

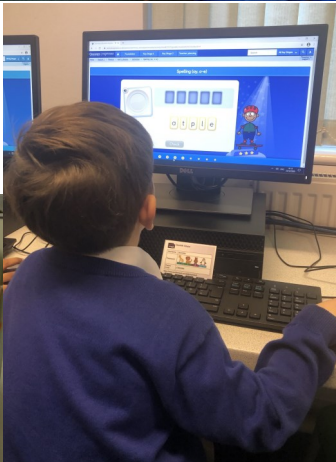


St Joseph's
Catholic Voluntary Academy,
Leicester



— ST THOMAS —
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



With God's Guidance, We Love,
Learn, Respect and Forgive





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It is my great pleasure to welcome you to St Joseph's Catholic Academy situated on the Eastern edge of Leicester. We are a 1.5 form entry school with a nursery class and our pupils come from a wide area within the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham. The school is not only a place of learning, but also a Christian community, sharing a faith, united in mutual respect and a sense of belonging.

Within the friendly-family atmosphere of the school community we promote Christian values of love, respect, and forgiveness, as revealed to us through the life of Jesus Christ. Our mission statement – ***'With God's Guidance We Love, Learn, Respect and Forgive'*** – captures our desire to follow the example of Christ in welcoming, nurturing and developing each individual as a unique and precious gift, created in the image of God. We recognise the dignity of every individual and seek to celebrate the ambitions and talents of all.

Staff and governors acknowledge parents/carers to be the first and foremost educators of their children and we aim to work in partnership with them to enable each child to thrive and flourish. Staff are committed in doing their very best to support each pupil to grow spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically.

We constantly strive for excellence in learning and recognise the importance of providing a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We plan learning opportunities based on the premise that every individual is capable of achieving and should be challenged to do their very best. We recognise the importance of nurturing positive relationships and encourage all of our pupils to develop a sense of self-respect, respect for others and for all life. We foster good learning habits and work to build an environment where self-esteem can flourish and pupils can learn self-reliance, together with the skills to promote independent learning. Ultimately, we aim to help our pupils become active, just and educated citizens who are fully prepared to assume their role in society today.

St Joseph's is a school we are all proud of. The governors, staff and I are committed to maintaining a happy and friendly learning environment where all members of the community can flourish and succeed.

We hope you enjoy exploring our school through this prospectus. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you require any further information.

Mrs Clair Dedman



School Vision, Aims and Intent

Vision Statement

Together we inspire one another to love, learn, respect and forgive, rooted and built up in Christ, so that every member of our school community can develop and flourish; united in mutual respect with a sense of belonging.

The aims of our curriculum are:

- ◆ To provide children with knowledge and skills to become confident individuals, independent learners and responsible members of the community.
- ◆ To prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- ◆ To engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.
- ◆ To provide real-life experiences and contexts.
- ◆ To nurture the whole child
- ◆ To provide spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- ◆ To prepare children for the diverse world they live in.

Our children will develop and be able:

- ◆ To show great resilience and will take risks with their learning.
- ◆ To transfer and apply the skills, knowledge and creativity to different areas of their life.
- ◆ To reflect, evaluate and improve their learning.
- ◆ To become life-long learners.
- ◆ To appreciate their own worth, feeling valued and, in turn, valuing others.
- ◆ To apply the knowledge and skills of mathematics they have acquired through the sequence of learning.
- ◆ To read widely, and be read to, for enjoyment and to enable them to access the full curriculum offer
- ◆ To acquire new vocabulary and meaning to stimulate their thinking.



Curriculum Intent

At St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we believe that all children are entitled to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is challenging to their ability and enables them to reach their potential regardless of their starting point. Education should prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and activities of adult life and, therefore, we believe that a strong relationship between home and school is vital. By engaging with parents, we aim to improve the outcomes for every aspect of the child's life. The overall aim for the school is to produce well-balanced pupils in a caring Christian community.

