

St Joseph's



Together we can

**The Federation of St Joseph's Catholic
Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools**
- Founded 1872 -



We are a successful, forward-thinking and caring primary and nursery school which serves our local communities of West Norwood, Upper Norwood and Crystal Palace.

We educate children in an inclusive community guided by the Gospel values, traditions and beliefs of the Catholic faith.

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Discover St Joseph's

Nursery

Our Nursery is a place where children begin their learning journey of awe and wonder. Our children's emotional security and personal development is always our priority and they are nurtured to be independent, confident learners. Our environment is stimulating to encourage enquiry, imagination and inquisitiveness.



Infants and Reception

Our children love being in school and are happy, independent learners who are encouraged to be the best they can be and challenge themselves. Learning in the infant school is fun, creative and based on high expectations for all learners.

Juniors

Pupils enter the juniors with confidence and the secure knowledge that they will be nurtured to achieve their full potential. Their wellbeing and safety is key to ensuring strong results.



Aim high, dream big... That's what we encourage each child to aspire towards, by fostering the self-belief needed to achieve their goals.

We believe in every child.

Each is important.

**Welcome
to the St
Joseph's
family**

By inspiring our pupils to be future leaders, innovators, designers, artists or anything they choose to be, we hope they'll help create a better world for all.

As a strong community where leaders, pupils, parents, staff, governors and all stakeholders work together to achieve the best outcomes, our pupils are actively involved in their learning and contribute to school development.

'Together We Can' is our motto, embodying our belief that every child can succeed and thrive when we work together.

This collective spirit of unity has been exemplified in the way we have pulled together during the COVID crisis to support both our school family and the wider community.

It is simply an integral part of our ethos as a school.

Our school vision is based on Christ's teachings of love, tolerance, respect and forgiveness. We live out these values in our daily lives, celebrate diversity, and value each person and their right to freedom of speech.

Academically, our curriculum is based upon the high expectations we hold for every pupil. English and Maths are a priority but there is an emphasis on all foundation subjects.

Our wider curriculum incorporates enterprise skills where pupils learn about business as well as essential life skills, including visits from inspirational speakers and professionals who show what hard work and motivation can achieve.

We believe that every child has the right to a curriculum that discovers their true strengths. So we nurture our pupils to be articulate, numerate, with the ability to reason and problem solve. Above all, we help them develop innate resilience, self-confidence and kindness.

We are also fortunate to be surrounded by lush greenery and a thriving forest school utilised to support learning outside the classroom. We have a large playing field, a forest zone, adventure playgrounds and dedicated areas where pupils grow their own vegetables, flowers and plants.

St Joseph's is a family.

And, as with all loving families, our children are our priority, our purpose and our joy.

Mrs Leonore Fernandes, Headteacher

Ethos and Vision



Our school is founded on Christ's values of love, tolerance, respect, forgiveness and understanding and we aim to live out these values in our daily lives. Our vision is to create a school where every child achieves through a relentless focus on outstanding quality teaching and learning, with a culture of high expectations for all.

We ensure that all children make good or better progress in reading, writing and mathematics and engage in a broad and balanced curriculum to prepare children for the future.

We are fortunate to have creative and hard-working staff who seek out opportunities to enable our children to be independent learners and considerate citizens who are informed about the local and wider global community.

We aim for excellence and inspire our pupils to have high aspirations, with the self-belief that they can achieve their dreams, with hard work and motivation. We encourage pupil voice and nurture our pupils to know that their views matter, but they have a responsibility to express them with respect.

“Pursue what is meaningful, not what is expedient”

—Jordan Peterson

At St Joseph's we expect the highest level of professionalism from the staff at all times, both within and outside of school.

We are role models and the expectation is that we consistently display exemplary behaviour in the way we speak and conduct ourselves.

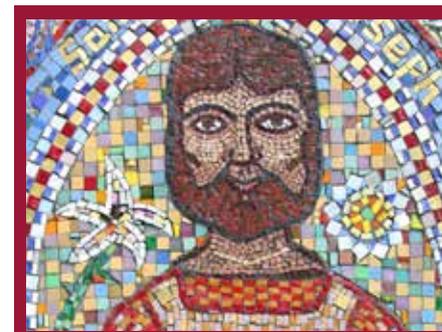
Spiritual life

The mission of our school is to educate the pupils with the gospel values, traditions, and beliefs of the Catholic Faith. We do this in partnership with Parents, Guardians, and Parish Communities. This Ethos is central to everything we do.

