



St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School

Giving children an
excellent education

Learning to do our best with Jesus
www.st-josephsprimary.bucks.sch.uk





“

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an effective and happy school. Pupils make a very positive contribution to both the school and the local community. They are very polite, well mannered and positive about their education.”

Ofsted

A letter from the headmaster

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a vibrant and welcoming school that works hard to combine excellent teaching with enjoyable learning. We aspire to develop children with active and creative minds, and help each child to develop spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially, emotionally and physically.

At the heart of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a clear commitment to Catholic values; the school is part of a caring community that respects the individual and welcomes everyone.

We are proud of our children's behaviour and encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings with courtesy and confidence. We want children to develop a wide range of personal qualities – curiosity, self-discipline, courage, honesty, sensitivity, perseverance and independence.

To achieve this we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that encourages every child to learn, reflect on and discuss a range of topics.

We have wonderful playing grounds, well resourced classrooms and a fabulous café (that also supplies other local schools). Our hard working staff are supported by committed and caring governors. The children are at the heart of our work and we aim to provide a successful and memorable educational experience.

I am very proud to be the Headmaster of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School and have the opportunity to work with such committed staff, governors, parents and wonderful children. This is my third headship, having been the Headmaster in two Merseyside schools for 8 and 10 years respectively. I hope that my experience and skills, in partnership with all stakeholders, will lead our school to even greater heights of excellence.

This prospectus provides a flavour of what St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has to offer. For more information or to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr David Ryan
BEd. DASE.
Headmaster





Foundation Stage

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we agree with the aims and principles of the government's Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which states that 'every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential'.

The main aim of this stage of education is to help young children to experience the feelings described in the 'Every Child Matters' (ECM) agenda, which are:

1. **Staying safe**
2. **Enjoying**
3. **Achieving**
4. **Making a positive contribution**
and
5. **Achieving economic well-being.**

Our curriculum in both pre-school and the reception class is based on the four themes that guide the work of all early years teachers and teaching assistants. These are:

1. **A unique child** – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self assured.
2. **Positive relationships** – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.
3. **Enabling environments** – the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.
4. **Learning and development** – children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of learning and development are equally important and inter-connected.



St. Joseph's Pre-School

Children may attend our pre-school from the age of two and a half (spaces permitting). The group is open from 8.50am to 2.50pm every day during school term and children may attend morning or afternoon sessions or all day.

From the term after their third birthday, children will be funded by the local authority for up to 15 hours per week.

Please note: attendance at the pre-school does not automatically guarantee a place at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School.



Reception

Children start in our reception classes in the September following their fourth birthday. There is a maximum intake of 60 children working mostly in small groups of 15 in an attractive, well-resourced area which provides safe learning environments both indoors and outside.

Two teachers and two teaching assistants work full time in this area.

The children follow the aims and principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, ensuring a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities.

“

Since joining St. Joseph's our son has actually enjoyed going to school. He is much more confident and outgoing, and is very happy.”

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
– Parent survey**





Key Stage 1 (School Years 1-2)

All the Key Stage 1 classrooms are housed within the same bright and colourful learning environment.

The school curriculum builds on the children's strengths, interests and experiences. We aim to develop their confidence to learn to work both independently and collaboratively. Our study programme covers all National Curriculum subjects.

To help a smooth transition into Key Stage 2, during the last term in Year 2 the children spend time with the Year 3 children, which allows them to get to know the Key Stage 2 children, teachers and building.



“

As my son comes to the end of his time at St. Joseph's, I feel he has been well-nurtured and very well-educated'

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Parent survey

Key Stage 2 (School Years 3-6)

During Key Stage 2 the pupils build on the learning and experience gained during Key Stage 1. We follow the National Curriculum, and learning is enriched with a wide variety of visitors, theatre groups and trips.

The pupils are encouraged to become more independent learners, taking on more roles and responsibilities as they move through the school, for example as play leaders and on the school council. Our children are also encouraged to take a lead in raising money for charity.

