



Friday 8th September 2023

Welcome Back

Dear Parent's and Carers,

It has been a very hot and busy week at St Josephs and we are now getting into the swing of being back at school. Thank you to all the children for looking smart and working hard. Have a lovely weekend in the sun.

Mrs Dedman

Lord God, bless our school as we enter a new academic year.

May our school be a community of welcome and hope.

Watch over our pupils - so that they grow in understanding and love.

Encourage our staff - so that their service reveals your generosity and mercy.

Inspire our leaders - so that their actions show your wisdom and justice.

Loving Father, through the Trinity you teach us the importance of relationship, help us work together to accomplish your mission: that all your children may have life to the full.

Amen.

Year 6 Parents: Applying for Secondary School



Year 6 children moving to secondary school from Autumn 2024

Online applications for secondary schools are now open. You will receive an envelope for your year six student today which contains a letter about the admission process.

Closing date for applying - 31 October 2023

If you are applying to St Pauls, please remember to complete the supplementary form and return this to St Pauls with the Baptismal Certificate.

[Apply for a secondary school place \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk)

Free School Meals



All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 classes automatically receive universal infant free school meals. However, if you meet the qualifying criteria listed below, completing an application for benefits-related free school meals could help your children's school get valuable extra funding through the pupil premium. There is no need to reapply if your child is already registered for benefits-related free school meals and moving from one Leicester City school to another, e.g. if they are transferring to a Junior or Secondary school.

Who is eligible for benefits-related free school meals?

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child tax credit (provided you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- The guarantee element of state pension credit
- Working tax credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit.
- Universal credit with annual net earned income of less than £7,400

How to apply for free school meals

You should only apply for free school meals if you receive one of the benefits listed above. For universal infant free school meals, speak to your child's school.

What is the pupil premium?

The pupil premium is extra funding the government gives to schools to raise the achievement of disadvantaged pupils. The amount a school receives depends on the number of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Parents are encouraged to register their children, even if:

- they do not want to eat school meals
- they already receive universal infant free school meals.
- This is in order to raise extra money for the school, which can be used towards extra tuition, learning assistants or after school clubs.

Get in touch

If you have any questions on free school meals or need support with your application, please email: education-fsm@leicester.gov.uk or call 0116 454 1009 (option 3).

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/free-school-meals/>

Travel Management (CTM) helpline on +44 (0)20 7429 9983.

Safeguarding Updates

We have updated our policy to reflect the changes in the statutory guidance for schools. Please see the link below to review the new up to date policy

This policy has also been uploaded to the school Website.

[Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-23-24-01.09.23.pdf \(st-josephs.leicester.sch.uk\)](#)

Staying Safe Walking to school

What Age Can Child Walk to School Alone?



Years ago it wasn't uncommon to see kids walking to school. However, nowadays people are far more wary about children walking to school alone. This is because there is far more traffic and the media convinces us there is an increase in danger.

If you're wondering if your child is ready and what age can child walk to school alone, check out this simple guide on how to prepare your child for walking to and from school.

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/walking-to-school-alone/>

If you do wish for your child to walk home from school independently, please write an email / pop into the office to let us know.

ATTENDANCE

Benefits of school attendance

Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential. Going to school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps to develop: friendships, social skills, team values, life skills, cultural awareness and career pathways

Absence from school

All schools must record details of pupils' attendance and absence at school. They do this at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions meaning that each day your child receives two half day marks.

If your child is going to be absent from school, for example for an unavoidable appointment, then you should let the school know as soon as possible. If your child has been absent due to an unexpected event such as bereavement or illness then you must also let the school know on the first day of absence in line with the school's attendance policy. [Attendance-Policy-23-24.pdf \(st-josephs.leicester.sch.uk\)](#)

The school will then record the absence. If you fail to tell the school as to why your child has not been present then the school may record that period of absence as being unauthorised.

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) has access to all attendance information for each pupil and if your child is missing school without good reason, schools and the EA have the authority to find out why.

Your legal responsibilities as a parent

By law, all children of school age (aged four to sixteen) must receive a suitable full-time education. For most parents, this means registering your child at a school or you may choose to make other arrangements to provide a suitable, full-time education.

Class	Class attendance (Year to date)
Mrs Bailey	96.3
Mrs Abel	99.0
Mr Crewe	98.2
Mrs Spencer	98.0
Mr Challoner	98.4
Mrs Darby	85.9
Mrs Stack	97.2
Mrs Murray	98.9
Whole School (This year sofar)	96% attendance

Good attendance means...

Being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days

365 days in a calendar year

175 days not in school!



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Monday 11 th September	Foundation Stage 1 to start school
Thursday 14 th September	Lunch Box Audit
Wednesday 20 th September	Year 1 Sports Festival
Thursday 21 st September	Year 6 to visit Ratcliffe College
Wednesday 27 th September	Year 2 Sports Festival
Monday 2 nd October	Harvest Mass 2pm (All Welcome)
Wednesday 1 st November	Dr Bike (Bring your bike to school for a service)
Thursday 2 nd November	Cycle Skills - Year 5
Monday 6 th November	Year 6 Visit Condover Hall (All Week)
Wednesday 22 nd November	KS2 Trip Cineworld, Loughborough
Friday 1 st December	Menphys Carol Concert
Monday 4 th December	Advent Mass

St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
 WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE WE LOVE, LEARN, RESPECT AND FORGIVE
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