



**School
Prospectus
2017-18**

AN INTRODUCTION TO ST. JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to St. Joseph's RC Primary School. This prospectus sets out some general information about our school which we hope will be useful to those choosing a school and to parents/carers whose children already attend the school. The information is also designed to inform the wider community. The prospectus refers to the 2015-2016 school year and was correct at the end of August 2015. It is possible that changes in Government legislation or LA policy, (in so far as it affects Voluntary Aided Schools), could affect particulars described during this school or subsequent years. If you would like clarification on any matter outlined in the school prospectus, please don't hesitate to contact us.

General Information

School Address and contact details

St. Joseph's RC Primary School
Rutland Street
Millfield
Sunderland
SR4 6HY

Telephone: (0191) 553 7725

Email: st.josephs@school360.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Damian John Groark

Chair of Governors: Mr D. Riddell

Local Authority: City of Sunderland

Executive Director, people's Services: Mr S Marshall

Diocese: Hexham and Newcastle

Diocesan Schools Commission Director: Mr J. Hughes

About the School

St. Joseph's RC Primary School is a multi-cultural, co-educational voluntary aided primary school for boys and girls of all abilities from 4 – 11 years of age. The school also has a nursery class for children from 3 to 4 years of age. Through the provision of a caring Catholic environment and dedicated effective teaching, we at St. Joseph's aim to equip our pupils with the skills knowledge and understanding they will need to live their lives according to the teachings of Christ. The school Mission Statement embodies these ideas:

St Joseph's is a **happy, welcoming community,**
enriched by our **diversity,** where we strive to be
better than our best.

A place where we **love one another, love learning,**
love Jesus and love life.

The school and parents have formed a PTA, known as the "Friends of St Joseph's". They meet to organise social and fund raising events.

The SCHOOL DAY

The length of the school day is slightly different for different age groups.

Nursery class	8.30 am to 11.30 am for morning children 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm for afternoon children (Separate arrangements are in place for children who are in receipt of 30 hours)
Reception Class	8.55 am to 11.50 pm 1.10 pm to 3.20 pm
Key Stage 1 (aged 4 to 7)	8.55 am to 10.30 am Break 10.45 am to 11.50 am Lunch 1.10 pm to 3.20 pm
Key Stage 2 (aged 7 to 11)	has the same times as Key Stage 1 but their morning session ends at 12.00 noon.

Doors open at 8.50am to allow the children to come straight into school where they will be greeted in the classroom by their class teacher. The bell for the morning session goes at 8.55am to allow for prompt registration by 9.00am. The playground is supervised throughout the morning, afternoon and midday breaks.

The teaching day for pupils is 4 hours 35 minutes for infants and 4 hours 45 minutes for juniors.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is undertaken daily and is usually class based, except for Mondays and Fridays when we have whole school liturgies. We celebrate Mass at the beginning and end of each term and Key Stage 2 classes have the opportunity for individual Class Masses on a termly basis. Liturgies are a regular feature of our collective worship arrangements and parents are invited to attend those led by classes on a Friday morning and others marking special occasions.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparation for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation has moved from Year 3 to Year 4. Preparation is based in school supported by our parish priest, our staff and parents, and a strong team of catechists.

THE SCHOOL YEAR

The school year is 190 days for pupils and 195 days for staff. Parents will receive advanced notice of in-service training days or changes caused by emergencies.

A copy of term dates is available online and from the school office. These have been agreed by the Deanery of St. Bede's Deanery Catholic Schools Partnership comprising St. Aidan's, St. Anthony's and all the Catholic primary schools which feed into them.

SATs week for Year 6 is week beginning 14th May 2018.

