

ST. JOSEPH'S, GEORGE ROW

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1912

Prospectus 2023 - 2024



Headteacher's Welcome

Mr Coffey

Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, an exceptional school for children from Nursery to Year 6 in the heart of Bermondsey. Since its foundation in 1912, St. Joseph's has inspired generations of children to fulfil their dreams and potential. It is my privilege to serve as the Headteacher of such a wonderful school and be a part of the St. Joseph's family.

Our aim at St. Joseph's is to **ignite** your child's love of learning, helping them to **flourish** in all that they do and to **connect** as part of our family. Our school's charism, "**Faith through Action**", is a call for us to work in **harmony** with all those in our community. These aims, along with the Gospel Values of our Mission Statement and the principles of Catholic Social teaching, guide us in all that we do in our school.

Here at St. Joseph's, we are blessed to have such an expansive, well-cared and flexible school site which provides the perfect environment for our children to learn and grow together. We pride ourselves on enabling all of our children to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their development: spiritual, academic, personal, cultural, social, emotional and moral.

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little more about us through our school prospectus and know that visits are always available – We'd be delighted to welcome you here at St. Joseph's to get to know us even better!

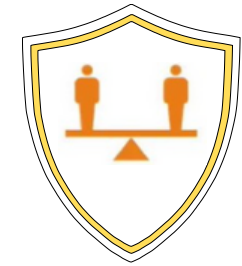
Mr Coffey



Dignity



Solidarity



The Common Good



Peace



Creation and the Environment



Dignity of Work



Option for the Poor



Early Years: Nursery (3+) and Reception (4+)

Children begin their journey at St. Joseph's in our Nursery or Reception Classes. A child's first experience of school is vital, which is why we continually guide you and your child during these times.

We know that children learn best through play and our ever-evolving learning environment supports the children to learn and discover, both independently and with the support of an adult facilitating their understanding. The children are encouraged to see the magic and joy of learning in every aspect of the curriculum.

The children have the opportunity to actively explore between inside and outside environments. We believe these are just as important as each other and compliment their ongoing development as independent, motivated learners. Children are encouraged to follow their own interests and use their initiative to learn and explore.

At St. Joseph's, we have large indoor and outdoor learning environments, that stimulate the children. The children are given hands-on experience to support their learning. The adults in the setting support the children within their play to allow every child to make progress and flourish in a vocabulary rich setting.

Our children become part of the school life as soon as they enter our building, becoming a member of one of our four Houses, which run throughout the entire school. They also have the opportunity to partake in school events such as; House Day, Nativities, Sports Day and much more! Children in Reception also attend whole school assemblies.

Throughout the year, we provide opportunities for the parents to come in to partake in the children's learning or watch special events to mark the children's progress!





Key Stage One: Year 1 and Year 2

Key Stage One continues to build on the secure foundation established in Reception. The children move towards a more formal approach to teaching with many practical, hands on, learning opportunities. We encourage the pupils to develop and build upon their skills in all areas of the school life. They have opportunities to share their achievements in assemblies, in class and with the Senior Leadership in the school, something they take great pride in!

Within the structured school day, pupils gain independence, resilience and enthusiasm for learning. Focused support is given to the children to enable them to flourish and reach their greatest potential. The teachers work alongside you and the children to support the children throughout their learning journey.

Our innovative and exciting curriculum engages pupils in their learning and ensures they make progress. Through engaging and stimulating lessons, the children develop a passion for learning and continue to develop their own interests.

Following Reception, we continue to teach Phonics using the Little Wandle scheme and the children also participate in small guided reading sessions.

Throughout their time at St. Joseph's the children partake in Music lessons, taught by our specialist music teacher. Additionally, each class gets the opportunity to have some of their PE sessions taught by a specialist coach through our partnership with the London PE Network who provide expertise across hundreds of schools.



OFSTED

(September 2021)



"In the early years, children are encouraged to become confident and successful learners. Pupils display consistently positive attitudes to their learning."

"The school is a very calm place. Pupils learn the importance of doing their best and persevering."

"The wide range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural opportunities is a strength... For example, they are encouraged to be custodians of the world in which they live and to appreciate the importance of fundamental British values"





Key Stage Two: Years 3 - 6

Key Stage Two continues to build on the progress the children have made in Key Stage One. The children continue to regularly have access to our purpose-built computing suite, which has the capacity for all of the children within the class to access their own computer. Within the classroom, the children become more independent in their research, accessing the iPads to further enhance their learning. In addition, the children have new opportunities within the curriculum while in Years 3 and 4, the children have swimming lessons at a local pool with specialist swimming teachers. Additionally, all children begin learning French, whilst continuing to develop their understanding in all of the other subjects based on the National Curriculum.

As children progress through Key Stage Two, they have further opportunities to become more involved in the wider life of the school. This includes participating in Service (supporting younger children once a week with their learning), becoming prefects, supporting at school events, becoming members of the Spiritual Life Committee and leading assemblies. The children are also given opportunities to be involved in the community, through Carol Singing or working on projects that support our local area. At St. Joseph's, we pride ourselves in supporting the children to develop an understanding of supporting others and having a sense of responsibility.

