nature of the school. There are lots of Mums to call on if I need someone to pick up my children in an emergency. Everyone is very supportive and if a child falls over on the way into school you see other parents rush to help."

Getting the best out of pupils

St. Aidan's helps children to achieve their best possible results by providing the right support, Donna says. "Each child is looked at as an individual and treated according to their needs. All my girls are different, my eldest one, who is now at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School, responds well to praise and encouragement, my middle one is intelligent but needs pushing and my youngest one needs cajoling. The school knew how to get the very best out of all of them."

Musical education

Donna says St. Aidan's has a strong musical tradition. "I liked the way Cliona's class learnt the violin as a group for three consecutive years. They all received free music lessons, so no one was left out. I loved going to their concerts and hearing the class all playing together. They sounded fantastic."



Children say

Caoimhe says: "I like the way all the Year Six children come to talk to us in the playground. If they see someone on their own without friends they'll come and play with them. I enjoy Maths and particularly like learning different ways to work out the answers. I like it when we get the chance to add our answers to the Maths wall."

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Pastoral care

Our system of pastoral care and behavior management follows Christ's three-fold ministry of:

- affirming
- strengthening
- healing.

Additional educational needs

We recognise that children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as having learning difficulties, being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.

We are committed to providing high quality provision and support for all pupils regardless of ability. There will be regular reviews to check progress. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged.

Cultural Diversity and languages

We ensure that each member of the school community, which is made up of a rich variety of cultures and backgrounds, experience support, tolerance, respect and understanding within our school.

We regularly celebrate the different cultures within our school, in assembly and in learning the Language of the Half-Term. All children in Key Stage Two learn Spanish.



Clubs



There is a full programme of clubs and activities to enhance the school curriculum, and give the pupils opportunities to succeed in other areas.

Activities include:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Sports Clubs | Creative Arts | Other |
| • Football (girls) | • Orchestra | • Chess |
| • Football (boys) | • Choir | • Computing |
| • Athletics | • Recorders | • Rosary |
| • Brazilian Jujitsu | • Sewing | • Nurture Group |
| • Netball | | • Maths Whizz |
| • Gaelic Football | | |



Fiona's three children have all thrived in the friendly atmosphere of St. Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Fiona and Mario Palumbo live in Newbury Park, Ilford with their three children, Nancy, 12, Giuseppe, 10, and Elsie, six.

Good mix of families

Fiona says: "I was lucky that St. Aidan's had been recommended to me by my church as the first choice primary school to go to and I had also heard from another parent that the school catered for a good mix of people. But it was only after I had sat outside the gates and watched the families coming out looking so happy that I knew it was the right school for my children."

Success built by staff

Fiona likes the fact that St. Aidan's is a small school with just a two-form entry. "It is a very cosy, friendly place with plenty of good staff who take the trouble to get to know all the children. I think the success of the school lies in its history of recruiting good teachers and then managing to hold on to them and the staff all benefit from good leadership from the head teacher."

Pupils treated as individuals

St. Aidan's has also recognised that all three of my children are very different," says Fiona. "Giuseppe is very easy going and nothing worries him. He is clever but he is currently struggling with his writing, so his teacher is giving him extra writing work at the moment."

"I am impressed with the way Elsie's teacher understands her and has learnt how to get the best out of her. She has realised Elsie likes to be active and allows her to go out for a run if she feels she needs it. I am pleased to say that all three of my children have been very happy at the school."

Choice of after school activities

Fiona thinks that St. Aidan's provides very good after school clubs for the children. "I think it is great that the teachers volunteer their time to run the clubs," says Fiona. "Giuseppe loves chess and Elsie enjoys doing keep fit after school."



Children say

Nancy says: "When I was at St. Aidan's I really liked the after school clubs, such as netball and choir. There was always loads of stuff to do. I loved the fact that the whole school was like a community and that everyone knew each other and I am pleased that I came out of it with very good results in the SATs."

Admissions



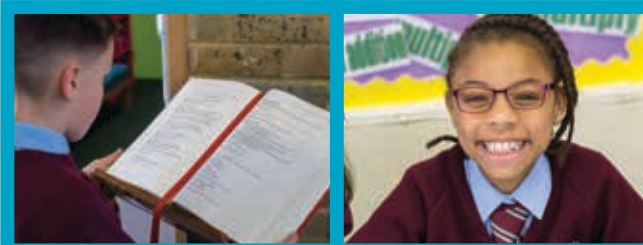
Applications Common Application Form

Parents wishing to apply for a place for their child must complete a Common Application Form (CAF) available online from 1st September 2013. The Common Application Form (CAF) must be submitted to the Children's Services Authority (CSA), Lynton House, Ilford.

This form may be completed on-line at www.redbridge.gov.uk/eadmissions by the closing date as determined by the CSA.

Supplementary Information Form

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) available online at www.redbridge.gov.uk/eadmissions also must be completed and returned to the school by the closing date as determined by the CSA.



Catholic families

Catholic families should complete the Diocesan Priest's Reference Form available from St. Aidan's and return it to the school by the closing date. Families from other faiths should complete the Other Christian Traditions and Other Faith Applicants Reference Form which is available in the London Borough of Redbridge booklet or on line at www.redbridge.gov.uk/eadmissions

This should also be returned to the school by the closing date.

Getting involved



Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives appointed by the Bishop of Brentwood, parents and staff. When a parent vacancy occurs all eligible persons will be notified.

St. Aidan's Friends Association (SAFA)

Every parent is automatically a member of SAFA. However if you are interested in joining the SAFA committee to take a more active role in raising funds for the school, please contact the SAFA Chair via the school office.





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