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

We aim to provide a warm, safe, happy, responsible and well-ordered community in which the children can learn and be valued as individuals. We will seek to achieve this by:

- ✚ Promoting and treasuring Christ's values and the values of the Gospels through daily living and teaching.
- ✚ Providing an inclusive environment for all members of our school community, thus enabling equal opportunities to be practiced and fostered by all, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, faith, disability and social background.
- ✚ Ensuring that our curriculum is broad, balanced, relevant and suitably challenging and differentiated, to meet the learning needs of our children.
- ✚ Providing the best possible learning experiences both in and out of the classroom, thus ensuring our children have a social responsibility that encompasses both local and global responsibility in becoming true citizens.
- ✚ Creating an ethos where the efforts and achievements of children and staff are valued, celebrated and communicated through an atmosphere of praise, reward and fun.

- ✚ Fostering a genuine partnership between home, school, and parish, which is productive in supporting the interests of the child, and in enabling them to fulfil their educational and social potential.

In this way we seek to work with parents to fulfil each child's intellectual, spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL STAFF

Teachers:

Name	Title
Mr D J Groark	Headteacher
Miss S Brown	Deputy Head
Miss M Banks	Class Teacher
Miss C Devine	Class Teacher
Mrs L Forbister	Class Teacher
Miss L Forbister	Class Teacher
Mrs A Goodwin	Class Teacher
Miss H Hunt	Class Teacher
Mrs S Mills	PPA Teacher
Mrs L Teasdale	Class Teacher
Mrs A Toward	Class Teacher

Non-Teaching Staff:

Mrs E Archer	Support Staff
Mrs J Dimambro	Support Staff
Miss R Imeson	Support Staff
Mrs A Moore	Support Staff
Mrs K Proud	Support Staff
Mrs C Smith	Support Staff
Mrs A Swinhoe	Support Staff
Miss B Hudson	Support Staff
Miss S Everett	Support Staff
Mrs E Zientek	Support Staff
Miss A Adams	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs D Catches	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs G Dixon	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs K Gorzelanczyk	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs C Graham	Lunchtime Assistant/School Cleaner
Mrs M Potts	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs R Reay	Lunchtime Assistant
Miss M Wood	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs S Collier	School Cleaner
Mr B Varughese	School Cleaner
Mrs J Hewitt	School Cleaner
Mr J Farrer	Site Supervisor
Mrs N Atkinson	Office Manager
Mrs P McKenzie	Administrative Support

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Governing Body of St. Joseph's RC Primary School is made up of parents, members of the local community known as Foundation Governors and Parent Foundation Governors, one staff governor and a representative of the Local Authority. The full Governing Body meets at least once per term although all governors are members of at least one committee of the Governing Body which meet more regularly.

The Governing Body are responsible for many areas of school life including policy development, the curriculum, financial management, recruitment, premises management and the production of the school's annual School Improvement Plan.

Your current governors are:

Chair	Mr D Riddell
Vice Chair	Mrs P. Martin-King
L.A. Governor:	Mrs E Broooke
Staff Governor:	Miss S Brown
Parent Governor:	Mrs K. Bravo
Parent Governor:	Mr J. Pallister
Foundation Governors:	Mrs S. George
	Mrs E Dungca
	Mr C George
	Mrs N Shattock
	Mr S. Thomas
Co-opted Governor:	Mr D Groark
Clerk to the Governing Body:	c/o Specialist Minute Taking Team Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN

Governors are also linked to specific curriculum areas within school e.g. English, Mathematics, Special Educational Needs and special areas of interest e.g. Safeguarding Children, Equal Opportunities. They visit school regularly and play an active and important role in the management of the school.

VISITING THE SCHOOL AND ADMISSIONS

If after having read this prospectus you would like to know more please bear the following in mind about visits.

Choosing a school – if you are choosing a primary school we are always happy to meet new parents and children, but please make sure there is someone free to see you. It is always best to telephone first and make an appointment – if you would like to see our school at work we would be happy to show you around.

Admissions to the nursery class are dealt with at the school. Names for the nursery class are accepted from a child's second birthday.

Children can join the reception class at the beginning of the school year in which they will be five. Once a child has a place in the nursery or reception class, they begin attendance on a phased basis in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Local Authority. Full details about school and nursery admissions are contained in a booklet available free from the Admissions Section of the Local Authority based at the Civic Centre. A reference copy of this booklet is available at the school and your branch library.

