

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does St. John's offer wrap around care? What are the times/prices? Is there availability and how does the booking system work?

We have a Breakfast and After School Club run on-site by staff members. Breakfast club starts at 8am and costs £3.00 a session and After School Club runs until 5.30pm and costs £10.00 per session. Priority is given to full-time working parents and places are booked on a first come first served basis via the school on-line payment system.

2. Can my child go to a Catholic school if we are not Catholic?

We welcome all families who wish to be part of our school. Whilst we give priority to practising Catholics in our admission criteria, every year we welcome families who are not practising or who have other faiths but wish for their child to be part of a Catholic School with a Catholic ethos.

3. What are the uniform requirements?

The uniform for St. John's is traditional and smart. We have a blue crested jumper and a tie. Boys wear grey trousers and girls wear grey dresses/skirts. All pupils wear school shoes and a navy blue coat/jacket. A school PE kit is worn for PE lessons.

4. What is the size of the class and how many classes per year group?

Each class has a maximum of 30 children. There is a Nursery Class and one class for each year group from Reception through to Year 6.

5. What is offered in terms of sports?

The school benefits from working with Sports Coaches and the range of sporting activities includes team sports such as hockey, basketball, football, netball, tennis etc. In addition children will also have gymnastic and dance lessons.

We are proud of the wide range of sporting opportunities on offer for all children. This includes a series of Golf sessions at Greenwich Golf range, swimming lessons, as well as safe scootering and safe cycling programmes. Older children enjoy a series of sailing lessons at Millwall Dock (working towards Level 1 Sailing Award) and a residential trip to The Isle of Wight to experience sailing and other water sports. There is also a residential where the children experience a variety of Outward Bound type activities in Lower KS2.

These opportunities not only develop children's sporting abilities and widen their experiences beyond what is normally offered in a Primary School, they allow the children to develop a positive attitude towards trying new things, resilience and team work.

6. What is offered in terms of language?

At St. John's we teach French. We are fortunate that this includes sessions for all year groups from Year 1 by an experienced French teacher from St. Michael's Catholic College.

7. What experiences does the school offer children:

We believe that learning outside the classroom is key to supporting children to fulfil their potential; it also makes for a meaningful and exciting learning journey for all children. In our immediate locality we are lucky to have Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodlands, Canada Water Library and a fantastic public transport network which means that the children can travel across London. Trips regularly include Museums, Art Galleries, Theatres, Parks and a host of other venues. At St. John's trips are planned to support what the children are learning and aim to support the children's cultural development. Trips are regular and varied and it is not unusual for a KS2 class to have several trips across a term.

In addition to sporting experiences (see question 5) children enjoy music lessons with specialist teachers, including opportunities to learn to play the violin, recorder and ukulele. The children will also enjoy performance opportunities from a Christmas Nativity in Reception Class to performing at the Royal Festival Hall in Year 6.



8. What is offered in terms of extra-curricular activities:

At St. John's, we offer a whole range of after school activities which children can take part in. This includes sporting and dance activities, art and creative sessions. Other examples of clubs in the recent past include first aid club, gardening, learning skills, a music production workshop, performance workshops etc

9. What are the lunchtime arrangements?

School dinners are cooked on-site as we have our own kitchen and the children eat lunch in the school hall. The children have a balanced menu and every day they have choices for their main meal and dessert. There is always a salad bar and water or milk to drink.

10. How long has the Headteacher been at St. John's for and what is the vision for the school?

Staffing is stable at St. John's and we are proud of our hard working and dedicated staff team. The school is part of a Federation with St. James the Great and there is one board of governors. An Executive Headteacher leads both schools and each school has a Head of School.

At St. John's Ms Babb is Executive Head and Ms. Jajechnyk is Head of School; both have been at St. John's for over 10 years.

The Vision for St John's is to create a caring Christian environment in which the love of God is present, so that all members of our community can grow spiritually and thus create an industrious and stimulating environment in which the potential of each child can be fully developed.

11. How does the school communicate with parents and involve them in the life of the school?

There is a weekly newsletter which keeps parents up to date with the life of the school; families receive a paper copy weekly. Past newsletters are on the school website so do look at some of these as they give you a good flavour of the school. Parent Evenings are held termly and there are parent workshops throughout the year to support home - school learning. School Leaders stand at the School gate at the start and end of every day to welcome any children and to answer any questions you may have.

12. How does the school support more or less able children?

As a small and inclusive one-form-entry school the progress and potential of every child is tracked. Each child is supported to reach their potential. On a day to day basis, work is differentiated and additional staff give support and challenge where needed. Children may find particular areas of the curriculum a challenge and there are a host of interventions and support programmes which our experienced teachers will put in place. Challenge for pupils who are more able is planned as part of lessons and there are opportunities for children to excel in all areas from writing and maths to music, art and sport. Our results at the end of KS2 as children move to secondary school show how successful we are in this.

13. How do I apply?

Application is online through your local authority and you can name schools on your application across London; they do not have to be in the borough in which you live. As a Catholic School you will need to complete an additional Supplementary Form which is available on the school website or from the school office.