The strong Catholic ethos of our school is evident as you step through the door. The vibrant and welcoming learning environment along with the impeccable behaviour of our pupils demonstrates the care and respect shared by all. Through our supportive and nurturing environment, each child is able to strive for excellence.

“For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them”

—Matthew 18:20



Curriculum



We are aspirational for every individual and our curriculum is engaging, bringing learning to life, incorporating extra-curricular opportunities to enrich children's cultural capital. We want our children to be resilient young people who have a love for learning, with enquiring minds and a thirst for knowledge.



Every child is unique and has the right to a curriculum that extends them to discover their true strengths.

At St Joseph's, learning is exciting and curriculum coverage is based on the National curriculum and statutory requirements.

We want our children to be aspirational, confident young people, with moral purpose and the confidence to know they can make a positive impact on our world.

We adopt a thematic approach with an emphasis on cross-curricular links. This enables our children to apply core skills of reading, writing and mathematics, extending their vocabulary, knowledge and understanding, in a range of contexts.

Teaching is creative and addresses varying learning styles and needs. Staff promote pupil-initiated learning to support positive outcomes. Using formative and regular assessment, teachers plan innovative lessons offering challenge and support.

At St Joseph's, we know that self-evaluation is fundamental to success. Parent, staff and pupil questionnaires contribute towards self-review. We closely monitor and review our curriculum, teaching and learning outcomes.

School and subject leaders continually evaluate their areas of responsibility and analyse data to ensure strong outcomes, as evidenced by our Key Stage results which are at or above national and local authority figures at Greater Depth.

Sports

At St Joseph's, whether through the national curriculum, playtime activities or extra-curricular opportunities, sport is embraced wholeheartedly.

Physical activities within the curriculum ensure that the fundamentals of agility, balance and co-ordination are at the heart of learning and that our children are active for sustained periods of time.

We offer a wide range of sports including:

- Netball
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Cross country
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Sports hall athletics
- Gymnastics
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Tri golf
- Dance

We encourage all our pupils to succeed and excel in physically demanding activities, and in competitive sport, emphasising personal development to accommodate varying levels of fitness. This ensures that all our pupils become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness.

We have been recognised by School Games as a Platinum Award School since 2018, for offering a broad range of sports within the curriculum, extra-curricular clubs, and at competition level.

Sport is encouraged throughout the whole school community. The school provides opportunities for families to run, play sports together and promotes the importance for the place of sport in children's/adults lives outside of school.

London Marathon

Our sports co-ordinator, Mrs Mangan ran the London Marathon in October 2020, cheered on by parents, children, friends and family. She inspires us all the time through her determination and relentless energy.

Mrs Mangan introduced the daily mile for children in school many years ago and she continues to promote it with the support of staff.

In the week leading up to the marathon, every child in the school participated in the daily mile, running 2.6 miles (a mini-marathon), to help motivate Mrs Mangan with her marathon challenge. To reward their efforts, they were presented with medals and Mrs Mangan led a whole school assembly via zoom to celebrate this.



Co-curricular



Wraparound Care

Through the Breakfast and After School Club, pupils are offered wraparound care before and after school.

For details of our wraparound care please visit our website.

Lunchtime Clubs

At St Joseph's, our students enjoy the following free clubs during lunchtimes.

- Chess
- Choir
- Design Technology/Maker's Space
- Football (together with Crystal Palace for Life Foundation)
- Gardening
- Inter-house competition
- Maths Challenge
- Newspaper
- Speed Stacking

School clubs

We also offer the following before and after school clubs:

- Athletics
- Football (Crystal Palace for Life Foundation)
- Dance
- Guitar
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- Homework club

We have also recently started working with Olympian Zara Long, at Take the Plunge Swimming School at St Joseph's College.

Residential

At St Joseph's, our residential are rewarding, challenging and great fun.

Year 4: Hindleap Warren

A 2-day adventure set in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex with plenty of room to explore, climb and roam.

Year 5: London Narrow Boat Project

A unique exploration of the canals and inland waterways of central England.

Year 6: PGL, Marchants Hill in Surrey

A 3-day residential where pupils get to experience abseiling, archery, climbing, fencing, hiking, rope course, orienteering, rafting, trapeze and zip wire.