It is our intent that children should leave St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy having experienced a wide range of learning experiences that have challenged them, encouraged independence, thought and a passion for life-long learning with the cultural capital to be educated citizens with the knowledge and skills for future learning and employment. Teachers in school believe it is their responsibility to be passionate advocates and experts of learning and teaching; creating an environment that allows pupils to focus on learning.



Broad Balanced Relevant Challenging Opportunities Responsibility Caring Independence Life-Long Learning

Catholic Life



Catholic Life

All pupils appreciate, value and actively participate in the Catholic Life and Mission of the school; reviewing the Mission yearly, through Mission days and living this out daily. Pupils participate in the school's evaluation of its Catholic Life by being given the opportunity to articulate their vision of how to improve Catholic Life at St Joseph's

Pupils at St Joseph's care about themselves and others, behaviour is good at all times; living out our Mission to Love, Learn, Respect and Forgive. Pupils are given roles and responsibilities and good behaviours are rewarded.

The children at St Joseph's are regularly involved in activities which promote the Catholic Life and Mission of the school both within school and the wider community. The children regularly participate in fundraising events; supporting local and world charities. Children care for each other and regularly support one another within their classes and across year groups.

The school has secure parish links and regularly supports others beyond the school. The children at St Joseph's recognise the importance of using one's gifts in the service of others; reflected in their school work and charitable acts.

Religious Education

Through the teaching of Religious Education in our school we aim to promote:

- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of Catholic Faith and Life;
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose;
- ◆ The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

The objectives of curriculum education in our school are:

- ◆ To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the

Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold;

- ◆ To develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith;
- ◆ The first opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel;
- ◆ To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils;
- ◆ To develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically;
- ◆ To acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements;
- ◆ To foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, or moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school for all pupils, whatever their own particular faith background, and forms the heart of every school celebration. Praying together is part of the daily experience for all pupils and staff. The experience of living and working in a faithful, praying community has a positive impact on the spiritual and moral development of many pupils, irrespective of ability or faith background. They have a well-developed sense of respect for those of other faith.



Mission Religious Education Catholic Life Collective Worship RSHE A Journey in Love

Communication, English and the Arts



English: At St Joseph's we provide high-quality opportunities for our children to ensure they leave the school with a solid foundation where they can speak and write fluently and where they can explore the rich and varied literature and develop a life-long love of reading.

The basis for the delivery of English is the National Curriculum, the aims of which are to ensure that all pupils:

- ◆ read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- ◆ develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- ◆ acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- ◆ appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- ◆ write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- ◆ use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- ◆ are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

The English Curriculum is delivered drawing on support from the Lancashire Thematic Booklet. Each unit includes English units that are linked with the topic being studied to enrich the children's learning and give them a basis from which they can draw and develop ideas.

Art and Design : We believe that art is an essential part of our pupil's education and has an important and valuable role in the taught curriculum, as well as the enrichment opportunities we offer our pupils. Our art curriculum will develop children's critical abilities and their understanding of cultural heritages through studying a diverse range of male and female artists.

Children will develop their grasp of the visual language of art with effective teaching and a considered sequence of lessons and experiences. Understanding of the visual elements of art and design will be developed by providing a curriculum which will enable children to reach their full potential.

The skills and knowledge that children will develop throughout each art topic are mapped across each year group and throughout the school to ensure progression. Through an emphasis of knowledge, children understand the context of the artwork, as well as the artists that they are learning about and being inspired by. This enables links to other curriculum areas, including RE, with children developing a considerable knowledge of individual artists as well as individual works and art movements. A focus on skills means that children are given opportunities to express their creative imagination, as well as practise and develop mastery in the key processes of art: drawing, painting, printing, textiles and sculpture.

Music : The children at St Joseph's are exposed to a wide range of musical experiences and develop an appreciation of different genres and music from around the world.

We teach our children to develop the highest forms of creativity whilst learning to appraise, love and appreciate music to increase their self – confidence and sense of achievement.