The in-depth, progressive and systematic scheme of work allows children to make cross-curricular links and there is an immersive experience to hook them into a topic. The children find the lessons engaging and enjoy the opportunities to learn about a wide variety of topics built on a proven pedagogy and supported by stunning resources.





Beyond St. Joseph's

Your child's learning journey continues beyond St. Joseph's. Having had an excellent grounding in all National Curriculum subjects, plus many additional opportunities, the children in St. Joseph's go onto many of the highly competitive and sought after schools within our local community.

The schools named are where the majority of our pupils go, once they leave St. Joseph's having completed their primary school education.

Beyond the Classroom - Extra Curricular Activities

At St. Joseph's, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities for children. The wonderful staff at St. Joseph's run lunch time and after school clubs for the children to experience more beyond the classroom. We also have some specialist clubs, run by members outside of our school community.

These opportunities enhance the learning for many children and give everyone the chance to shine and be nurtured to develop new skills and interests. The clubs vary year on year, depending on the children's interests as well as the expertise of the staff running the clubs. Popular clubs include; Art, Baking, Basketball, Chess and Gardening Club.



Beyond the Classroom - Curriculum Enrichment

Curriculum Enrichment provides opportunities for the children to have a wider understanding of the world around them, beyond the curriculum. The children participate in various celebrations or learn about important days throughout the year. These include Mental Health Awareness, Recycling Week, Children in Need. A highlight from 2023 was the King's Coronation, in which the children had the opportunity to be on ITV News and in the Southwark News! Parents are also invited to contribute when they have particular interest or expertise.





Beyond the Classroom - Day Trips, Workshops and Residential

To enhance the curriculum, the children are given immersive opportunities to bring their learning to life. This begins with the three years old in our Nursery! The children go out on day trips, to enhance their learning of topics or attend workshops within the school building that have been organised. When the children are towards the end of their time with us at St. Joseph's, they attend a residential for five days, developing skills of resilience, teamwork and independence. The trips are always a highlight of the children's journey at St. Joseph's.



Houses

At St. Joseph's, we further encourage a sense of belonging through our House System. The children are part of the same House for their entire school journey and develop relationships across year groups with children in the same House. They collaboratively work together to gain House Points for achievements and participate in some school events within their Houses - a family within the St. Joseph's family.



Pupil Voice and Responsibilities

We recognise and value the importance of pupils' voices and provide constant opportunities that enable the children to develop this. The children can become members of our School Council, Green Team and Spiritual Life Committee. Children who are not in these specific roles will be able to pass on their ideas to the representatives as well as their teachers. These roles all give opportunities for children to express how they wish to move the school forward and focus on events to support the school. Our Year Six pupils also have the opportunity to become leaders, enact change and inspire those around them in preparation for life ahead of primary school, by becoming House Captains and Prefects.



Life at St. Joseph's

Life at St. Joseph's encompasses a huge amount. Beyond our curriculum and trips, the children participate in events throughout the year such as Sports Day. They also give various performances, from the Nativity and Carol Concerts to a Leavers' Assembly. Parents are invited to many events. Each class will create and deliver a Class Assembly throughout the year. Other events include end of topic celebrations, choir and drama performances and Medieval Banquets! Parents are also invited to attend Mass, which the children attend and support in leading throughout the year at our parish church, The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, and even at St. George's Cathedral!





Catholic Life

The school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1912, is a proud member of the community of schools within the Archdiocese of Southwark and we are part of SELCAT, the South East London Catholic Academy Trust. At St. Joseph's, we aim to grow and learn together within a loving and caring environment which reflects the Gospel values. Our Houses; Faith, Hope, Peace and Mercy are not simply titles, but virtues which the children are encouraged to live out each day in their thoughts, words and actions. We encourage all the children to reach their full potential in all aspects of their education and to develop as members of our community. We are driven and energised by Jesus' example and strive each day to embody His teachings. St. Joseph's prides itself on the responsibilities children are given, informed by the concepts of Catholic Social Teaching and in our collective aim to lead our community in creating a kind, compassionate and loving family of children, parents and staff. Our aim is to work in partnership with our parent community to inspire the children to be beacons of light for all of us.

The Grounds at St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's has wonderful grounds, with a newly refurbished playground and astroturf. The children also have access to an amphitheatre and maze area in which they can grow plants as well as food, a move towards a natural, forest-school environment which our children are leading. The school has a purpose-built library and computing suite. In addition to this, there is a nurture space to support children with additional needs or Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, as well as a specifically designed sensory room.





Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

As a school, we celebrate differences, recognise individuals and individualise the support given to the children. Our diverse community means that St Joseph's is a place that you can just be yourself and every child is celebrated for who they are and what qualities they bring to the rich tapestry of our school family. Diversity is central to our decisions and curriculum. The curriculum enrichment opportunities allow the children to learn about a variety of cultures, as well as the children having a sense of belonging. We encourage the parents to offer their expertise and come in to speak to the children about what makes their community, background or experiences special!





