

Archdiocese of Nottingham

St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Part of the Corpus Christ Catholic Academy Trust

Coventry Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9BZ
Phone (01858) 465359 Fax: (01858) 469925 Email: office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk
School website: www.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

"Believe, Achieve, Succeed"



Headteacher: Mrs Karen McVea

Chair of Governors: Mr Mike McGowan

Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy

St. Joseph's Academy is at the heart of its community. It is situated in the centre of the bustling rural town of Market Harborough on the border of South Leicestershire. The school has a long and distinguished history, educating the surrounding parishes since 1877. The building is a combination of modern and original Victorian buildings skilfully adapted to its present purpose.

In April 2012 St Joseph's converted to academy status and is now part of the Corpus Christ Multi Academy Trust along with St John Fisher, Sacred Heart, St Joseph's (Leicester) and St Thomas More.

St. Joseph's is a Catholic Academy for all children built upon the solid foundations of Christian values. We believe that each individual should be given the opportunity to flourish and develop to their full potential. Here they can acquire the skills to become confident and articulate, well-equipped to meet the challenges of a fast -changing world.

At St. Joseph's we are committed to the development of the individual, to enabling every pupil to fulfill their potential, not only in their academic studies but also in sports, drama, music or wherever their talents may lie. We meet together regularly as a community to celebrate success and reflect upon the values of tolerance and mutual respect, honesty and integrity that underpin our philosophy here at St Joseph's.

The pupils are encouraged at St. Joseph's to have a say in their school and we have an active School Council which meets regularly after discussing current themes/issues with their class. The representatives are elected by the pupils themselves. In addition there are also Librarians, Sports Ambassadors and Road Safety Officers who all make a positive contribution to the pupils here.

We believe that our school is a warm, caring and happy environment as witnessed by many visitors to the school. We take pride in our traditional school uniform. We adapt our curriculum to the learning needs of the pupils. We are an inclusive community and have outstanding behaviour.

St. Joseph's Academy has close links with the parish of 'Our Lady of Victories', and we are proud of the committed and active PTFA who raise staggering amounts of money to support school ventures and equipment. The Governing body is proactive in their role and makes a good contribution to school life.

Many thanks for expressing an interest in St. Joseph's. We are delighted to welcome visitors and if you wish to visit the school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Karen McVea (Mrs)
Headteacher

Mission Statement

"Believe, Achieve, Succeed"

Under Saint Joseph's guardianship and protection, we will be supported to achieve and succeed in the things the Lord wants us to do.

What makes St. Joseph's Academy successful?

- A dedicated team of staff who take pride in the achievements of the school and its pupils
- Staff who reflect continuously on their teaching and the learning of the children
- Pupils who are part of the decision making process and are regularly consulted
- A strong leadership team working to raise performance and maintain good standards
- A rich diversity of extra-curricular activities for different age groups
- Creating an atmosphere in which children are nurtured and have pride in their school community
- High expectations of behaviour from pupils and adults
- Treating one another as made in the image and likeness of God
- A committed and conscientious network of parents, governors and parish members
- Working and communicating with parents on a regular basis
- Networking with other schools and coaches

What are parents offered?

- A full involvement in school activities
- A thriving PTFA
- Regular communication and consultation
- Open door policy
- Opportunities for joining school and parish worship
- Before and after-school club facilities
- A wide variety of musical and sport opportunities
- A school in which the child's voice can be heard



What are the pupils offered?

- A caring and nurturing environment in which their voice is heard.
- To be treated as they wish themselves to be treated
- To be praised and challenged
- To have a community sense of belonging
- To know they are special, made in the image and likeness of God
- To have the opportunity to explore a wide curriculum, which is interesting and creative
- To become more confident, self disciplined and well motivated



Quality Assurance

St. Joseph's is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, one which is suitable for the age and development of its pupils, following the requirements of the national curriculum. We endeavour to provide a rich learning environment within a family and Christian setting. The school has a variety of strategies to ensure this happens:

- Quality of teaching is monitored through a regular system of lesson observations either by the Headteacher or other senior staff on the senior leadership team.
- Lesson plans and schemes of work are monitored by subject leaders.
- The school develops a strategic school development plan annually, in which they identify priorities for the school and identify what needs to be worked on.

