



# St Joseph's

Catholic Primary School







# Headteacher's Welcome

St. Joseph's is a Voluntary Academy, which is part of the Our Lady of Lourdes, Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. We are situated on the border of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Our School serves the Parishes of St. Joseph's Shirebrook, St. Bernadette's Bolsover and St. Teresa's Market Warsop.

We aim that our children enjoy a successful primary school at St Joseph's. We carefully plan our curriculum and experiences so that all children will have everything that they need to be happy healthy and successful members of society when they leave us. Our safeguarding curriculum and culture will ensure that they will know how to keep themselves safe and will feel loved and protected. They will be well prepared for their next stage of education and will have the resilience and growth mindset to face future challenges.

Our ambitious, well structured curriculum ensures that children have strong foundations of knowledge and understanding. Children will be given the opportunity to study different periods of history and will understand the influence of these and how these link to others. Their love of learning and thirst for knowledge, which has been nurtured through high quality and engaging teaching, will be the foundation which they can build all future learning. Their knowledge will be backed up by skills they have been given the opportunity to practice and develop. They will have developed a love of reading and can confidently develop their own learning through research and reading.

As headteacher, it is my aim that all of our children develop as a result of the many opportunities and experiences they get at St Joseph's so that they become ambitious, confident, polite individuals who know how to manage their emotions, regulate and have healthy, happy relationships. When they move onto their next stage of education, children will be confident in their own ability and excited to take their place in the parish and wider world using the foundations from their outstanding journey throughout their lives.

**Dani Seaman**  
Headteacher



## Our primary Mission

**Trusting in God,  
Creating Tomorrow,  
Helping Today,**

We feel that this inspires all in our community to consider their actions, thoughts, words and decisions to be rooted in this mission. The children are encouraged to think of others and how they can live out this mission to ensure that we spread God's Word and so that everyone we meet can feel His love.

We believe that through living out our mission statement, we know that our children always have a deep faith and trust in God through all of his plans. This allows our children to help those who need it today and so create a better tomorrow for us all to live in.

All members of our school community are dedicated to live out this mission. Throughout all aspects of school life, we focus on how our decisions, words and actions can be inspired by Christ's teaching and we try to live out our mission statement in all that we do.



At St Joseph's, we pride ourselves in our engaging and inclusive learning environment.

Each classroom is carefully designed to promote independence and a positive growth mindset towards work. Reading areas are inspiring and all children have an area which can be used for emotional regulation.

Outdoors, we have a fantastic Forest School which all children can access at different times throughout the year.

The emphasis on outdoor learning develops life skills and allows the children to learn in different environments.

At St Joseph's we are very proud of the opportunities we will give to all of our pupils which allow them to independently demonstrate our school virtues in their everyday actions. Our school believes that all children need opportunities to play that allow them to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment.

As an OPAL school, we understand the importance of play for children to learn, communicate and manage risks and facilitate opportunities for all children to engage in purposeful and creative play each day.

***'The school encourages the children to be polite, caring and a good human who can change the world'***

Parent quote 2024

***'Our lessons are interesting. We learn about the past so that we can learn from mistakes and make a difference in the future.'***

Pupil quote 2024

# Our learning environment





# Our curriculum

Our curriculum is ambitious for all. Across the school, in all subjects, the curriculum has been designed to develop the independence and responsibility of all pupils ensuring that they are well equipped for future learning.

The curriculum is ambitious and is underpinned by our principle value of providing high quality educational experiences focused on continued improvement in whole school standards.

All curriculum areas begin in the early years and build progressively so that children can transfer knowledge and skills and make links between their learning.

*The school's determination for pupils to get the most out of every lesson is compelling. The mantra is, 'Don't waste their time!'*

Ofsted 2024

## Teaching and learning

Teachers are knowledgeable and skilled across the school. Specialist teachers are used to teach across school so that children access the highest quality teaching in all areas of the curriculum.

All teachers use ongoing assessments within class, ensuring pupils have a deep understanding of the subject content and that misconceptions are addressed quickly. The careful and skilful use of pre and post-learning challenges ensures that assessment information is used effectively to provide high levels of appropriate challenge and ambition for all.

Pupils have opportunities to recall content through the use of post-learning challenges, end of topic quizzes, Friday challenges, 'knowing and remembering more' starters and innovate challenges. Lesson starters in all subjects allow opportunities for children to recall prior learning that will support them in the lesson and strengthen their knowledge of links in learning.



Our whole school community ensures that Christ is at the centre of all that we do. Across school, tangible links are made to how we can live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to ensure that we show love to our neighbours and care for our common home.

