



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Learn Together and Grow in God's Love.



# Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The ethos of our school is Christ-centred, where a sense of a welcoming community is encouraged and where Christian values are promoted. At the centre of all school activities lies our aim to help children deepen their faith and grow in the love of God.

## Foreword: Catherine Green, Headteacher

It is an honour to welcome you to our marvellous school. A school where Christ's love is reflected in all that we teach and in all that we learn.

### Lifelong learning

We are committed to delivering high standards of education for our children, so that they develop a lifelong love of learning. Through such a love of learning, children will be more likely to reach their potential and excel in and out of school.

### God's love

The school operates within a Catholic context. Our motto is "To learn together and grow in God's love". As such, we respect the dignity of the individual child, because each person is called by God to be the best that he or she is capable of being. We also have excellent links with the parish of St Joseph's and attend Mass at St Joseph's Church.



### Inclusive, family school

We pride ourselves on being a very safe, inclusive school, where children are free to make mistakes and learn. We have a commitment to all families - including those for whom English is a second language - who have different faiths and come from different cultures.

### Parent partnership

Another important part of our school, is you, the parent! You will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, that you and your child 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.

### Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our wonderful 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 contact the school office on 020 8858 4182.

## Mark feels very fortunate that his old school is giving his children the same excellent start in life as it gave him

Mark Roubians and his wife, Winnie, live in Greenwich with their six children, three of whom are currently studying at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Sophie is 11, Dominic eight and Toby, six.

### Back to the family roots

Mark and his family recently moved back to London from Ireland, where they had lived for fifteen years. Having grown up in Charlton, Mark felt that area was somewhere he would be happy to return to and so he and Winnie set about finding schools for the children. "We obviously looked at several different schools but I was particularly keen on St Joseph's as it is where I had spent my own primary education," he explains. "I had been very happy there, so when I found out that my previous form teacher was now the Head Teacher it was a wonderful surprise! She had always been a bright light at the school so our final decision was easy to make."

### Home/school communication

"One thing which has impressed me is the excellent home/school

communication and the teachers are very good at keeping us in touch with anything we need to know. The teachers are all approachable and helpful and having had experience of other schools, I know that is not always the case."

### High standards

"It has expanded over the years and there are new, purpose-built classrooms to accommodate the increased demand for places. There are two lovely big, modern playgrounds and the whole school is in a lovely setting, only a few minutes walk from where we live."

### Children say:

Sophie: "I've enjoyed many new experiences especially adventure week."

Dominic: "I've learnt about a lot of things and made good friends."

Toby: "I like school it is fun!"



“There are two lovely big, modern playgrounds and the whole school is in a lovely setting”



# School day

## School hours

Gates open: 8.40  
School starts: 8.50  
Home time: 3.15

## Uniform

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school and by wearing it children quickly feel part of the community. School uniform lists can be obtained by contacting the school office.

## School meals and snacks

Hot nutritious school meals are available, and children can also bring in a packed lunch. Reception, year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals.

At morning break-time, there is free fruit for children in Reception and Key stage 1.

Ring the bell to  
start the school day



## Roseline wanted Christianity to be at the heart of her children's education and she has found that and more at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Roseline Noubissie has three children at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Beverley, ten, Cindy, nine and eight-year-old William.

### A favourable first impression

"I liked the fact that it was quite a small school and I was struck by the welcoming atmosphere and the friendly teachers," she says, "so it was an easy decision to make."

### Language skills

"As we are a French-speaking household, Beverley only started picking up a bit of English when she started Nursery just before she was three," Roseline explains. "For that reason she was at a bit of a disadvantage when she started in Reception... I was really pleased with how the teachers addressed the situation, and Beverley's progress has hardly been affected."

### Community spirit

Roseline's Christian faith is a very important part of her life and she welcomes the way in which St Joseph's school puts this at the heart of its offer. "The children attend Church once a week and prayers are a regular part of the school day... All in all, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School addresses virtually all of the criteria I was looking

for as a primary educational setting for my children."

### Children say:

William: "The school is fun and we learn a lot. I particularly like literacy; when our teacher reads us a book and then asks us to write about it. I also enjoy doing maths at school because it's fun and it feels good. I also like playtime."

Cindy: "The activities are quite fun. It's not always work and work. We have time to go outside and have fresh air. Some of the work involves games like bingo: it's a game that involves timestables; even though we have to concentrate it's quite fun."

Beverley: "I like the fact that it's a sporty school (we do a lot of physical activities). Even though we work hard we still have time to play. I have lots of friends. If someone new comes to the school, that person is always welcomed by all the children. When a child first comes to school, the teacher helps them to gradually learn the routine. I also like the fact that we go on a lot of trips where we learn different things."