ADMISSION FOR PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

The school does not discriminate against pupils with disabilities within the admissions criteria. Consultation between school, parents and the Local Authority will always be given the highest priority in order to facilitate effective admissions procedures into the school.

CLASS ORGANISATION

St. Joseph's is a one form entry school. Our classes contain pupils across the whole range of ability. At the end of the school year, children move automatically to the next year group, until it is time to transfer to secondary school. Apart from specific individual circumstances described under the heading 'Special educational Needs', children receive all their teaching as part of their class. This teaching may be individual, in small groups, whole class group or school based, as is appropriate to the task.

PASTORAL CARE

Each class teacher is responsible for most of the teaching their class receives. Class teachers also look after a wide range of the children's other needs, including acting as the main link with parents. Each teacher normally stays with their class for one year and sometimes two if a teacher moves class.

HOMEWORK

Homework is set from early in the reception year throughout the school to Year 6. With our youngest pupils we endeavour to give on average 10 minutes per night increasing to on average 30 minutes per night in Year 6. We look to, and expect from our parents, support for their children in ensuring homework is completed. The school has a tradition of laying emphasis on the development of reading. Therefore from early on, reading books are taken home for pupils to practise and extend their reading. This enables parents to listen to their children read and gain an appreciation of their progress. Work relating to Mathematics, English, Science, or other aspects of the curriculum, may be given. Within Key Stage 1 this will involve, for example, worksheets relating to the core subjects or design technology projects.

Sometimes the child will be asked to find out information relating to a given subject topic he/she is covering in the school. At the lower end of Key Stage 2 work will be given on Mathematics and English tasks. Extended topics are sometimes given which are cross curricular and designed to be open ended both in length and time. In Year 6 work related to the core subjects is given to practise, extend and revise knowledge and skills to be assessed in the end of Key Stage SATs.

The teaching staff greatly appreciate the interest and support which is given by parents. We feel this is a vital ingredient to the successful completion of homework tasks.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND ANTI BULLYING

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring, Christian community whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all.

Our overall aim is positive praise and reward thus supporting good, well mannered, caring behaviour. We do this on a weekly basis in the Star of the Week and Good Work Assembly.

From time to time, poor behaviour occurs and sanctions are required. These usually take the form of loss of privileges. In accordance with the school's policy and Local Authority regulations, there is no corporal punishment. Further sanctions, including exclusion, will be used in exceptional circumstances.

It is essential that school and home work together. Our aim is simply to encourage and develop self-discipline in every child, to enable each one to become a responsible member of our school community.

We are very proud of the behaviour of our children at St. Joseph's, both in and out of school. We have very few behaviour concerns and feel that parental support is excellent in maintaining this position.

We take firm measures to ensure that all our staff, pupils and visitors to the school can be sure that the school is safe and secure. The governors have developed a wide range of procedures for reporting and dealing with bullying in all its forms. Information about these procedures is published on our website and also available directly upon request. We expect the support of all parents in keeping school safe and secure.

ACCESSIBILITY

St. Joseph's school is fully accessible and we respond positively to children with a range of disabilities. Pupils are admitted according to our Admission Policy whether they have a disability or not.

EQUALITIES STATEMENT

At St Joseph's we aim to give the best possible education to every child at our school and we recognise that a feeling of self-confidence and self-worth is essential for every child to make the most of learning opportunities offered. With this in mind, we aim to provide an environment where children are free to develop without being discriminated against by age, gender, race, faith, language, ability, disability or social class. We value the enrichment diversity brings and firmly believe:

**Everyone is Equal
Be Yourself
Everyone Counts**

RACE EQUALITY STATEMENT

The Governors and staff of St. Joseph's School are committed to working with all our communities to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, and that no member of the school will suffer or be disadvantaged by direct or indirect racial discrimination. At all times we will be vigilant for aspects of our work and play, which may hurt or disadvantage others. Any acts of deliberate bullying and harassment will not be tolerated. Racism in all its forms is not acceptable and will be challenged generally, but particularly where the provisions of the Race Relations Act are broken. This school will work within the provisions of the law, and do everything to meet the standards for Race Equality.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Parents/Carers should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a pupil may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow SSCB (Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board procedures) and inform Children's Services Social Care of their concern.