There are many extra-curricular clubs and activities throughout Key Stage 2, including chef's club, film club, netball and football. St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has a very dedicated and successful range of sports teams.

Also, as part of music lessons, all children in Year 4 learn to play a musical instrument, such as clarinet or trumpet. French is introduced to the pupils in Year 3 and a programme of study continues until Year 6. In Upper Key Stage 2, the pupils are supported in their transition to secondary schools.





The Curriculum

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we aim to:

- Provide a rich and stimulating language environment, where speaking and listening, reading and writing are integrated.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to become confident, competent and expressive users of language with a developed knowledge of how it works.
- Encourage children to express opinions, articulate feelings and formulate responses to a range of books and texts, both fiction and non-fiction, using appropriate technical vocabulary.
- Foster an interest in words and their meanings, and to promote the development of a growing vocabulary in both spoken and written form.
- Engage children with an understanding of a range of text types and genres.
- Foster an enthusiasm for, and love of, reading for life.
- Enable children to write in a variety of styles and forms showing awareness of audience and purpose.
- Develop the powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness in all areas of literacy.
- Teach the children to use grammar and punctuation accurately.
- Develop the understanding of correct spelling conventions.
- Encourage the production of effective, well presented written work using fluent and legible handwriting.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to communicate ideas using ICT.
- Provide opportunities for role-play and drama.

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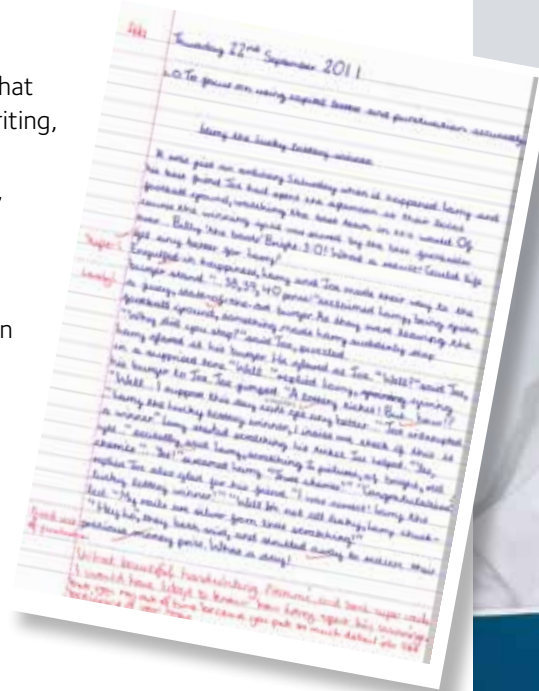
I like the teachers, they are all interesting and make learning interesting.”

James Woakes – Year 6

Literacy

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we believe that literacy unites the important skills of reading and writing, speaking and listening, discussion and reflection. We believe that children should be entitled to a rich, broad and balanced curriculum in a happy, safe and supportive atmosphere.

All our staff are deeply committed to help all children succeed whatever their background or abilities. We aim for all children to become confident, critical readers and writers who have the capacity to express themselves through a variety of different literary activities.



Numeracy

Numeracy at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is taught using a variety of methods to ensure a thorough grounding in all basic mathematical concepts.

We aim to teach our children to think logically, be able to use and apply their knowledge confidently in everyday life and to appreciate and enjoy mathematics. We help children to continue this at home through regular homework. Progress is assessed throughout the year by the class teachers and national assessments are undertaken in Years 2 and 6.



“

I like our school because we learn lots of things about God and Jesus”

Sean Forster – Year 4



Religious Education

Religious Education plays a vital role throughout the curriculum as it is central to the whole ethos of the school.

The curriculum, in all its aspects, must reflect the fact that Christ is the foundation of the whole education in a Catholic School. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision and this vision must be shared by everyone in our school.