Discipline

Behaviour at St. Joseph's is outstanding, which is often commented on by external visitors to the school and was highlighted by Ofsted. Therefore we try to keep school rules to a minimum and instill in the children a sense of responsibility and well being. However the school has various discipline measures ranging from the informal to the more formal. We believe that praise and reward systems can be extremely effective, which the children enjoy being a part of.



Admissions

The Governing Body is the admissions authority, and all decisions about admissions are made by a committee of the Governing Body. The admissions process is co-ordinated by the Local Authority on behalf of the Governing Body. Whilst St. Joseph's is a Catholic Academy giving priority to children baptised in the Catholic faith, the school openly welcomes all children from the community. As an inclusive school, it recognises and respects people from all walks of life and faiths. Parents are required to complete an application form and supplementary form by a given date, in order to process their application. Parents are invited to visit the school during normal school hours by appointment with the Head.

Religious Education and Collective Worship



St. Joseph's is a Catholic Academy and therefore the RE curriculum is taught in accordance with the Nottingham Diocesan requirements and scheme of work. The school participates in whole school worship regularly, including class prayer. Regular school and parish masses and other religious celebrations also take place. The school recognises that we are part of a much wider Christian approach and therefore children of other denominations and faith integrate well into the school, sharing a common ethos. The only requirement the school places on families who are not of a Catholic background is that they are sympathetic and respectful to the faith community in the school.

Special Education Needs

St. Joseph's values each pupil as someone special and therefore it is our responsibility to meet their needs, within the limitations of budget allocations. This is acknowledged in the school budget, where monies are set-aside specifically for Special Educational Needs (SEN). Special Needs within the context of this policy refers to children who:

- Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of a similar age.
- Have a disability or marked ability, which cannot be catered for within the normal facilities provided by the School.

A senior member of staff has particular responsibility for overseeing all children on the Special Needs Register and acts as a link with external agencies. When the school requires additional help then this is purchased from a variety of providers. Pupils with physical disabilities will not be treated less favourably than those without and the school has an accessibility plan covering measures the school could take to increase access to the school by pupils who are admitted with disabilities. Parents are welcome to have a full copy of the Special Needs Policy of the school.

Child Protection

St. Joseph's Academy supports families in creating a Christian community in school and at home, leading to the formation of a well rounded member of society. The school is also responsible for the safety and protection of children from harm or danger by other children or adults, within school and at home. It is a statutory obligation for schools to work with other agencies ie police, social services, Education Social Services amongst others to protect the interests of the child. In the majority of cases the parents will have been notified if contact with these agencies has been sought however at times this may not be appropriate. Furthermore although the school is keen to work with parents in whatever form, the school can not guarantee confidentiality if it poses a risk to the child. It is paramount that we act in the interests of the child first. More detail can be found in our Safeguarding Policy.



A Copy of St. Joseph's Uniform Policy

Principles

The wearing of uniform is an acknowledged and accepted part of life at St. Joseph's and it is assumed when applying for admission to the school that the parents endorse our uniform policy. It is our policy that all children should wear clothing that is in keeping with a purposeful learning ethos. We also believe it is important that certain activities are facilitated by specialised and appropriate clothing when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for children's school uniform in this prospectus and in our uniform policy. It is suggested that all items are clearly labelled.

Aims

Our policy for children's school uniform is based on the belief that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with the school
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be)
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents
- Has been designed with health and safety in mind.

Our colours are royal blue, grey and white and the uniform is as follows:

Boys

Item	Colour
Trousers	Grey
Shirt (<i>no polo shirts</i>)	White (<i>to be worn with school tie</i>)
Pullover	Royal Blue with school logo
Socks	Grey/Black
Tie	Blue and gold
Shoes	Black (<i>not open-toed</i>)
Foundation Stage only	White polo shirt (with logo preferably)

Boots, trainers or shoes with large heels are not allowed for either boys or girls

Girls

Item	Colour
Skirt/Culottes or Pinafore	Grey
Or Straight legged trousers	Grey
Shirt (<i>no polo shirts</i>)	White (<i>to be worn with school tie</i>)
Cardigan or Pullover	Royal Blue with school logo
Tights or	Navy/Black or Grey
Socks	White (<i>not to be worn with tights</i>)
Tie	Blue and gold
Shoes	Black
	No high heels or open toed sandals
Foundation Stage only	White polo shirt (with logo preferably)

An alternative during the summer term for the girls is a royal blue/white check school dress.