The school is an Operation Encompass School, we are always notified of any cases where children have been present or have witnessed domestic violence.

The Designated Person in school with responsibility for safeguarding is Mr D Groark (Headteacher).

The Nominated Deputy is Miss Brown (Deputy Head).

The Nominated Governor with responsibility is Mrs Shattock.

PUNCTUALITY

Please make sure that your child arrives on time with all that they need for the school day. It is of great importance that your child arrives punctually. This ensures that they are feeling positive about the day ahead and ready for learning. Late arrivals must use the main entrance and report to the office straight away to ensure that their safe arrival is recorded.

ATTENDANCE

Your co-operation in ensuring regular attendance is crucial to your child's education and development. If your child is sick or away from school for any reason please contact the school before 9.30am on the first day of absence. If you do not let us know your child is absent the school administrator will telephone you to ensure your child is safe. This is especially important as the school is legally required to report reasons for absence. If you need to take your child out of school during the day it is very important you:

- Let us know in advance
- Collect your child from the main school office – children are not allowed to leave school on their own.

You will be asked to sign your child out of school stating the time and reason. If your child is to be collected by an adult other than the parents, the school must be given the name of the person in advance to ensure our children are safe at all times.

There is a staged process where a child's attendance is a matter of concern. Any proposed absence other than illness or medical appointments requires written permission from the school.

There is a form for this purpose that can be obtained from the school office, though leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. In line with government regulations, holidays in term time cannot be authorised. The school has the legal responsibility to refuse to authorise an absence if the stated reason is considered to be detrimental to the child's educational well being.

CONTACT NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All parents/carers are asked for daytime telephone contact numbers. All parents/carers will be asked for the names of others who can take responsibility for their child when they are not available or in case of emergency. Only these people will be contacted in such circumstances. It is vitally important that parents/carers let us know of any change of address or new telephone number.

MEDICATION

Several staff are able to administer medication under very strict guidelines. This is to protect pupils but also means all children can be included in activities where medication is necessary.

Only medication prescribed by a doctor is allowed in school and will be administered in line with our "Medications in Schools Policy". Children capable of administering their own medication will do so under the supervision of an identified person for medication unless the first aider has had the training. Where a child is considered to be too young to administer the medication themselves, the parent must put such a request in writing, giving precise information concerning time and dosage. All medication must be documented and appropriate permission given. We ask that parents use sensible discretion in deciding when their child should return to school. Some medication requires the child to be at home in order to be effective and prevent cross infection which can arise with a too hasty return to school.

If your child has Asthma, it is important that you provide school with an in-date inhaler marked with your child's name. Inhalers are kept in an appropriate place in the classroom and will be available to use whenever required. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that the inhaler is fully charged and functioning properly.

Should you require any further information, please ask for a medication leaflet from the school office.

FIRST AID

First Aid will be administered to all minor injuries such as cuts and bruises. The school has several qualified First Aiders. We will give all children a short note to take home to alert parents that minor first aid has been administered. In the case of more serious illness or accident at school, parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible. It is also crucial that parents provide information about specific medical conditions that may affect their child whilst in school to ensure that we will provide excellent care for your child.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

All visitors are asked to report to the main office and sign in. If parents/carers would like to speak to a class teacher, please go to the school office first. The office staff will inform the class teacher of your arrival. Please do not enter the school through the children's entrances. This protects your child whilst in school and yourselves in case of fire.

This is a No Smoking school. Please do not smoke on school premises, including the playground.

Dogs are not allowed onto school premises, (except guide dogs).