We use the 'Here I Am' programme to give the children a good grounding in their own faith, whilst encouraging respect and tolerance of other religions and cultures. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion are taught alongside the 'Here I Am' programme and we link closely with the parishes.

We give daily opportunity for the children to take part in prayer and collective worship. This gives a time to contemplate and meditate when gathering as a community.

Science

Science is taught throughout the school based on the National Curriculum, which takes account of the natural environment and the children's desire to investigate the world around them.

The subject is divided into three areas of science:

1. Life processes and living things
2. Materials and their properties
3. Physical processes.

Our science curriculum aims to give children the experience of a wide range of practical work as well as developing scientific skills and attitudes.

During the Foundation Stage children begin to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

During Key Stage 1 children are encouraged to explore, ask questions, research and derive answers about living things, materials, phenomena and processes. Knowledge, skills and understanding are built on and developed in Key Stage 2 through questioning, planning, predicting, fair testing and recording findings in a systematic way.

Scientific activities may be taught through individual or group work in order that the children may discover the answers to questions. The school's grounds are used as outdoor classrooms when an appropriate topic is being studied, and the children are taught how to use scientific equipment and ICT safely to support their learning.

Through our science curriculum, we also aim to foster responsible attitudes towards the environment and all living things.

Information & Communications Technology (ICT)

Work, everyday life and society in general are being changed by the increasing importance of ICT. These changes must be reflected by changes in teaching methods if we are to prepare our children effectively to take their places in society.

Each classroom has a laptop and interactive white board to enhance teaching and learning. St. Joseph's considers it essential that ICT skills should be developed across all areas of the National Curriculum, throughout the children's education.

ICT should help pupils of all abilities, including those with special needs, to develop skills, aptitudes and concepts. Benefits to pupils should include improvements in many aspects of their work, such as:

- Finding things out, developing ideas, making things happen
- Exchanging and sharing information, reviewing, modifying and evaluating work as it progresses
- Breadth of study, measurement, confidence and enjoyment, and
- Approach to investigation and problem solving.

The school has two rooms dedicated to computers with a CC4 network. Under our guidance the children can develop their computing skills and we pay particular attention to teaching internet safety. We have laptops on wireless systems with internet access in the junior school building. Children have access to a variety of software and hardware including cameras, bee-bots, recording equipment and microscopes. This helps make the most effective use of ICT and integrates it into the learning environment of every classroom.

“

We get taken on loads of school trips and all the teachers are kind and caring which makes school here happy and fun. Also in Year 5 you get to make your own bread”

Olivia Aldrich – Year 6





The Creative Curriculum

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has introduced the creative curriculum which links the following subjects: history, geography, music, dance, art and D&T. This is in line with evidence from substantial government research which shows that children make the best progress when they are able to make links in their learning. The creative curriculum allows us to respond to children's interests and enable them to pursue themes that interest them.

History

History offers opportunities to develop children's sense of identity through learning about the development of Britain, Europe and the world. History also introduces children to what is involved in understanding and interpreting the past

In Key Stage 1, history is about the lives and lifestyles of familiar people in the recent past and about famous people and events in the distant past.

In Key Stage 2, history is about people and important events and developments from recent and more distant times in the local area, in Britain and in other parts of the world.

History is incorporated into our creative curriculum at both Key Stages, with themes such as 'ourselves' and 'houses and homes' used to develop a range of skills. At Key Stage 2 one or two different periods are studied each year (for example, Ancient Greeks in Year 3, Victorians in Year 6).

Geography

Geography, at Key Stage 1, is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to children's own environment and the people who live there, and developing an awareness of the wider world. In Key Stage 2 the knowledge and skills relate to people, places and environments at different scales in the UK and overseas.

Children appreciate how places relate to each other in the wider world. Where possible geography is included in the creative curriculum throughout both Key Stages.

Further up the school, separate geography lessons may be used to provide mapwork skills and a broad general knowledge of the world.