Boys' and Girls' P.E.

Item	Colour
T-shirt	Royal Blue with school logo
Shorts	Black
Plimsolls	Black

Boys' and Girls' Games

Item	Colour
T-shirt	Royal Blue with school logo
Shorts	Black
Trainers	
Track-suit top	Dark colours (blue/black)
Track-suit bottoms	Dark colours (blue/black)

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we prefer children do not wear jewellery in our school. The only ear rings to be worn are small studs, which the child will have to remove during PE lessons. Watches are also permissible.

Make up and Cosmetics

Make up and cosmetics are not considered appropriate or consistent with our school uniform. The school does not permit such products to be worn by any children, unless there is a specific event for which the Head has given permission.

All clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with your child's name

SATS RESULTS FOR KS2 2016/2017

These tables show detailed results for Year 6 pupils (on the roll at the end of the last national curriculum assessments) achieving each level at the school, at the end of key stage 2. Figures may not total 100% because of rounding.

Validated Data

	Key Stage Two (National)		
	Cohort		22
	WTS <100 %	EXS 100+ %	GDS 110+ %
Reading	10	95 (71)	43 (25)
Writing	14	90 (76)	33 (18)
Maths	10	90 (75)	33 (23)
Reading, Maths & Writing TA	24	81 (61)	14
GPS	14	86 (77)	33 (31)

Progress score for reading will increase once successful review is included.

	Reading	Writing	Maths
Progress	1.9	2.1	1.3
Sufficient Progress National	-5.0	-5.0	-7.0

Note: More information on statutory assessment results can be found on the school website.



Safety

Like most schools, we have limited parking facilities. All parents making a visit to any part of the school during the school day should first report to reception and sign the visitors' book. The children's entrance to the school is via the rear of the building, off Nelson Street. All parents and visitors enter the building via the school reception.

Homework

Homework is regarded as important because it:

- Reinforces work done in school.
- Gives an opportunity to complete work started in school.
- Encourages independent study habits.
- Allows preparation for forthcoming lessons.
- Broadens the work experience in class.

When homework is set it will be relevant to each pupil's experience and ability and will be monitored by the teacher. If there are any difficulties with understanding or time constraints, please notify the class teacher. The school will provide homework diaries as appropriate.

The homework pattern and expectations will vary during a child's school career, but will largely be as follows:



Foundation

From the time of entering the school at the age of 4, children and parents are encouraged to share books and recite nursery rhymes together. They are advised to talk about the book together. They are encouraged to recite counting rhymes and to count out objects together. Each week parents will be given a brief overview of the learning focus.

Years 1/2

In Years 1 & 2 homework includes regular reading together. Pupils will take home sounds and spellings to learn. They may have number tasks or RE work to do.



Year 3/4

In Years 3 & 4 the range of homework extends. Pupils will use learning logs. These provide them with an opportunity to demonstrate what they have been learning in school. They may also have spellings to learn and times tables. From time to time children may be required to carry out RE tasks involving the family.

Year 5/6

At Years 5 & 6 the amount of homework again increases. Learning logs are continued but homework may include additional subjects. At Year 6, pupils, with the support of parents, are expected to revise from planned sheets or books for SATs.



School Day

The school day is split into two sessions starting at 8:50 am and afternoon starting at 1:00 pm.

The electronic bell is sounded at 8:50am, when the children line up awaiting collection by their teacher. There is a teacher on duty outside on the playground from 8:40am; children are not to be left unaccompanied on the playground before 8:40am. At St. Joseph's the registers are completed at 8:55 am and lessons start promptly.

Every class has a morning break of 15 minutes.



Afternoon break is for Key Stage 1 only.

Lateness

If children are late they must be escorted to the school entrance by their parent or guardian and inform the office that they have arrived. If a child is persistently late then the parents will be invited in to discuss the situation to see if there can be a resolution of the problem.

Attendance

Great stress is placed upon continuity of attendance and the Government has therefore issued some comprehensive guidelines on the matter. Regular attendance is seen as essential to learning and parents should therefore co-operate with the school to achieve it.

Authorised Absence

An absence is "authorised" either when the school has given approval in advance for a pupil to be away, or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as satisfactory justification for absence. Authorised absences would include illness and medical or dental appointments.