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUNCH IN SCHOOL

Dinner money should be brought to school each Monday morning. Please put it in a sealed envelope with the name of your child, the class and any other details written on the front. Should you wish to change any arrangements (from a hot meal to a packed lunch, or your child going home for dinner) please let us know well in advance, (at least one calendar month), both to ease administration and to avoid children becoming confused or distressed.

Parents can also pay by cheque. These cheques must be made payable to the City of Sunderland and must have the cheque's guarantee number on the reverse of the cheque. If parents wish to pay online, this facility is made available via the www.sunderland.gov.uk website. School will provide written instructions at the request of any parent who wishes to make use of this service.

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are required to have a free school meal or go home for their lunch.

Special diets can be catered for upon production of medical letters.

Some of our Key Stage 2 children bring a packed lunch. The supervision and clearing arrangements are especially important and we suggest that a healthy packed lunch should contain a variety of items that could include:

- Bread as part of a sandwich
- Fresh fruit and/or vegetable
- Yoghurt
- Dried fruit and raisons
- Plain biscuit or cake as a treat
- Water/milk/fruit juice

✚ Could you make sure that the packed lunch is made up in a neat box or bag and labelled with your child's name and class.

✚ Drinks should be suitable (not fizzy) and contained within secure containers kept within the lunch box/bag. Glass bottles are not allowed for safety reasons. Bottles with sports tops are particularly suitable as they do not need opening.

✚ Children are requested to take unfinished food and containers home, so that parents can monitor what their child is eating.

✚ If you send your child to school with a packed lunch please note that we do not have any special storage areas for packed meals or means of refrigeration especially during the warm summer months when keeping food cool is more difficult than at other times.

Some families will be eligible to receive free school meals. Application forms are available from school or the 'Free School Meals Department' at the Civic Centre.

UNIFORM AND PE KIT

Children need comfortable, hard-wearing clothes for school, which are also inexpensive and easy to wash. Unless it is a special occasion organised by the class teacher or the school, please do not send your children in their best clothes.

Our school uniform is important to us. It costs no more than other garments and is both a unifying factor and a source of pride in St Joseph's School. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life Purple sweatshirts, purple cardigans, white polo shirts, white PE tops, backpacks, PE bags, book bags and coats can be ordered termly from the school office. Grey skirts and trousers can be readily purchased from a number of stores and supermarkets as can black shoes. Black plimsolls are also required to be worn indoors.

Parents are requested to ensure that all articles of clothing are clearly marked with their child's name. This is important because children change for P.E. and games and items of clothing are easily mislaid.

In the interests of health and safety, the Governors' policy is that **NO jewellery**, including earrings, rings or necklaces are to be worn to school. If you wish to have your child's ears pierced, the Governors advise that you arrange this to be done at the beginning of the summer holidays so that the wounds are healed in time to avoid the wearing of sleepers when the child returns to school.

Make up and nail varnish are not allowed in school and extreme haircuts are not permitted.

GAMES, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

A variety of clubs and activities take place at lunchtime or after school. These may change according to the level of interest and support. Some examples currently on offer include Multi Sports, Gymnastics, Dance, Choir and Cookery.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is not just a list of subjects taught in a school. The curriculum describes everything that goes on in the school and helps children to learn about the world around them. Any curriculum must cover all the activities in a school designed to promote the academic, spiritual, moral, social, cultural, and physical development of pupils and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and society.

At St. Joseph's, we aim to provide all our children with a broad and balanced curriculum which develops the potential of all children in accordance with provision made under the 1998 Education Reform Act. Teachers plan the delivery of the curriculum using a balance of approaches which include: whole class, group and individual teaching as and when appropriate. We firmly believe;

-  All children must be valued equally whatever stage their development and are entitled to experience the maximum sense of success and the minimum sense of failure.
-  All children must be afforded equality of opportunity and not be discriminated against on the grounds of class, race, colour, gender, religion or disability.