Outdoor learning and sustainability

We are fortunate to be surrounded by extensive outdoor space and we utilise it to extend children's learning beyond the classroom. Our large playing field is the venue for school and inter-school sporting events and competitions.

Over the years our Forest School has become a haven for curious learning, where children in all year groups explore nature and their environment as part of the science curriculum.

It provides opportunities for cross-curricular learning in English and maths. Our younger children can be seen 'Going on a Bear Hunt' and looking for the infamous 'Gruffalo'. Our older children use it as part of their science lessons and care for the environment.

“Society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”

—Greek Proverb

At St Joseph's, we recognise the importance of the issues around climate change and have made key changes in the areas of:

- energy sources and efficient lighting
- paper, consumables and waste disposal
- single use plastics and recycling

More recently we have developed our outdoor areas into gardens. The Angel Garden in the Infant School has a bug hotel to attract natural wildlife and each year group has their own area for planting and caring for plants and vegetables. Junior classes also have their own gardens per class and compete to see who can be awarded the accolade of best garden area.

At St Joseph's we are proud to take learning beyond the classroom to improve our knowledge and understanding and contribute towards creating a healthy and sustainable environment.

See our website for our sustainability policy and strategy.



Technology



We have invested significantly to ensure our students have access to the latest technology so that they are well-equipped to succeed in the modern, digital workplace:

- High-speed internet access throughout the whole school
- Interactive 'smart' boards in each classroom
- Dedicated Ipad for each classroom teacher
- Digital cameras (still and video) for observations and performances / recording
- Two dedicated ICT suites for teaching and for students' use
- Two large laptop banks (60+); one for upper KS2 and one for lower KS2 (Junior school)
- Modern iPads for both Infant and Junior Schools

Through our Google Classroom portal, which can be accessed on any device, students have access to the latest word processing, creative and publishing software – completely free.

In addition, we use the following educational software to assist our pupils:

- Adobe Creative Cloud including Spark, Illustrator and Lightroom
- Busy Things
- EdShed
- Discovery Espresso
- LetterJoin
- Purple Mash
- Mathletics
- Times Table Rockstars

Finally, we support all of our families to ensure that every child has access to learning technology:

- Loan laptops and free 4G Wifi for disadvantaged families
- Discounted prices for purchase or lease of Chromebooks
- Remote ICT support for students when working from home



Celebrating diversity

At St Joseph's, we are fortunate to have a diverse community and together we celebrate our heritage and culture.

One of the most engaging topics in our curriculum is 'Our Heritage' where children learn about significant people in the past and present who have positively impacted on our world; leaders such as Emmeline Pankhurst, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg and Martin Luther King.

A highlight of our school calendar is 'International week'. Parents come into school to share memories of their childhood and cultural heritage. Children are immersed in activities where they discover about cultural traditions, different cuisines and living in other countries.

At the end of the week, we host a shared supper, where families cook traditional dishes and share them with the school community. This year we have begun to compile a cookbook of recipes from around the world and which will continue through the year and we hope to publish it in the summer.

At St Joseph's, we are proud of our multicultural family and see it as a strength of the school. We value our differences and see them as common interests that unite and develop our understanding of others' perspectives.

We believe that in celebrating diversity, we challenge stereotypes and help people to understand cultural differences and similarities, so promoting greater unity.

St Joseph's is a global family, unique and loved.



Citizenship

We nurture our pupils to understand that they play an important role in the school and wider community. They know their contributions can positively impact others.

Current affairs is a key part of our curriculum and pupils debate news topics with enthusiasm and interest. We want our children to be informed, articulate young people who are secure in the knowledge that their ideas will be heard.

“The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.”

—Amanda Gorman

Citizenship is integral to our school ethos and we prepare our pupils for life in an ever-changing world.

Christ's teachings of respect, tolerance and forgiveness underpin British values and are promoted through our curriculum. We prepare our pupils for the experiences and opportunities they will experience in later life.

At St Joseph's, children know they have a responsibility for caring for others and the environment.

As part of our enriched curriculum, children engage in 'Enterprise' and set up businesses to generate funds. They learn about managing budgets, income and expenditure. A percentage of their income is donated to their chosen charity, to a whole school project and to whatever they want to improve for their own class.