The school has forms to be completed for foreseen absences before the commencement of an absence. If a child is ill the school should be notified no later than 11:00am by phone or visiting the school, to explain the reason for their child's absence.

Unauthorised absences

These are any absences that are not defined as authorised.



The Staff

Mrs K McVea	Headteacher
Miss D Smith	Foundation Manager
Mrs S Trappitt	Year 1 Teacher
Mrs A Amphlett	Year 1 Teacher
Mr T Hooley	Year 2 Teacher
Mr S Burgess	Year 3 Teacher
Mrs H Auckland	Year 4 Teacher
Mr M Sparkes	Year 5 Teacher
Mrs C Dedman	Year 6 Teacher/Assistant Headteacher
Ms V Charlton	Office Manager
Mrs L Webb	Admin SENCO/Admin/ Teaching Assistant
Mrs K Braham	Teaching Assistant/Midday Supervisor
Mrs C Buzzard	Teaching Assistant
Mrs E Coker	Teaching Assistant/Midday Supervisor
Mrs S Davies	Teaching Assistant
Mrs L De Gallier	Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Geddes	Teaching Assistant/HLTA
Mrs D Harrison	Teaching Assistant
Mrs J Johnson	Teaching Assistant
Mrs K Liddle	Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Thompson	Teaching Assistant
Mrs T Parker	Teaching Assistant
Mrs P Pelos	Teaching Assistant/HLTA
Mrs J Prangnell	Teaching Assistant/Midday Supervisor
Miss G Bonner	Sport's Coach
Miss N Crook	Apprentice Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Williamson	Teaching Assistant
Mrs G Burman	Midday Supervisor
Mrs J Lovell	Midday Supervisor

We are also supported by many parents who help in classrooms and hear the children read.
All staff and volunteers are DBS checked

Members of the Governing Body

Names of Governors	Type of Governor
Mr M McGowan	Chairperson, Foundation
Mrs M Clearkin	Vice chair, Foundation
Fr. O O'Neill	Foundation
Mrs A Whelan	Foundation
Mr J Cooper	Foundation
Mr J Liddle	Foundation
Mrs K McVea	Headteacher
Mrs L Webb	Non teaching Staff
Mrs C Dedman	Teaching Staff

Mrs Nina Thomas	Parent Governor
Mr P Blagburn	Parent Governor

Our Academy Curriculum

We believe that primary aged children are passionately eager to learn, to explore, to invent and to discover, therefore at St. Joseph's we also ensure the curriculum is matched to the needs of individual pupils.



We run a connected curriculum at St Joseph's where we try and make links between the different subjects. This gives the children a context to their learning and provides them with exciting learning opportunities.

The school's academic goals and activities are designed to develop mathematical and reading skills and to promote understanding of the child's world through scientific investigation, exploration and study. Pupils are encouraged through art, music, dance, drama and literature to develop self-expression.

Reading tests are standardised i.e. they have been constructed to assess children across the whole country and take into account the difference in ages even within one year group. All children take these from Year 1 upwards. Ruth Miskin is a programme adopted by the school for the younger children, it is a synthetic phonics approach and the children are placed in groups three days a week at the appropriate level. We also have 'Big Write' which has led to writing improving considerably across the school.

ICT and design technology are an increasingly important part of the curriculum and we pride ourselves on the use of ICT across the curriculum and the effective use of the ICT suite. Every child from year 2 upwards is taught French in a fun and lively way by an external provider with the school meeting the financial costs.

National tests are carried out at the end of Year 1, Year 2, and Year 6. The results are given to parents in the Annual School Report at the end of the Summer Term. However the teachers are continually assessing the children throughout the year, ensuring that teaching is matched to the level of learning.

All children are taught in single age mixed ability classes. Lessons are planned to meet these differing ability resulting in carefully planned and executed lessons. As a school we strive for academic excellence and enjoyment of the learning environment.

A variety of educational visits, some residential (Alton Castle and Kingswood), will be offered to children during their time at St. Joseph's. We encourage the use of external coaches, particularly for PE, to come into school and share their expertise with the children and staff.

Parents' evenings are held twice a year, in the Autumn and Spring terms, in order to review children's progress and a yearly report is completed each summer term. Teachers are keen to discuss any concerns a parent may have at an early stage, so that they can work together in a productive manner. St. Joseph's prides itself on its good relationships with its parents.