- ✚ Personal development is a life-long learning process.
- ✚ In helping pupils to develop personal, spiritual and moral values and a tolerance of the way of life to others.
- ✚ In helping pupils to understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.
- ✚ In developing in pupils the ability to appreciate critically human achievements and endeavours.
- ✚ In developing in pupils lively, enquiring minds, to help them enjoy the acquisition of knowledge, to promote the ability to question and argue rationally; to encourage pupils to apply themselves to a range of tasks

The provision of education is a partnership between schools and colleges, parents and the wider community, each having contributions to make to the development of the other.

In the primary years the school's curriculum is planned with a view to the fact that children learn best when all their senses are used and tasks are seen to be relevant to their present and possible future lives.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM

At St. Joseph's we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our children including the most able, those with special educational needs and those with English as an additional language.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

At St. Joseph's RC Primary School, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which enables our children to learn and develop skills, attitudes and understanding in the following areas of learning:

The Prime areas:

- ✚ Personal, Emotional and Social Development
- ✚ Communication and Language
- ✚ Physical development

The Specific areas:

- ✚ Mathematics
- ✚ Literacy
- ✚ Understanding the World
- ✚ Expressive Art and Design

It is important that the Foundation Stage is seen as a discreet phase in a child's development and not simply as preparation for Key Stage 1. All children learn through play with a mixture of child initiated and teacher led learning experiences. Learning takes place both indoors and in our wonderful outdoor area. As children learn best when parents and staff work closely together, we encourage a strong home/school partnership.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum prepares children for the National Curriculum which starts in Year 1.

National Curriculum

In September 2014, a new National Curriculum was introduced, which was a radical 'shake up' in primary schools. It is more demanding than that previously taught and forms the basis of our curriculum from Years 1-6.

The following table sets out the main changes:

Subject	What's New?
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1) • Handwriting – not previously assessed under the national curriculum – is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy • Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 (compared to 20 under the previous curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10) • Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. 0.375 = 3/8) • By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school) • Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms • Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time • Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system
Design and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afforded greater importance under the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future • More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics • In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world
Computing	<p>Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data</u> • From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet • Internet safety – previously only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in

	primary schools
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) is mandatory in KS2 • Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language

At St Joseph's we teach foundation subjects through a cross curricular approach, which we call the creative curriculum. In the creative curriculum, staff deliver half termly units of learning centred on a given theme to make learning more engaging for the children. We make use of special days and weeks, themes and a range of visitors. Visits also enhance learning and the school is keen that all pupils are able to enjoy and learn from the residential experience offered by Derwent Hill in the Lake District when they are in upper Key Stage 2.

Personal, Social and Health Education along with Citizenship are also taught in a cross curricular way, as well as through dedicated programmes such as 'Statements to Live By'. We currently hold the Healthy Schools Award and our Anti Bullying Team has achieved the Anti-Bullying Award.

We have three wonderful music specialists who support curriculum delivery at St. Joseph's. Additionally, we have a thriving school choir and we offer a range of individual music tuition in chalumeau, clarinet, cello, saxophone and violin. Further details are available from the school.

Termly curriculum information is available to parents via the school website or the school office should anyone require a hard copy. We have recently started a school orchestra and an after school rock club.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

All schools are required to teach Religious Education. In Catholic Schools, however, it is regarded as a core subject accounting for 10% of the timetable. The Diocesan programme 'Come and See' is followed in all classes in school.

Parents are informed in advance of the topics to be covered through a termly leaflet distributed to all children. Topics are explored at a level appropriate to the age and experience of the children. Visits are made and visitors come to school to support learning.

The beliefs and practise of our faith permeate the day-to-day life of the school and most parents choose to send their children to St. Joseph's because it is a Roman Catholic school. Nevertheless the Governors are required to remind parents of their right to withdraw pupils from religious worship and Religious Education. However, parents are also reminded that the school exists to give a Catholic education to its pupils and that they are expected to be in sympathy with its aims and objectives. Each day begins with a corporate act of worship – class or whole school. Children also have the opportunity to worship with the parish at regular intervals in church.

PE, Sporting Aims and Provision

We recognise the health benefits, social benefits and enjoyment of participation in sporting activities and are continually working to extend our provision both within the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

The taught PE curriculum covers Dance, Athletics, Games, Gymnastics, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. Children in Y3 have Swimming Lessons until summer half term two when Y2 commence their lessons.