Music

Music is an integral part of school life. In Key Stage 1, children have whole class music lessons which allow them to develop skills in listening, singing and playing tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

In Key Stage 2, whole class lessons continue. In addition children have the opportunity to learn woodwind and brass instruments, keyboard, piano and guitar with peripatetic teachers. Extra curricular activities available include recorder groups for the younger children.

Older children can participate in the school choir and orchestra. All children take part in acts of collective worship and Masses with weekly practices.

Musical productions involving singing, dancing and acting are held every year which include the nativity play for reception, pantomime for Years 1 and 2, carol concerts for Key Stage 2, Easter cantata for Years 3 and 4 and a summer production for Years 5 and 6.





Art & Design

The role of art and design is to heighten the children's awareness of, and response to, the beauty of the world around them. It stimulates the children's creativity and helps them make thoughtful judgments and decisions.

The programme of study covers the visual elements of colour, texture, line and shape, tone, pattern, form and space. We use the national scheme of work and there is continuity and progression right through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Working with the creative curriculum links the art curriculum closely to topics covered, allowing children to explore art in different media and cultures.



Design & Technology (D&T)

Design and Technology (D&T) involves children learning about the world in which we live by designing and making every day objects. Children learn by analysing three basic product types – mechanisms, textiles and food. They look at manufactured products then design and make their own products inspired by these. D&T helps children to learn how to solve problems creatively, how to organise themselves, how to plan and how to work with both tools and materials (including food).

Teachers may choose to adopt a 'blocked' approach to D&T whereby a number of days are dedicated to a particular task, enabling the children to see the task through to successful completion. They may, however, choose to teach the topic through to its completion over a number of weeks. To ensure continuity and progression from one year to the next, a series of core skills (for example sewing and food technology) are developed and built upon in subsequent years, to achieve real levels of expertise.



Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

In St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe in the importance of education for the development of the whole child. Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship help to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

PSHE and Citizenship contribute significantly across the whole curriculum to our responsibility to help prepare our pupils for the opportunities and challenges of life.

Physical Education (PE)

In line with government targets, children at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 2 take part in 120 minutes per week of high quality physical education as part of the school curriculum.

There are six areas of activity; gymnastics, outdoor and adventurous activities, dance, games, athletics and swimming. Through these all children learn to communicate, co-operate and compete with each other.

We want all our children to enjoy PE and actively encourage them to attend after school clubs, join local clubs and take part in intra- and inter- school competitions. Particularly gifted and talented children are directed to further courses, clubs and competitions.

We follow a combination of the school's and Val Sabin Schemes of Work, as well as using Top Sport resources and outside agencies to provide expert curriculum coaching. These include London Wasps and Limelight Dancing. We have had a very successful club/school link with Gerrards Cross LTC for 12 years and it continues to thrive.

We are in the process of introducing 'Activate 5-11' – a 10 minute classroom-based exercise programme which the children do in the morning before registration. Swimming is part of the Year 4 PE curriculum while Year 6 games are based around the annual Year 6 County Games Festival. PE in Foundation Stage is part of the area of physical development. Our dance themes are linked to the creative curriculum and in particular to the history topics.





Practical Matters

St. Joe's Chef

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is fortunate to be one of the few schools in South Bucks to be able to offer hot school lunches to the children. In 2011, the kitchen was refurbished and has become a 'hub kitchen' from where hot meals are supplied to a number of other schools locally.

Fondly called 'St Joe's Chef', we are very proud of the kitchen staff who produce a wide variety of good quality, healthy food which we are able to offer our children and other schools.

School lunches are paid for online using ParentPay, where your child's choice of lunch is also listed. School trips are also paid for in this way.

Reception year pupils are escorted in for lunch first, with 10 minute intervals before the next year group lines up for food. Lunchtime assistants help the younger ones to cut up their food and eat well. Those who choose to bring in packed lunches also sit in the junior hall and can mix with their friends who may have hot meals.



Finding your way around

Located at the end of Priory Road, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is situated away from busy roads in four acres of grassy fields. The school has a small woodland 'outdoor classroom' which is used in the summer term. Children are free to play on the grass when the weather is dry.