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# Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

**Early Years Foundation Stage:**  
from ages 0-5

**Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7

**Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11



## Reception

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:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.

## Readathon

We love 'Readathon', where children are encouraged to read without test or evaluation...just for fun. And prizes for reading are... books!



# Lee wanted Christianity to be at the heart of his daughter's education, and he has found exactly that at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Lee Foster and his wife, Prudencia, live in Greenwich with their daughters Yulee, 20, Charlene, 18 and Rachel nine, in Year 4 at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Lee is an Extraordinary Ecumenical Minister in the Catholic Church.

## More than one priority

"We did consider other schools, including secular ones, as we wanted to make sure we made the right decision for Rachel," says Lee, "but in the end it was always going to be St Joseph's. Out of all the schools we looked at, it had everything going for it – it is small and friendly, near to where we live and it has a very strong Christian ethos."

## A safe and happy environment

"Rachel is doing very well indeed, just as well as I could hope for and she has a good relationship with her teachers as well as her fellow students. A school which provides a good

education as well as a happy and safe environment has to be what every parent could want."

## Celebrating faith

"There are so many positives but the school's connection with the Church has to be close to the top of the list. Although other faiths are represented and celebrated within the school, and rightly so, Christianity is at the heart of St Joseph's and that is extremely important to me and my family. I have seen the school's links with the church becoming stronger in the years that Rachel has been going there and as far as I am concerned that makes it even better."



“Out of all the schools we looked at, it had everything going for it – it is small and friendly...and it has a very strong Christian ethos”



# Extended curriculum

## Shakespeare for Schools

### Shakespeare for Schools

Every year the school takes part in the Shakespeare for Schools programme, where pupils perform a specially adapted Shakespeare play.

#### One of the first

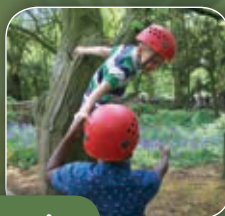
In 2011, we were one of the first primary schools to take part and performed Macbeth. The productions are held at Greenwich Theatre. All parents attend the show.

## Music and creativity

Music is an integral part of the life of the school and weaves throughout the school day. For example, violin, cello and guitar lessons are offered. We also now run our own music scholarship fund for talented musicians and in Year 6 pupils are encouraged to play music with others through the Greenwich Music Opportunities programme.

## Albert Hall and Thames Festival

Year 5 attended the Children's Proms, and are now involved in the Dr Barnardo's production of one thousand voices at the Royal Albert Hall. Our choir also took part in the Thames Festival, and sang at the Waldorf Hotel in London to raise money for Dr Barnardo's.



Wrotham trip

## Creativity

We encourage creative expression and our enhanced curriculum also helps children to explore dance, drama and P.E.

## Trips and visits

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and visits, including:

- Wrotham trip
- Swanage trip

- Fire Service visit
- Transport Museum trip using the Thames Clipper
- Maritime Museum trip, to take part in 'Pirates Day'
- Tower of London trip to take part in the Kathryn Howard Project.
- Albert Hall trip
- ice skating
- Southend trip
- Bewl Water trip.

## Outdoor Pursuits

In partnership with Widehorizons, the whole school has taken part in a range of activities across the academic year, from Year 3 spending three days at a residential centre in Kent to explore the countryside, to Year 4 having a sleepover and Year 6 bonding as a group of students in Swanage.

# Tina knows how much her children have to offer society, and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is helping to break down the prejudice barrier

All six of Tina's children have been to St Joseph's, with Kathleen, 11, and young Tina, eight, still enjoying the benefits of a school which has, says their mum, made a huge difference to their lives.

The Purcells come from a long line of Irish travelling families and whilst Tina and her children still live as travellers, they have been settled in Greenwich for many years.

## Busting the Traveller myth

St Joseph's was Tina's choice of school for her children partly because her brothers went there in the 80's and 90's, partly for its good local reputation and partly because of its status as a Catholic faith school.

"There are a huge amount of misconceptions about Irish travellers, one of which is that our girls don't go to secondary school because they get married and have families early," Tina says. "In fact, a big reason why many travelling girls leave the system after primary education is the fact that they are often bullied very badly because of their heritage. At St Joseph's, racial bullying is not tolerated in any way, shape or form, and when my children first went there any potential bullying

was quashed immediately and we have never had any problems since that time."

## Understanding and acceptance

"As travellers, we are not just accepted but are encouraged to play a part in school and community life," Tina says. "As part of the school's multicultural awareness programme, I have given talks and demonstrations about our way of life and even sung on stage!"