The formal school curriculum is not used to practise full sided team games – the emphasis is on small sided games that ensure much activity by all participants. Match skills are developed via participation in festivals and competitions as appropriate to the age of the children.

Children are also encouraged to join some of the many sporting activities organised by external agencies or individuals. The school invites specialised coaches, from time to time, in a number of disciplines, to coach our pupils. These include Skipping, “Touch Rugby” and Short Tennis. All activities are open to all children; boys and girls work together as equals. Staff are committed to supporting the provision of better sporting opportunities for all. We are busy developing a wide range of competitive sport opportunities and the School has a Football team that plays in Sunderland Primary School Association league.

Sex Education

The school has a policy on Sex Education which has been agreed by governors. It is linked closely to the Religious Education ‘Come and See’ Programme and places such matters within the context of relationships within the family, respect for the individual as temples of the Holy Spirit.

Topics within “Come and See” and “Statements to Live By” provide opportunities to discuss sex educational issues e.g. New Life, Beginnings, Family, Home, Gifts, Choices, Our World etc.

Following consultation with parents, Year 6 pupils are given the opportunity to discuss matters to do with puberty with the school nurse. They are able to see a video and have a discussion concerning the changes they experience.

At any time pupils can approach their teacher to discuss matters of a personal nature.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sessions on sex education should they wish to do so.

Special Educational Needs

St. Joseph’s School welcomes all children into its community. We ensure all children have the same opportunity to fulfil their potential and to participate in all areas of school life including access to the National Curriculum. The school takes its duties to children with SEN and disabilities very seriously and will take all reasonable steps to give children with SEN and disabilities the fullest possible access to premises and curriculum.

As a mainstream school, all of our classes are mixed ability and all teachers provide for individual differences in pupil needs and capabilities, adapting instruction through grouping

within the class and careful selection of resources and teaching materials. It is our aim to provide in each class the widest and most comprehensive range of equipment and materials possible to support individual pupil needs. Specialist help is provided in the classroom wherever possible, but there are occasions when individual or small group work is appropriate.

In accordance with the existing Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, the school has established a policy, procedures and documentation to enable the special educational needs of pupils to be identified at an early stage and for relevant provision to be made. Where concern is expressed about a pupil, the procedures are set in motion. Parents are always consulted when specialist help is suggested for children and, where possible, encouraged to participate in the programme.

For the few children who experience obvious and persistent learning or behaviour difficulties, we are able to consult an educational psychologist who after consulting parents and staff, sees the child and offers advice to the school. In the case of an even smaller proportion of children, the school may need to involve other specialists in a formal assessment of complex special educational needs. In such circumstances there is always prior consultation with parents who are involved in the assessment process.

A copy of the school's Special Educational Needs Policy is available in school on request. The Deputy Head, Miss Brown, is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Considerable emphasis within the school is placed on links with the community and many of our programmes of work benefit from these. Particular mention might be made of our links with the Diocese, St. Bede's Deanery Partnership of Schools, Sunderland Echo, Sunderland Royal Hospital, CAFOD and Holy Cross Home.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING TO PARENTS

Assessment is an on-going process throughout children's schooling as it is a vital tool for teachers when planning the school lessons.

The following statutory assessments are carried out:

EYFS	Reception baseline early in the year End of Reception
Phonics Test	Year 1
End of Key Stage 1 SATs	Year 2
End of Key Stage 2 SATs	Year 6

Three parents' evenings are held each year – one in each term. These are more formal opportunities to discuss your child (ren)'s work. A written report will be given to parents in the summer term. This will indicate progress and achievement (in line with age related expectations), as well as covering areas such as behaviour, effort, attendance and punctuality.

OTHER INFORMATION

If you are considering joining us at St. Joseph's you need to be aware of:

OUR CHARGING POLICY

All education during the school day is free and we do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National curriculum, nor materials and ingredients for things made in school, which pupils or parents do not want to keep.