Every Saturday morning, all children (including children from other schools) are welcome to join in with the regular weekly football training.

Drop-off and pick-up

For parents who drive their children to school, there is ample parking in St. Joseph's Church car park. When this is busy, the Village Hall and the Three Oaks car parks can also be used.

We ask all parents not to park in the school car park which is for use of our staff.

The Friends of St. Joseph's School (FOSJS)

The Friends of St. Joseph's School began in 1998 as an additional fund raising body to the school's Parents Association (PA). It was registered as a charitable trust which made corporate support for charitable donations possible. The Friends and the PA joined forces to unite fund-raising efforts for events and also established the Class Parents System. This enabled the Friends to call on volunteers from across the whole school network to share the many tasks and ease the workload involved.

The Friends are a volunteering group of parents who organise many events to raise funds for the school. The Friends are organised into a co-ordination committee, class parents and event helpers. St. Joseph's buildings are owned by the Northampton Diocese. The Diocese pays for any improvements to the buildings. However, as a voluntary-aided school, 10% of the building costs needs to be raised by the school.

The Friends also contribute significant funds to the annual school budget for many educational needs and various specific projects which improve the school.

Organised by:  **FOSJS** Friends of
St. Joseph's School

The funds have paid for the school's electrical rewiring, the glass link between the infants' and juniors' buildings, the ICT equipment, the refurbishment of the infants' toilets, the main school car park, the wooden play area, resurfacing the infants' playground and many more projects.

The future of the Friends depends on the community-minded generosity of the parents of new pupils of the school. Without the continuing enthusiasm and involvement from parents, the Friends would not exist and the school would struggle financially.

The Friends have a voluntary parental contribution scheme and the trust is able to reclaim the tax on donations made by covenant, Gift Aid or give-as-you-earn. The official name of the charity is The Friends of St. Joseph's School, Chalfont St. Peter (registered charity number 1069943).

Further information is available from
The Secretary to the Trustees, c/o the school.

Breakfast Club & After School Fun Club

Busy Living Ltd runs Ofsted registered, Flexible Out of School Clubs at the school which provide fun, safe and secure care for children aged 4-11. All club bookings should be made in advance to ensure availability.

Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am, including healthy cereal, toast and drinks plus games and craft for the children before lessons begin. Younger children from Reception to Year 2 are escorted to their classrooms.

After School Club runs from 3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday. Busy Living provide a planned choice of activities for the children, including craft, board games, outdoor play and physical team games. The children are offered a light bite at 4.30pm.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Reception children are generally too tired at the end of the school day to stay after school. From Year 1 upwards, however, there is opportunity to take part in activities, including sport, languages, ICT, music and drama, both at lunchtime and after school hours.

Communications

Through weekly online newsletters from the Headmaster, and the 'Friends', the school keeps parents informed of special events, staffing, curriculum subjects information and news throughout the academic year. Also included is the lunch menu for the forthcoming week.

General Information

Background information

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a co-educational Voluntary Aided School, for children aged 4-11 years. The school is owned by the Diocese of Northampton and is maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council.

Admissions

Parents wishing to apply for a place for their child must complete the online co-ordinated admission form. In addition the Supplementary Information form must be completed and returned to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. For more detailed information, including the timeline, see Buckinghamshire County Council's website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc.

St. Joseph's Primary School admits 60 children in Key Stage 1 rising to 64 children in Key Stage 2. The school serves the Catholic Parishes of St. Joseph's in Chalfont St. Peter, and St. Teresa's in Beaconsfield. Its catchment area includes Denham, Iver Heath, Gerrards Cross, Beaconsfield, Chalfont St. Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, Seer Green, Jordans and Stoke Poges. Children outside these areas are admitted as space allows. Baptised Catholic children receive priority for admission, but there is also provision for children who are not Catholics. Full details of our Admissions Policy whether starting school for the first time or transferring in-year, is available on our school website.