Art and Design Music Dance Drama Creativity Writing Reading

Experiences Beyond The Classroom

Our Geography Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. At St Joseph's we ensure that all students are exposed to rich learning experiences both in and out of the classroom and we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- ◆ A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes.
- ◆ Develop the use of geographical language and vocabulary.
- ◆ Promote collaboration and developing a general sense of enquiry, which encourages them to question and make suggestions.
- ◆ Build on our student's natural curiosity and develop a geographical awareness of their surroundings but also what is in the wider world.

Make links between geography and other subjects.

Create a culture of high aspirations which will allow our students a platform to learn about careers related to Geography in the wider community with specialist skills and knowledge, ensuring that they are well prepared for the next steps of their education.

- ◆ Develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations.
- ◆ Instil and understand the values of our society and how we can protect our environment and world for years to come.

It is of the utmost importance that children gain knowledge and understanding of the history of the United Kingdom, the wider world and their local area, thereby giving them an understanding of how they fit in to the world and ensuring children feel like they belong.

Teaching and learning of History at St Joseph's equips pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, soft arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups. It also helps children gain a sense of their own identity within a social, political, cultural and economic background. Because of this, we feel it is important for the subject to be taught discretely as well as incorporated within other curriculum subjects such as English and Art.

Memories of school educational trips are among the most prominent of the formative years, largely because it is a time when pupils and teachers are able to explore the curriculum in a way which is not possible on the school site. While their purpose is to educate, they can also be a fun bonding experience for everyone involved.

Educational trips, visits and experiences reinforce as well as inspire pupil's learning. They provide the children with opportunities to socialise on a different level and expose the pupils to worlds beyond their own. The children learn the importance of communication, curiosity and engagement beyond what they already know as well as providing new insights into other people's passions and interests.

Residential Visits provide many benefits in gaining a new perspective on the world. This is true as we travel further away from home and come directly into contact with different environments and dialects; pupils can better understand their place in the community and develop an openness to differences in others.

All of our trips and visits enhance and provide a depth of learning beyond the school to provide amazing experiences for our pupils.



Visits Visitors Experimental Learning Enrichment Pupil Leadership Exploration Discovery Community Team Work



Maths, Science, Sport and Physical Education

We teach Maths to provide children with a toolkit of strategies and skills to apply to a broad range of Mathematic concepts that are not only applicable within the classroom, but also in everyday life. We endeavour to ensure our children enjoy and engage fully within every Maths lesson and are challenged throughout, working to their full potential through hands on, real life learning opportunities. We have adapted and tailored the 'White Rose' scheme of work, creating a bespoke curriculum fully aligned with the 2014 National Curriculum for Maths so that our children :

- ◆ become **fluent** in the fundamentals of Mathematics, including through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time, so that pupils develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately.
- ◆ **reason mathematically** by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language.
- ◆ can **solve problems** by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions.

Our teaching of Maths is designed so that every child can develop and achieve their full potential. We endeavour to not only develop the Mathematics skills and understanding required for later life, but also to foster an enthusiasm and fascination about Maths itself. We aim to increase pupils' confidence in Maths, so they are able to express themselves and their ideas using the language of Maths with assurance. We pride ourselves on a 'can do' and 'the answer isn't important, it's the reasons how and why' attitude towards Maths. If children feel they can't do it, the sentence is always followed with YET! "We can't do it yet!" This makes children believe they will be able to do it; they just haven't quite learnt all the skills they need to solve the problem, yet. This growth mind-set approach towards Maths helps all children to achieve more than they believe they can.

Science: We teach Science as it provides the foundations for understanding the world and ensures our pupils have a greater depth of knowledge about the world we live in. We teach Science through the development of knowledge, skills and processes of scientific enquiry. Our pupils learn about concepts based on Biology, Chemistry and Physics and are supported through wider opportunities such as class projects, themed days, visitors and outdoor opportunities. We are lucky enough to have a large school ground with opportunities for outdoor learning and outdoor activities are planned where appropriate. Our pupils apply the knowledge and skills they have learnt to practical testing and analysis, using what they have learnt to discuss what they have discovered and use scientific vocabulary to demonstrate their learning.

