

The Mission Statement
Of
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St. Joseph's is a Roman Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It exists primarily to assist Catholic parents in giving their children a Catholic education so that they may lead happy and fulfilled lives, promote the common good of the society and attain their destiny.

St. Joseph's serves the two parishes of The Holy Trinity and The Sacred Heart. It is hoped that the Parish Priests will be able to visit school regularly.

By Catholic education we mean that every aspect of school life is permeated by the belief of the school community:

- In a loving creator God, as revealed by Jesus Christ.
- That all persons are sacred because each is made in the image of God and is therefore deserving of respect.
- That all creation is an expression of the goodness and love of God who reveals Himself through it.
- That all are entitled to justice, to be given the opportunity to develop fully as persons and thus have equality of access to the curriculum.

As the school shares in the Church's mission to educate and nurture the faith, prayer, the Eucharist and other Liturgical celebrations have a central role in the life and work of the school community.

Great emphasis is placed on a growth in self-discipline and the right use of freedom. Each is expected to treat others with a spirit of respect. A warm atmosphere, full of caring relationships, is encouraged and every assistance is given in helping the pupils to be of real service in family life, the local community, the Church and society.

We seek to make the Mission Statement visible in the following ways:

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Revelation

Education through all its forms and fields of knowledge, from the beginning of time, reveals an increasing part of God's mind to humanity:

God is at work in His world, and can be discovered in our daily living, drawing us to Himself in love, inviting us to grow in a relationship with Him as the most perfect fulfilment of our lives.

Evaluating the Distinctive nature of a Catholic School – Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The school aims that the whole curriculum will stimulate religious growth and development along with academic and social progress.

The school will achieve this aim by ensuring that the children are taught that:

- All creation is God's; all human knowledge is only part of God's mind. Everyday sessions will start and end with prayer as all knowledge is ultimately related to God.
- We, and one day all humanity, must act according to that knowledge.
- Scientific, aesthetic and spiritual knowledge shows us God at his work in his world.
- We should value people and knowledge as God values them, by God's criteria, not man's

The school provides positive Catholic Teaching based upon *Learning and Growing as the People of God* and other supportive texts. The celebration of Mass, Liturgies, Assemblies and Prayer are an integral part of our teaching. The school is instrumental in preparing the children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Celebration

The school aims to foster and nurture a love of worship through educational experiences and develop the faith of each individual child within the school community.

The school will achieve this aim through:

- The religious education programme.
- Preparation for the Sacraments.
- School and Class masses.
- School, Class and House assemblies.
- Hymn practices.
- Rosary (reflections).
- Lenten prayers (reflections).
- Stations of the Cross.
- Penitential Services.
- Carol Services.
- Celebrating special devotions during the year, May, June, October, November, Advent, Christmas, Easter, Whitsun.
- School religious development days.
- Consortium religious development days.

The daily Act of Collective Worship is the cornerstone of the life of the School.

Church

The school aims to create an interaction between home, parish, school and wider community. To achieve this aim the school will encourage:

Parents

- ❖ To develop a partnership with school to nurture the spiritual growth of their children.
- ❖ To participate in Sacramental preparation and worship in school.
- ❖ To work in school and help with activities including trips.

Governors

- ❖ To keep informed about school through visits.
- ❖ To attend class and school masses and assemblies.
- ❖ To consult with the Headteacher, informally, between Governors meetings.

Parish

- ❖ To support the school by encouraging all parishioners to visit school and share worship.
- ❖ To share in joint ventures e.g. Lenten fund-raising.
- ❖ To liaise with Parish groups to broaden the children's' experience of Parish life.

Wider Community

- ❖ To visit school for shows/concerts.
- ❖ To welcome an exchange of visits. E.g. distribution of Harvest Festival goods, school choir.
- ❖ Y5/Y6 children visit St. Chad's Cathedral.

Life in Christ

The school aims to help and support the whole school community sharing Christ's love on our faith journey.

To achieve this aim the school will:

- Ensure the individual efforts of children are recognised and rewarded through informal praise by staff and noted through the commendations system, the house system and records of achievement.
- Nurture children's development through well-planned programmes of study which cater for the individual needs within the teaching situation.
- Promote individual development of staff by:
 - Providing opportunities for Professional Development.
 - Affirming responsibilities within curriculum and associated resources.
 - Providing, as far as possible, for a range of teaching experience.
 - Giving support through individual consultation during the course of the year.
 - Ensuring a teacher mentor is allocated to newly-qualified teachers.

