

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, in Chedworth Drive is a school that feels like a family, there is a strong sense of pastoral care across the school which dovetails with the school's ethos. Leaders, governors and staff want the best for all pupils and can evidence many improvements in the quality of education.

St Joseph's remains a good school where we encourage the different learning styles of individuals. I have been a part of St Joseph's school for over 25 years and have had many roles in that time. Moving from deputy to headteacher in 2015. It is a great privilege to lead such a wonderful family community and something that I give thanks for on a daily basis. Members of staff attended this school, as well as the many parents whose children now attend. The importance lies in getting the right people and embracing their strengths in their role, giving ownership. We are indeed a unique community and our journey is one of strength and development.

Our School - At St Joseph's the care and support for staff, pupils and parents as individuals made in the image and likeness of God, is at the heart of our success. The school mission statement of 'Following Jesus in all we do', reminds our children to be kind to others and to always consider what Jesus would do in any situation. Our parents *'appreciate the level of care given to their children and the fact that teachers are willing to go above and beyond.'* (Ofsted 2022) All within the school community are committed to ensuring that the light of Christ shines within each of us and ignites the light in others.

Staff enjoy working at the school and *'are proud to be a part of St Joseph's'* (Ofsted 2022). Leaders know the school well and collectively look after staff and each other. This permeates through the school. The children *'trust staff to look after them'* (Ofsted 2022).

A member of my Extended Leadership Team in a recent staff survey stated: *'I've been here for almost 10 years and I love what I do. I love making a positive difference and feel I am gaining all the professional development I need at this stage.'*

Visitors feel that sense of wellbeing throughout the school; there is a sense of calm and purpose.

Curriculum - Our curriculum is ambitious with a carefully considered order of learning, encouraging the different learning styles of all of our children and embracing them as individuals, valuing their opinions and views about how they best learn and allowing for their social as well as academic progress to be





targeted. *'In lessons, pupils listen well and focus on their work'* (Ofsted 2022). We encourage confident participation in learning and will adapt the curriculum breadth for pupils for whom it is in their best interest. *'Pupils with SEND are fully included in lessons and all aspects of school life'* (Ofsted 2022).

Our drive to improve reading and writing is resulting in the development of children's vocabulary and a true love of books. *'Reading is a whole school priority'* (Ofsted 2022) and all children talk enthusiastically about the books that their teacher reads to them. We have a dedicated story time for 15 minutes at the end of every day in every class.

Our aim is for our children to leave our school skilled and ready to make a future for themselves that they, as an individual, aspire to have. We believe that through our curriculum, they will be able to contribute and prosper in society. We want to ensure a meaningful education for our children rooted in their Catholic heritage.

Enrichment - We are proud to offer a wide range of after school clubs, not just limited to sport, clubs like: cookery and board games, are very popular. We ensure that we cater for all ages. The children really enjoy the range of trips and opportunities to enrich their learning and growth as a person. We ensure that



as a child journeys through our school they are given the opportunity to be away from home for a night to begin with, up to two nights in Year 6. Just imagine spending the night sleeping over in the school hall!!! Year 4 love that.

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching, our children care for God's world and all in it. We hold many charity events led by the children. This year a year 5 pupil raised money by having her hair cut for the Little Princess Trust; we all wore purple for the day and donated a pound. Our children have hearts of gold and will do anything they can to support the poor and vulnerable; everyone is a part of God's family. Parental support with this is always amazing.

New developments - We are a school that never stands still, we are *'continually looking for ways to improve'* (Ofsted 2022).



This year it has been exciting to expand our provision for 2 year olds in our preschool. We are privileged to be able to grow our school family and embrace the challenges that brings. In preschool, there is a real focus on embedding the foundations of language and learning as well as developing self-help skills crucial for the Reception year.

We have a wonderful school environment and with this expansion project we had to replace the staff room. This was a wonderful opportunity for staff to create their space. It is indeed a space of escape and calm. A space for them.

Our Future Vision - The future for St Joseph's is always exciting and faced with challenges. We look forward to continuing to develop and revisit our provision to ensure it stays fit for purpose.

Nothing can be achieved without having everyone on board. This is achieved by sharing the dream, listening and then celebrating our success together. There is definitely no I in team at St Joseph's.

'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'.