



OUR MISSION STATEMENT



St. John's Catholic School is committed to providing a warm and welcome environment where its pupils can receive an excellent Catholic Education which both reflects the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ and supports parents in their role as first educators of their children in the ways of Faith, Attitudes and Values.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Recognising and promoting the skills, attitudes and values of each member of our School Community.
- Fostering a sense of individual worth and spiritual growth.
- Allowing each child to reach their full potential through the provision of a quality education which is broad, balanced, challenging and interlinked.
- Promoting awareness, respect and tolerance of different cultures that reflect cultural diversity of the same.
- Encouraging Parents to take full and active responsibility in educating their children to become independent learners.
- Developing harmonious relationships between all members of our School Community and all who enter our School which fosters mutual respect, trust, forgiveness and love.
- Forming links within the Parish Community and the wider Community.
- Sharing our devotion in Praise, Prayer and Practice.



The History of Our School

The foundation stone for St John's was laid on 6th October 1990 by Archbishop Bowen. The school opened for its first day on 2nd September 1991, with the official opening ceremony taking place on the 26th November 1991.

ABOUT ST JOHN'S

St John's became the first Catholic school to have been built in the area of Rotherhithe following the redevelopment of Surrey Docks by the London Dockland Development Corporation. The school serves the Parish of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, with the Parish Church being directly opposite the school on the same site.

We are located in a smart single-storey building, with pleasant grounds and a secure ball cage (with astro-turf) for the children to use at playtimes. We also have a planting area which the children love to use and in which pupils grow vegetables, fruit and flowers. We are also very lucky to back onto the Stave Hill Eco-Park, an area which we use as an additional resource for class activities.

There are seven classes, one for each year group, with a maximum of 30 places in each class. There is also a nursery class with part-time places and also full-time places, which working parents can access through an entitlement code issued by the HMRC. Nursery and Reception classes have their own separate, well equipped, outdoor play space.

The aim of 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 – children, parents, teachers, support staff and Governors – can grow spiritually and thus create an industrious and stimulating environment in which the potential of each child can be fully developed.

St John's is a good school where the children's behaviour has been identified as being 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Our curriculum too has been judged as 'Outstanding', where the range of trips, visitors and activities are recognised as enriching the children's learning experience. Ofsted reported that 'Pupils receive an education which is at least good at this school. They are rightly proud of their school and enjoy the exciting range of activities the staff organise.' The range of trips and activities include cycling, sailing, golf and visits to museums, galleries, theatres or places of industry. As a school we believe in providing opportunities to inspire pupils in their learning and broaden future career choices.



Religious Education



At St John's we have RE at the heart of the curriculum through loving and serving one another. We follow the 'Come and See' programme recommended by the diocese. The children learn about Religion and in particular about the Catholic faith. They are encouraged to learn from Religion – particularly to develop their own relationship with God - through regular prayer and reflection. Additionally, each term the children have a focus week on a different world religion.

Catholic children may receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in Year 3. Preparation for these Sacraments is parish based. At various times during the year special celebrations are held, such as Benediction, and these promote community links between home, school and parish.

English



All learning relies on good literacy skills, including reading, writing, speaking and listening. Early English teaching begins in EYFS with children learning phonics. The school uses the Song of Sounds phonics programme. Our lessons include reading and writing, with grammar being taught through high quality texts. Spelling rules and patterns are modelled and explained and sent home as homework. Guided Reading sessions in KS1 allow pupils to learn and practise their skills within a small group with the teacher. It is expected that children read at home every night for at least ten minutes and this is recorded as part of their homework.

Mathematics



A daily maths session takes place in every class. Maths lessons may be about numbers, shapes, space, measures or handling data. There is a focus on using and applying knowledge to problem solving and developing mental strategies as well as written methods to work out problems.

Learning maths vocabulary and talking about mathematical ideas is also an important part of the lessons. We use games, number fans, whiteboards, calculators and computers to make learning fun and interactive. In this way children can apply the facts and concepts they learn to their everyday lives.

Science



Children develop their use of scientific words from an early age. They learn about themselves, other living things and the environment. They explore different materials and investigate responses to various changes. Children also learn about forces, movement and energy. There is a focus on practical hands-on work, with children encouraged to observe, question and hypothesise. Work is recorded using a variety of methods, including pictures, writing and graphs. We aim to give children the skills to understand how to be a scientist, using correct scientific procedures in solving problems and gaining new knowledge.