Parental Support and Engagement

Our main goal is to ensure every child has the opportunity to **flourish** along their journey and reach their potential. To support this, we work in partnership the parents to ensure we are supporting your child in the most appropriate way and giving them the tools they need to succeed.

Throughout the year, we run workshops to give you advice on how to support your children in certain topics.

Furthermore, there are opportunities for you to be involved in the school life through attending events, speaking to the children on particular topics, being an active member of our parent community, being involved in events such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs.

Parental Voice is key for us at St. Joseph's and this is achieved in a variety of ways; surveys, suggestions box and meetings.

Pastoral and Wellbeing

The wellbeing of the children underpins everything we do at St. Joseph's. We understand that a child needs to feel safe and secure to enable them to learn and fulfill their potential, which is why this is one of our top priorities. The relationships we build with the children are integral to our success. We work as a team to ensure each child is valued and listened to, whilst maintaining high expectations. The children are known individually and we work alongside you, the parents and carers, to ensure the support and provision is in place for the needs of your child's wellbeing. All members of staff support the children through pastoral conversations and helping them understand the choices they make have an impact on themselves and others.



Wrap Around Care

At St. Joseph's we run a Breakfast Club from 8am, for a small additional fee. All children are welcome to attend and are able to turn up on an ad-hoc basis. There is no need to register in advance. You will pay the agreed cost for the days that your child / children attend.

In addition to the Extra Curricular Activities, we have After School Club Care provision. This runs from 3:15pm until 5:45pm, Monday to Friday. There is an additional fee for this service and if you are interested in using the After School Club, you will need to submit your request.

Places are limited, however a certain number of places are reserved for children who are new to our setting. If a place is not available, you will be placed on a waiting list. Places are then offered when they become available.

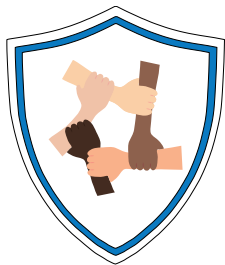


Dignity



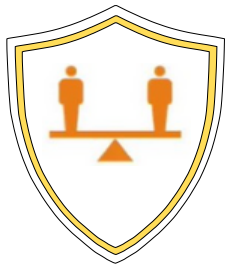
Everyone is special

Solidarity



Showing we care

The Common Good



Thinking of everyone

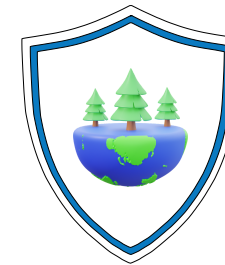
Peace



Being peacemakers

Caring for God's gifts

Creation and
the Environment

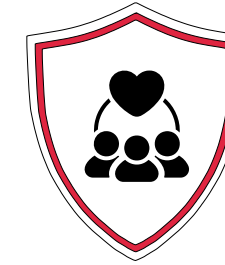


Dignity of Work



**Jobs and pay should
be fair**

Option for
the Poor



**Putting people in most need
first**



Admissions - Nursery

St. Joseph's is a government approved childcare provider and you are able to use 15 hour and 30 hour codes. For further information on how to apply for these codes, please visit the government website.

We admit 30 FTE pupils into the Nursery Class.

- a) The Governing Body is responsible for admissions into Nursery;
- b) Parents of children who are admitted for Nursery provision must apply for a place at the school if they want their child to transfer to the Reception class;
- c) Attendance at the Nursery does not guarantee admission to the school.

Admissions - Reception

The governing body has responsibility for admissions to this school and, having consulted with the local authority and other admission authorities, intends to admit 45 pupils to the Reception classes.

The Local Authority admissions website can be found at www.southwark.gov.uk.

Should you wish to apply for a place at St. Joseph's, please complete the supplementary form and return it directly to the school with the relevant supporting documentation. These forms can be downloaded below or are available at the school office.



Admissions - In Year Admissions

If you are looking for a school place during the year, outside the normal round of admissions, please contact us to arrange a tour and a meeting with our Headteacher. We will be able to discuss the places we have available and put you on the waiting list, if applicable.

These applications can be made directly to the school and will be allocated in accordance with the school's admissions criteria and processed as per Southwark's agreed protocol. In accordance with Southwark Council's in year protocol, any child who wishes to transfer from one Southwark school to another Southwark school must complete Southwark's in year application form. The applicant must then return the completed in year application form directly to the school they are applying to.

If a child is currently not attending a Southwark school and the family would like to apply for an in-year place at a Southwark school, they must complete Southwark LA's in year application form and return it to Southwark Council's school admissions team.



Book a tour today! Book online via our website, follow the QR Code or phone 020 7237 4267. We look forward to welcoming you.

Should you wish to apply for a place at St. Joseph's, please complete the supplementary form and return it directly to the school with the relevant supporting documentation. These forms can be downloaded on our school website or are available at the school office.

ST. JOSEPH'S, GEORGE ROW



To inspire, to flourish, to live in harmony and to give opportunities

020 7237 4267