The school day

The school day is from 8.45am to 3.00pm with lessons beginning at 9am and 1pm. Children may not leave school between these hours without written permission from a parent or guardian. The times of the lunch break and the additional morning and afternoon breaks depend on the age of the children. There is no afternoon break in Key Stage 2.

Homework

All classes are set homework throughout the school in accordance with government guidelines. New parents receive details of the school's homework policy. Class teachers are always happy to clarify how homework will be set.

Uniform

The school uniform is a dark green sweater and dark grey trousers/skirt. All children are expected to wear the uniform. Uniform specific to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School e.g. sweaters and sports shirts, is ordered through the school website direct from the uniform supplier. Other non-specific items, e.g. trousers and skirts, are readily available from various retailers.

A comprehensive uniform list is included with this prospectus. Watches and small stud earrings are permitted, but we prefer that children do not wear jewellery unless a child's culture requires it. For safety reasons jewellery must be removed for games and PE.

Religious worship

As St. Joseph's is a Catholic School, the practice of the faith permeates all levels of school life. Mass is regularly celebrated in the school and in the parishes and parents are very welcome as space permits. Parents are entitled by law to withdraw their children from collective acts of worship, but this is not seen as being in the child's best interests.

Health and pastoral care

All staff are concerned with the happiness and welfare of the children. The school has four welfare assistants who are particularly responsible for sick or injured children. Several staff members hold the "First Aid in the Workplace" qualification and all other staff are trained in Emergency First Aid.

Safeguarding children

At our school, the health, safety and well-being of every child is our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child to achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.

To promote a safe environment for pupils, our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability, including Criminal Records Bureau checks, as recommended by Buckinghamshire County Council in accordance with current legislation.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

St. Joseph's is a truly inclusive school, and recognises the unique worth of every child. It adheres to the SEN Code of Conduct (2001) and reflects the 'Every Child Matters' agenda to ensure that every child is happy at school and that their potential is fulfilled. St. Joseph's is committed to, and proud of, its provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

The school has a dedicated Special Needs Co-ordinator and an SEN Learning Support Assistant for those children at School Action Plus (SA+). There are several teaching assistants working throughout the school supporting other individual pupils. This means that every child with special educational needs will have targeted support both in class, in small groups and one to one – whichever is appropriate.

Gifted and Talented (G&T)

Gifted and talented education is integral within the entire school and the ethos of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda ensures that all have an opportunity to shine.

This school provides an ethos where all achievements are valued and success is celebrated. This is evidenced by weekly award assemblies that not only reward a 'Star of the Week' for each class, but also acknowledge success outside of school e.g. drama, dance, swimming, sports, music and and uniformed movements. We also use the time to celebrate the achievements of our sporting teams, choir, orchestra, etc. These are culturally and socially inclusive.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has a gifted and talented policy and each subject development plan incorporates provision for G&T pupils.

There is an identification procedure in place, recognising all subjects and talents (core subjects as well as talents in the foundation subjects including music, art, PE and drama). We provide enrichment days and the opportunity to spread good practice through the Networked Learning Community of Local Schools which also provide staff training, e.g. Philosophy for Children (P4C), Thinking Skills and Brain Gym.

Assessment

Teacher assessment in the core subjects of mathematics, English and science takes place on a continuous basis, to inform the planning work for individuals and small groups of children. The foundation subjects are assessed through planned activities within the normal classroom routine and also by some online assessments.

Visits

Every year there are visits and outings to places of educational interest, as part of the National Curriculum. These have included days out to local museums, study centres and wildlife parks. Theatre groups and other outside agencies often visit the school to support particular curriculum areas. There are also two residential school journeys in Key Stage 2. For certain activities, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution.



“

My husband and I were blown away when we visited your school. It was clear that everyone was valued and respected. All the teachers that we met were friendly and the reception area – both indoor and outdoor – was a pleasure to visit.”

Prospective Parent



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