Computing



The school has a well-resourced Computer Suite and a set of ipads. Every child has access to a computer and is introduced to word processing, the Internet, control technology, simulations, data handling and coding. Every classroom has an Interactive Whiteboard to ensure that technology is used to support and develop learning in all curriculum subjects.

Physical Education



In Physical Education children learn positive attitudes to keep healthy. Children's involvement in PE helps them to develop a sense of achievement, physical wellbeing, independence and co-operation skills through working as team players. We offer a diverse range of sports including cycling, swimming, sailing and golf.

Themed Studies

We make **History** and **Geography** as cross-curricular as possible, tying it in with all areas of learning, to show children how learning about the past and the world we live in can help them understand and make the most of their own experiences. We bring the learning to life through trips to museums, galleries and exhibitions. This reinforces classroom learning by giving particular topics a context for the children, helping them to understand why they are learning about it.

From the age of seven children learn a modern foreign language. At St John's the children learn **French**.

Through **Design and Technology**, the children are encouraged to identify, examine and solve practical problems and to improve existing situations. The children are encouraged to be inventive, using a range of materials and tools, thus developing, modifying and evaluating their ideas through a series of projects.

Art and Design



Art and Design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides for children a unique way of responding to the world using colour, form, texture, pattern and different materials to communicate what they see, feel and think. Children's work is displayed to enable children and adults to value and admire the creative effort involved as well as providing an attractive and stimulating environment.

Music



Music is a creative and social art to be enjoyed. Children have the opportunity to enjoy music through listening, singing, movement and dance and by playing tuned and un-tuned percussion. There are opportunities to learn to play instruments such as the recorder, violin and ukulele. Performance opportunities include performing in school as well as performing at the Royal Festival Hall.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE),



Like RE, PSHE is part of the curriculum that embraces other areas, underpinning daily activities, such as, for example, good hygiene, diet or how we learn to share things.

Accessibility Action Plan

In line with the SEN and Disability Act 2001, St John's has an Accessibility Action Plan to ensure equal access to the curriculum and to enhance the school's ability to respond positively to children with a range of disabilities. Staff at the school regularly review the experiences the children receive in order to ensure that barriers to participation are removed for those who may need extra support. The school admits any pupil according to our Admission Policy whether they have a disability or not.



Equal Opportunities

We regard the diversity of our school community as a valuable resource in our curriculum planning and in the creation of our school environment. We aim for children to have a positive self-image and respect for each other's cultural background. We are committed to ensuring that every individual at every stage of learning, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, language, religion or social background has access to and participates in the full curriculum in a way which takes proper account for their needs and abilities.

The School Day

Each school day is important for children. It has been recognised that those children who attend school on time, each day, do better than those who don't

Times:

KS1 and KS2

8.55am – 3:30pm

Reception Class

8.55am – 3:25pm



Working Parents - Extended Schools

There is a Breakfast Club and After-School Club facility to provide wrap around child-care for those parents who need it. At Breakfast Club children are given cereal and toast as a healthy start to the day. Breakfast runs from 8:00 to 9:00 am each school morning. At the end of the day, there is a healthy snack to keep children going for those who use the After School Club which runs through until 6:00pm. Both Breakfast and After-School care are only available by booking in advance. There is a charge for those that use them.

Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Our aim is to ensure that we meet the needs of all individuals within our school. Occasionally some children experience greater difficulties than average for those in the same age group, these children are then offered extra support in their work and may sometimes be identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN).

The school follows the SEN Criteria set by the Local Authority. The school implements the SEN Code of Practice and children with difficulties are placed on the school SEN register, which is confidential to teachers and parents. Their progress is closely monitored and reviewed at regular intervals by the class teacher, SEN Co-ordinator, the headteacher and parents. The school is also able to access many support agencies in order to support children with specific difficulties.

Work in class is differentiated in order to meet the needs of all children, including the most able. Wherever possible, children with SEN are supported in their work. Most of the time this occurs within the classroom, but

on occasions it may be necessary to withdraw the children individually or in a small group. Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Educational Health Care Plan are supported by the local authority. The school is happy to work, following advice from the specialist support teachers, in devising and implementing Individual Education Plans (IEP) in accordance with the Code of Practice. Parents are invited to discuss their child's IEP with the class teacher. To ensure continuity SEN records are held by the class teacher and these are available for parents to view by appointment with the school. The school policy for SEN is also available for parents to view.

Where to find us



Our school is located in Rotherhithe. It is well served by public transport, with Canada Water just a 5 minute walk. From Canada Water there is access to the tube, over ground and bus links.