Children can see the positive difference their actions have on others.

The children love the opportunity to be challenged, reflect, question, debate and assess risk. We actively encourage child-led discussion and opportunities to promote critical thinking. We are very proud of our children and they are proud of the school.

Pupil wellbeing

At St Joseph's, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff.

We have a supportive and caring ethos based on trust, mutual care and respect. Our children are nurtured to be confident and have self-belief, knowing that their contribution is valued. Each child is a valued individual and they know their voice will be heard.

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

—Maya Angelou

At St Joseph's we recognise that everyone experiences different life challenges that can make us all vulnerable at times, and recognise that anyone may need additional emotional support.

We are mindful of the effects of the pandemic in 2020 on the mental health of the children, staff, parents and the wider community of St Joseph's. The family of St Joseph's is committed to supporting everyone who has suffered any kind of trauma as a result of this or any other crisis. We will be following a RESTORE perspective where we: recognise how everyone's experiences have been different; we show empathy and compassion towards each other; we reassure that school is a safe environment.

Working closely together, we support those traumatised as they look to the future in any way we can; we will give each other the opportunity to reflect on what has changed and what needs to be changed; as always we will help the children to form relationships and understand how to live as good Christians; as a school, we will help the children to become self-aware and take responsibility for their behaviours to become effective independent learners.

Pupil voice

Pupil voice is a strength of the school and active in all year groups. Our children are encouraged to be independent thinkers with the confidence to express their opinions and ideas.

Children from Nursery to Year 6 are nurtured to be articulate and play an active part in school life. Pupils are empowered to know their views will be heard and contribute to school development. We believe that pupils should play a big part in the decisions that affect their learning, wellbeing and school life.



We have numerous pupil committees: Senior Pupil Leadership Team, Curriculum Leadership Committee, School Council, Peer Mediators, School Captains, Apostles of Mercy and Playground Pals. Children are elected by their peers and senior pupil leaders participate in a rigorous interview process, requiring them to present on a school project of their choice.

Our children thrive on debate and knowing that they can and do make a difference.

All pupils know their voice will be heard and feel confident to approach school leaders to discuss ideas. Pupils have set up a range of lunchtime clubs, e.g. chess, board games, art, design and technology, sports and maths challenges.

Our decision making is guided by pupil voice because we believe that when pupils are involved, their learning outcomes will be strong.

Progress and achievement

Judging achievement

Pupil achievement is judged in two ways:

1. Attainment – this refers to whether a pupil is working ‘at the expected level’ or ‘working at greater depth’

2. Progress – this refers to how well pupils have progressed in their learning from their starting point

At St Joseph’s, we believe that all pupils should make good or better progress in their learning, every lesson. Teacher evaluations, together with formal assessments inform pupil attainment grades. To ensure that the collection of data is not just an outcome of a process, we use all school assessments and data to identify pupils’ starting points, learning gaps and next steps. This in turn informs the planning and preparation of pupils’ lessons to ensure that every child makes good progress across the curriculum.

Leavers’ destinations

St Joseph’s pupils excel and have gained places (including bursaries and scholarships) at some of the most prestigious independent, grammar and maintained secondary schools in our area

- Alleyn’s School
- Bishop Thomas Grant School
- Coloma Convent Girls’ School
- Dulwich College
- James Allen’s Girls’ School (JAGS)
- The John Fisher School
- Kingsdale Foundation School
- La Retraite Catholic School for Girls
- The Royal Ballet School
- Streatham & Clapham High School GDST
- Sydenham High School GDST
- Tiffin School
- Trinity School
- Wallington County Grammar School
- Whitgift School

For our latest results please visit our website.



Admissions



The admissions process

Thank you for your interest in joining St Joseph's. To apply, please visit the eAdmissions site to complete the common application form (CAF) online for the borough in which you live (www.eadmissions.org.uk).

In addition to submitting your application on the eAdmissions site, we also ask that you complete a supplementary form and submit it to the school.

Application forms are available from the school office or our website.

We can receive the paper supplementary form through our main office on Woodend or you can email it to us on the admissions email addresses below:

For Nursery & Infants

Call: 020 8670 2385 or email: admissions@st-josephs-inf.croydon.sch.uk

For Juniors

Call: 020 8653 7195 or email: admissions@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk

Our full admissions policy is available on our website.



www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk

Infants & Nursery

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