## Support in any circumstances

"We have been supported in so many ways, not only within the school remit but in terms of practical things, too. The Headteacher has attended events with me to support my disabled son, helped to get a Statement of Special Educational Needs in place for him, turned up on a Sunday to cheer on the Irish Dance group at the V&A Museum and has even interceded with utility companies when our gas supply froze in the Winter."

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# Inclusion: a curriculum for all

## Special Educational 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. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.

## Access

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

## 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.

## Cultural diversity

We feel that it is important for children to be aware of and understand, other cultures. Such variety within school brings great enrichment to the teaching and learning that takes place.





# Clubs



There are a wide variety of clubs that children can join, during class, lunchtime and after school. Options often include:

- Swimming
- Basketball
- Music
- Football
- Film Club
- Drama Club
- Computer Club
- Athletics

## Dance: Irish and Step Dance

Our amazing Irish Dancing Team have attended Christmas parties, St Patrick's Day Events and the Victoria and Albert Museum to launch the beginning of Gypsy Roma Traveller Month.

Step Dance is a recent addition to St Joseph's, but it is proving extremely popular and really helping to engage all the children and motivate them to be more energetic.

## P.E

We have a specialist P.E teacher who supports our programme of Sport for All, including:

- Active Kids, an activity programme that encourages all children to be willing participants in outdoor activities
- Swimming programme, offered to all children Years 3-5
- Lunchtime girls and boys football clubs from Charlton Football Club, and we also have an after school football club.



## Joan's Christian faith and her dedication to her children are reflected in her choice of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Joan Ezigbo and her children Joshua, 12, Sarah, 10 and Cindy, nine, live in Greenwich.

### Weighing up the options

"I think I was so fortunate to find St Joseph's because it encompassed everything I was looking for, even though I hadn't really considered its academic rating at first – which actually turned out to be an added bonus!"

### Tolerance and acceptance

"My children have been brought up as Catholics but I would not want them to be narrow-minded about religion. I like that they come home and tell me what they have learned about other people's religion and culture, and that they are accepting of other people's beliefs because of what they are being taught."

### Passionate about music

Something else which Joan passionately appreciates is St Joseph's dedication to music, both its appreciation and its tuition. "Giving all children the chance to learn an instrument is a wonderful

thing," she believes. "Being able to play the violin, as my son does, or any of a range of other instruments the school provides free of charge, is a valuable skill in itself but it also helps children in other ways."

### From the heart

"I can say from my heart that I feel happy to entrust my children to St Joseph's. The values the school upholds are those which are also important to me and I am confident that there is nowhere else I would rather have chosen."

### Children say:

Joshua: "I felt accepted in St. Joseph and was happy to be there. I also felt that the staff cared about us."

Sarah: "I like that my school encourages us to be open minded about exploring new ideas and try out new things."

Cindy: "I am happy that I can be as creative as I can in class during activities and also in the after-school clubs."



**“The values the school upholds are those which are also important to me and I am confident that there is nowhere else I would rather have chosen.”**



# Admissions



The school exists primarily to serve the Catholic community and Catholic children always have priority of admission. However, the Governing Body welcomes all applications, particularly from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

## Visit the school

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our school are invited to visit and look around at any time.

## Common Application Form

The Local Authority Admission's Office deals with the Common Application Form (CAF). Contact details for Local Authority Admissions are:

Tel: 020 8921 8043

Email: [school-admissions@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:school-admissions@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

Web: [www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/homepage/30/school\\_admissions](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/homepage/30/school_admissions)

## Supplementary Information Form

In addition to CAF supplied by the Local Authority, the Supplementary Information Form (available from the school) must be completed and sent to the school office not later than the closing date published by the Local Authority. This should be done even if the CAF is completed online. This form needs to be completed by candidates who wish to be considered under the faith criteria.



You are advised to make two copies of the forms. You should retain one copy and pass the second copy to the school or your priest, as indicated.

# Getting involved



## Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives of diocese, parents, teachers and the Local Education Authority. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.

## Do you want to be a Governor?

If you want to be a school governor, please contact the school office.





# How to find us



## School aims

- providing a stable, happy and secure school environment.
- ensuring Equal Opportunities for all, irrespective of culture, race, colour, class and gender.
- catering for the individual needs and development of each child.
- encouraging understanding and dialogue in the home, school and parish.
- providing multi-cultural curriculum which promotes self-esteem and respect for one another's background.
- promoting an interest and enthusiasm in all areas of the curriculum.
- enabling pupils to develop qualities of perseverance, self-discipline and hard work.
- enabling children to begin to develop attitudes and values which will lead them to become happy and responsible adults and help them become independent learners.



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