The Governing Body reserves the right to make charges for the following:

- ✚ Individual music tuition which is not part of the syllabus for an examination
- ✚ Certain excursions where a third party is involved
- ✚ Board and lodgings where a school activity involves a residential element
- ✚ The exact cost of "optional extras" i.e. things not connected directly with the national curriculum

Voluntary Contributions

The school Governors have decided that, in general, charges will only ever be made for a school activity if this is the only way to guarantee the event takes place. This is most likely to apply to class visits or bringing some outside visitors (e.g. artists) into school. These activities, which relate to work in progress, are felt to have a high educational value but the policy of governors is that the school cannot subsidise these to a large extent and they can only take place if sufficient voluntary funds are received. We will always inform parents at the outset and try, however, to assist parents who would have genuine difficulty in paying: also Pupil Premium pupils. If insufficient contributions are raised, however, we have the right to cancel any trip and we will make this clear to parents from the outset.

The school and 'Friends of St. Joseph's' subsidise transport costs each year on an equal basis across all classes.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Existing parents – if you are concerned about any aspect of your child's schooling the first step is to speak to the class teacher. If it is a confidential or complex matter do not try to deal with it immediately before or after school, ask to see the class teacher at a more suitable time. Most matters can be dealt with by your child's class teacher but some things may have to be referred to the Headteacher or other senior staff. It is not always possible for the Headteacher to see a parent immediately, especially if she is in a meeting or teaching, but an early appointment will be offered.

OUR COMPLAINTS POLICY

We hope to be able to resolve any complaints parents might have. In the first instance concerns should normally be made to the headteacher and in most cases we find that concerns can be dealt with successfully at this informal level. However, there are two formal routes that you can use if you wish to take the matter further.

CURRICULUM COMPLAINTS

You have particular rights in making a complaint about:

- ✚ curriculum provision, including RE and collective worship
- ✚ the implementation of the national curriculum
- ✚ the availability of external qualifications
- ✚ exemptions from the national curriculum
- ✚ the operation of charging policies

The complaint must first go to the school through the Headteacher. If the complaint cannot be resolved it may be necessary for it to be considered by the Governing Body.

If the complaint is not resolved by the Governing Body it may be referred to the Local Authority. If that fails, the complaint can be referred to the Secretary of State for Education. This procedure does not apply to complaints on matters like pupil discipline or individual teachers.

We do, of course, hope that any complaints can be resolved by the parent discussing the matter with an appropriate member of staff. However, if you do require any detailed information on complaints please speak to the Headteacher.

OUR POLICY ON MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PARENTS AND OTHERS

By law school must make certain information available for viewing by parents or members of the public. All the documents listed below are available for viewing at the school.

- ✚ Any Statutory Instruments (including those for national curriculum subjects), circulars and administrative memoranda relating to powers and duties under the “Curriculum” section of the Education Reform Act.
- ✚ Any published HMI or Ofsted reports on the school.
- ✚ Any schemes of work and syllabuses currently used by teachers in the school.
- ✚ A full copy of the curriculum complaints procedure.
- ✚ The agreed syllabus for RE.

IN CONCLUSION

St Joseph’s is a truly unique school and we do our utmost to provide a warm, happy and engaging learning environment for our children. Everyone is an important part of our school family and we try our very best to make everyone feel special.

If you would like any further information about our school, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

We hope this prospectus will help you and your child. Please keep it handy so that you can refer to it when necessary. Things do change from time to time and updates will be sent out as and when necessary. One of the best ways to keep in touch with us is through our school twitter feed @StJoeSunderland

Mr D J Groark



St Joseph's RC Primary Sunderland



School Performance 2017

	Reading	Writing	Maths
average progress scores in reading, writing and maths	4.2	1.7	3.2
average 'scaled scores' in reading and maths	110	N/A	109
percentage of pupils who achieved the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths	87%		
percentage of pupils who achieved a high level of attainment in reading, writing and maths	20%		