Our school is beautifully diverse and we understand that this reflects the world that we live in. We celebrate diversity and teach our children about the protected characteristic and the importance of upholding British values.

We have been successful in working towards the 'Live Simply' award, demonstrating what we can do to support environmental issues and work together with our global neighbours on projects including sustainability.

*The Catholic Life of the school permeates every aspect of school and community life. All pupils have a deep sense of belonging and purpose which helps to develop their personal worth. They are proud of their religious identity and very inclusive of others and of other faiths.*

Diocesan Report 2017

## Catholic social teaching and British values





# Beyond the curriculum

At St Joseph's, we value the uniqueness of all our pupils and establish an ethos that develops the 'whole child'.

Carefully planned experiences, enrichment opportunities and extra-curricular activities are designed to extend their cultural capital and prepare them for life beyond the school.

## Developing the whole child



As a school, we offer the children three chances for a residential experience. In year four, this begins as a one night adventure and builds up to a four night stay in year six. All extra curricular activities, visits and visitors into school ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn in a different environment and in a different way.

Our school is proud of its Forest School. All pupils have an opportunity every year to engage with the Forest Schools programme at an age appropriate level as they move through school. Forest Schools is a child-centred inspirational learning process.

It is a long-term programme that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in our beautiful natural and extensive outdoor learning environment.

Our school offers a breakfast club from 7:30am. This provides children with breakfast and a great range of engaging activities for the children to start their day. Independence is encouraged within the breakfast club as children make their own food and are able to clean their dishes. This development of life skills is something we weave through all that we do at St Joseph's.

As an Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) school, we encourage learning at all times of the school day. OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through excellent teaching, our children also learn when they play.

We recognise play as a form of learning and not something that we do between learning. Our OPAL provision at lunchtime is used to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

***Pupils' personal development is at the heart of the school's work. The school ensures that the curriculum extends beyond the academic.***

Ofsted 2024





**Achieving full potential and personal development**

Pupils’ personal development is at the heart of life at St Joseph’s.

The Pupil Voice Committees and Head Pupils ensure that the children have the opportunity to drive change and make a difference to the school. Their contributions feed into school development and allow children to feel that their voice is heard. All children are invited to apply to become members of the committees and these are held in high regard by all pupils.

In addition to the work the children do in school in the curriculum, to support them become leaders of the future, children take leading roles across school and know that it is their right to have their voice heard.

In order to provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to engage with views, beliefs and opinions that are different from their own, debates and discussions are held across the curriculum, wherever possible.

The implementation of Voice 21 ensures that all children are given the opportunities and skills to engage with views, beliefs and opinions different from their own.

**Our Community**

We are proud to recognise our school as the heart of our community. We encourage parents into school and work closely with families and the parish to enhance the sense of togetherness.

Across the school year, we host galleries, express events and assemblies where parents and carers are invited into school and celebrate their children’s work and achievements. These are carefully planned throughout the year with all classes involved from nursery to year six.

In addition, we regularly invite parents and carers to reading cafes, baby groups, forest school sessions, stay and play sessions and coffee afternoons.

We recognise the importance of working with families as the first educators of our children and promote this through regular parent workshops where we share how they can support their child at home.

We are very lucky to have support from our PTA, Friends of St Joseph’s, who meet regularly and fundraise to support the school.

***‘It is great to learn about how we can be a good person when we grow up’***

Pupil quote 2024



**Joining St Joseph’s**

You are warmly invited to visit our school and see the children involved in their learning. This can be arranged by calling the school office on 01623 742 609 and making an appointment.

The Academy Trust admissions arrangements, including oversubscription criteria and the appeals process, are available on our school website: [www.stjosephscatholicprimaryvoluntaryacademy.co.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.stjosephscatholicprimaryvoluntaryacademy.co.uk/parents/admissions)





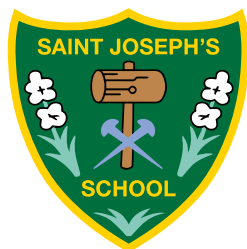
***Pupils are a credit to the school. They are friendly and well-mannered.  
Their behaviour is exemplary.***

***A distinctive feature of this school is the involvement of pupils in decision-making. There are many opportunities for pupils to give their views. These groups make a tangible difference to the life of the school.***

***Pupils feel safe and happy. They enjoy very positive relationships with staff. Across the school community, the sense of togetherness is striking.***

Ofsted 2024

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**St Joseph's**

**Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy**

Langwith Road, Langwith Junction,  
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

T: 01623 742 609

E: [info@st-josephs-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-josephs-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk)

[www.stjosephscatholicprimaryvoluntaryacademy.co.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicprimaryvoluntaryacademy.co.uk)



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