Sport and Physical Education: Throughout Physical Education lessons, and through play, pupils will learn key skills and life lessons, for example, sportsmanship, role modelling and learning how to lose. In KS2, we introduce competitive games and activities to build resilience and self-esteem. Children will experience how it feels to be part of a team and work together to achieve success, as well as learning how to lose in the correct manner.

Our curriculum offers a range of different sports led by teachers and coaches. We have a strong link with Our Secondary School, St Pauls, and also work alongside SSPAN and LCFC to deliver and support extra physical activities.



Biology Physics Chemistry Food Technology Health Physical Education Gymnastics Netball Cricket Football Sports Day

Mental Health, Well-being and Communication



We believe that pupils well-being is core to our work at St Joseph's. A happy child achieves more. We work hard to ensure good communication skills to enhance well-being and support good mental health.

At St Joseph's our SEND team work closely with children and families across the school. Pupils may work individually, in pairs or in groups. We are also supported by the schools Education Welfare Officer, Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and Faith in Families Social worker.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are helped within the normal classroom environment in addition to being supported on individual programmes with trained staff. Our SEND lead works closely with educational psychologists and other agencies who may support children where appropriate (The policy for special educational needs and disability is available if you would like more information—please refer to our SEND policy on our school website). Our SEND lead is happy to speak to you about general issues related to

Educational Needs and Disabilities if the class teacher is not able to answer your questions.

Through a creative curriculum and a range of activities the children respond well to the opportunities the school provides for their personal support and development and, as a result, they are mostly happy, confident and largely secure in their own stage of physical, emotional and spiritual growth. The children engage in discussions related to the Statements to live by and have many opportunities for prayer in different forms. Relationships between children and children and adults and children are strong.

St Joseph's uses A Journey in Love to ensure that the children have a good understanding of loving relationships and sexual development within the context of a Christian understanding of the purpose of sexual love appropriate to their age. The children also receive appropriate knowledge through the science curriculum, RE teaching and Statements to live by.



Kindness British Values Empathy Pastoral Care Happiness Security Support Time to Talk Attendance Behaviour for life

Key Information



Admissions

Admission arrangements are co-ordinated by Leicester City Local Education Authority. It is important that you complete the **LA Admission Application Form AND the Supplementary Form** when applying for a place. As a 1.5 form entry school we have 40 places available each academic year in our Foundation Stage 2 Class. To download a guide to applying for your child's school place please visit our School Website for further instructions or if you wish a paper copy, these can be collected from the school office.

The school day

Timetables for each class are shared on the school website : The school timings for each Key Stage are as follows:

EYFS 1	EYFS 2 and KS1	KS2
Morning Session 8.55—11.30pm	Morning Session 8.45—12 noon	Morning Session 8.50—12 noon
Afternoon Session 12.50 pm-3.15pm	Afternoon Session 1pm—3.15pm	Afternoon Session 1pm—3.15pm

Absences

If your child is absent through sickness or any unavoidable cause, please inform the school by telephone in the first instance. This absence constitutes an authorised absence. A note will be required from you on the child's return. We appreciate that all family circumstances are different but we want children to be at school as much as possible. Absences during the school term can seriously disrupt the continuity of teaching. The school must collect and report details of absences by law and all absence levels are monitored closely.



Term Dates

Please see our school website for this year's and next year's term dates

Clubs

At St Joseph's we host a variety of clubs and extra curricular activities that the pupils can get involved in. Letters will be sent home providing the children with all of the options at the beginning of each term.

Home and On line Learning



Each year group across the school will be set home learning for the children to complete outside of school. This will include reading, spelling and mathematics practice with occasional other tasks set. The children also have access to a variety of on line learning platforms to support additional learning that may need to commence at home.

Events and Communications with Parents

We welcome parents and carers into school to attend assemblies, performances, workshops, curriculum evenings, musical and sports events, Liturgies and Mass. We also have a chaplaincy team, school council and The Friends of St Joseph's (PTA) who also run a variety of events throughout the year. In addition to this, the school and class teachers use class emails, Parent Mail and School Jotter to communicate with parents, which we encourage parents to use regularly.

Uniform

Here at St Joseph's we have a school uniform. We are of the opinion that a uniform helps the children. You can find more information about our school uniform on our school website: <https://www.st-josephs.leicester.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform>

	Winter	Summer	Physical Education
	Grey Skirt, Grey Pinafare or Grey Trousers, White shirt with a straight collar, School Tie Royal Blue Cardigan or pullover (not Navy Blue.) White Socks, OR grey tights. Black Shoes. Warm Winter Coat Small School Bag for books	Blue and White Gingham/ Striped Dress. or Tailored Grey Shorts, White Socks, Blue or Black Sandals. Light weight Coat/ Jacket	<u>Indoor</u> Black Plimsolls not 'Trainers', Plain White T shirt and Royal Blue or Black Shorts <u>Outdoor</u> 'Trainers' suitable for outdoor activities. Plain White T shirt and Royal Blue Shorts Navy or Black Plain Track Suit for Cooler Months All school clothing and footwear should be clearly marked with the child's name and kept in a PE bag or <u>small</u> rucksack.
	Grey Trousers White Shirt with a straight collar School Tie Royal Blue Pullover. Grey or black socks. Black Shoes Warm Winter Coat Small school Bag for Books.	Tailored Grey shorts Lightweight coat/ Jacket	<u>Indoor</u> Black Plimsolls not 'Trainers', Plain White T shirt and Royal Blue or Black Shorts <u>Outdoor</u> 'Trainers' suitable for outdoor activities. Plain White T shirt and Royal Blue Shorts Navy or Black Plain Track Suit for Cooler Months All school clothing and footwear should be clearly marked with the child's name and kept in a PE bag or <u>small</u> rucksack.





Beginning the Learning Adventure

At St Joseph's we aim to provide a fun, secure, challenging and rich educational environment that enables each individual to thrive. It is our intent that children who enter our EYFS begin their lifelong learning journey by developing emotionally, physically, verbally and cognitively whilst also embedding a positive attitude to school and a love of learning.

Our Mission statement 'With God's guidance, we love, learn, respect and forgive' is at the heart of everything we do. Our values shape how we behave, what we say, how we build relationships and how we learn. They are incorporated in every aspect of life at St. Joseph's.

Every child is recognised as a unique individual. We take into consideration the starting points and needs of each child as they begin their learning journey to ensure that all children make good or better progress within EYFS. Every child has access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum which prepares them for now and for the future. Following personal interests and individual needs, allows us to plan and provide opportunities throughout our EYFS curriculum to support learning and development and achieve their next steps.

Our EYFS curriculum aims to enable our children to be:

- ◆ *Competent and creative learners;* who are curious about the world around them.
- ◆ *Secure and confident;* who enjoy coming to school and learning new skills and knowledge building on their existing learning.
- ◆ *Skilful communicators;* who connect with others through language and play, ensuring that they play in a vocabulary rich environment.

The children at St Joseph's leave the EYFS with a solid foundation of learning of which to build upon. We use learning journey folders and phonic books which evidence, to the children and their families, the successes of the children throughout their time in Early Years.

As a team, we carry out regular internal moderation sessions and also ensure that staff attend external meetings and training to ensure that we feel confident with our judgements and that these judgements are consistent with a range of other settings.

We use our observations of the children to make formative assessments of their attainment and to inform future planning and build upon the children's current knowledge. Staff input summative data on a termly basis and complete their own data analysis records to ensure that our children's progress is monitored carefully. The impact of actions are evaluated and next steps are identified.

The impact of our curriculum can be measured by the way in which our children are inspired and excited about their learning. We work to ensure our children develop into confident and positive learners, who are excited by new challenges and not put off by difficulty. We endeavour to ensure that our children leave the EYFS ready to move with confidence into KS1 and their lifelong learning journey.



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St Joseph's Catholic Primary



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