



Together in God's family we love, grow and learn



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER AND GOVERNORS

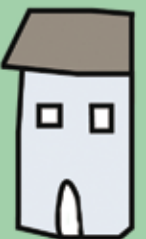
The staff and children at St Joseph's are proud of our academic, musical and sporting achievements, however, it is the warm, happy atmosphere that really leaves a lasting impression. St Joseph's is a successful school, with an excellent reputation, because we know that happiness and learning go hand in hand.

Each child is unique and it is our aim that all pupils enjoy their individual learning journey. We have a culture of caring and nurturing, where our dedicated staff team encourage and support each child to reach their full potential.

We foster traditional attitudes of courtesy, thoughtfulness and responsibility and pay particular attention to teaching the basics really well. We are also a forward-thinking school that relishes the opportunities and embraces the challenges, of the modern world.

We are a flourishing school and one of which we are all very proud to be a part.

We hope our prospectus gives you a sense of our school and that it will inspire you to find out more. Please come and visit us; our children will be delighted to welcome you, to show you round and tell you why they love their school so much.





OUR VISION

At St Joseph's we strive to create a loving community in which your child can grow and be challenged to reach their full potential. We do this by offering a wide variety of activities and a broad and relevant curriculum. Underpinning everything we do is excellent teaching and relationships, defined by respect, dignity, love and care.

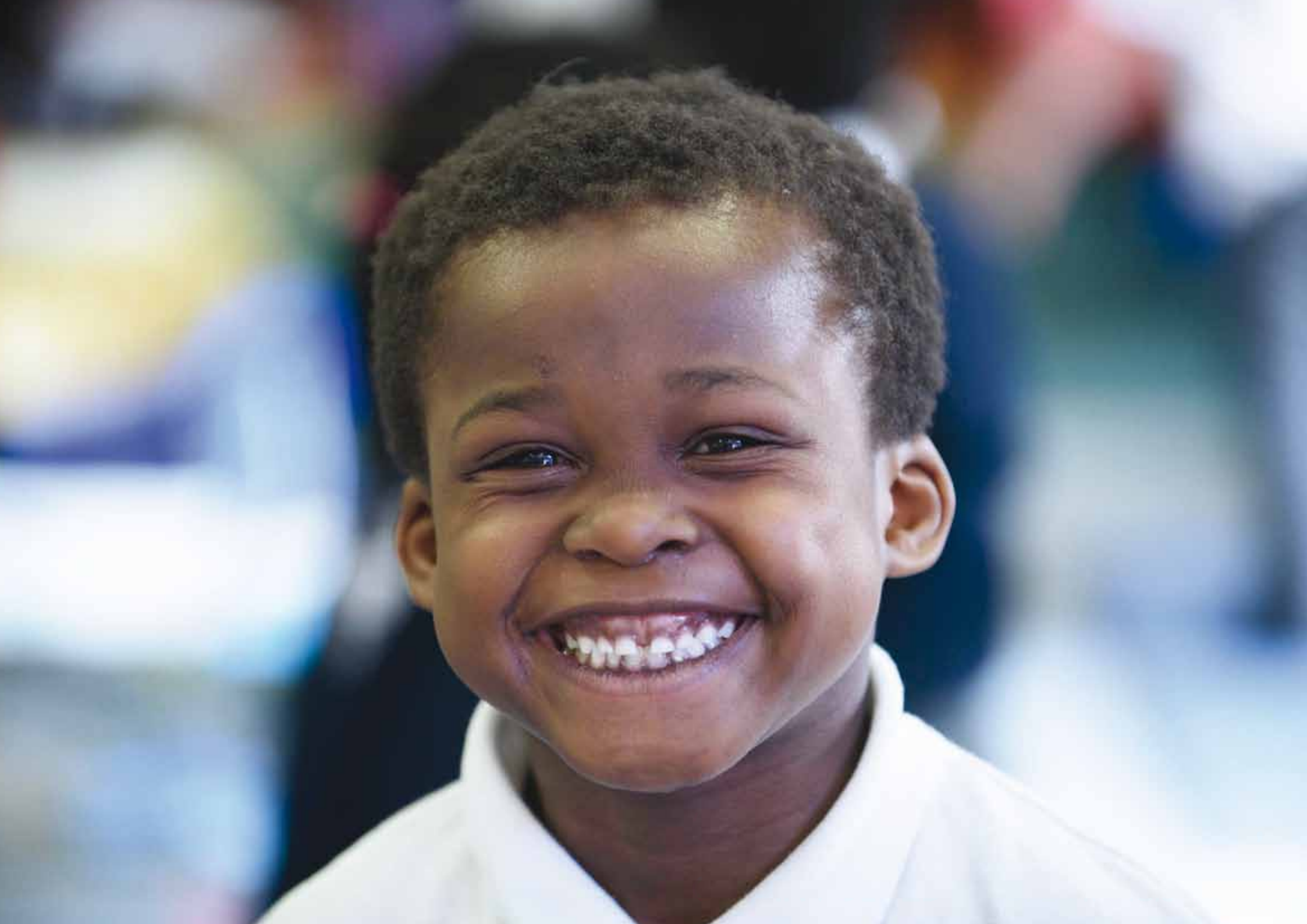
Our vision is built on firm beliefs:

- **Each child is unique and made in God's image;** it is our mission to guarantee success for every individual.
- **Partnership is the key to successful education;** our school listens to, and grows with, our community.
- **Happiness is essential for children to learn;** we have created a happy and safe learning environment where children are confident to 'have a go'.
- **We must have high expectations of children, and of ourselves;** we continually strive to do even better.

Our simple aims are for all children at St Joseph's are to:

- Care: for themselves, their community and the world.
- Make excellent progress and achieve high standards.
 - Be able to become closer to God.
 - Feel happy, confident and safe.
 - Feel loved and special.





EVERY CHILD MATTERS

St Joseph's is a small school where all children are known by all staff.

In our school every child is valued equally and included fully in all aspects of school life. When children join the school they will be allocated a Year 6 'buddy', a friend who is there to help as they settle into their new school.

The progress of all pupils is monitored regularly and, if necessary personalised programmes of study are provided. We plan, and seek out, additional challenges for our most able children and provide extra specialist support for those with additional needs.

Through the personal, health and social education (PHSE) curriculum we ensure children develop positive feelings about themselves, their learning and friendships. This means that they can become responsible, caring people, able to make informed decisions about their own behaviour and learning. We have School Council and a 'house' system. This encourages children to work together and to support and encourage each other to do their best.

We teach our children to be aware of their role as citizens within our school, our community and the world. We expect them to increasingly empathise with others and appreciate, enjoy and celebrate living in such a vibrant and diverse city.



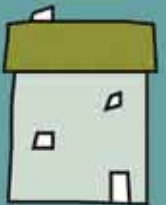
FAITH SCHOOL

At St Joseph's we welcome, and value, all children. We are proud of our diverse community, which includes Catholic families, families from other faith traditions and families of no particular or organised faith.

We believe that all children have a spiritual thirst and we seek to respond to this. Our aim is for children to live positive, loving and creative lives; we believe that knowing and understanding their own faith and belief system will help them to do this.

Being a Catholic school we give priority to helping our children understand and, if appropriate, practice the Catholic faith. This is done in an inclusive way and our curriculum includes learning about and developing a respect and celebration of other world faiths. All faith requires us to develop as creative, compassionate and loving people; serving the common good in our communities.

We have a very active pupil chaplaincy team. They are confident and enthusiastic in leading masses and whole school worship. They organise many faith activities throughout the year and encourage all children to be involved in these.



LEARNING THE 'BASICS'

Reading

Reading is a vital life skill and one that is high on our priority list. In our school we believe passionately that all children can become confident, fluent readers. We achieve this by providing excellent early phonics teaching, using a wide range of graded reading books, all children reading to adults and having a fantastic library full of brilliant books!

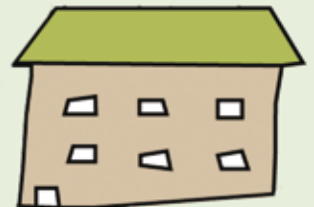
Writing

Children start making marks at an early age and from these we aim to develop expressive and eloquent writers. Initially we teach children to enjoy writing and to print letters using a handwriting style which will be easy to join later on. In Key Stage 1 the focus is on developing fluency and writing at greater length using correct basic spelling and sentence punctuation. In Key Stage 2 the focus is on developing more sophisticated written pieces in a range of styles, with accurate complex spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an important part of everyday life and we aim to give children a healthy, positive attitude towards Maths that we hope will stay with them for life. Our maths curriculum is built around 3 main aims, that:

- Children become fluent in basic number and calculations. By having frequent practice, we ensure they can recall and apply their basic mathematical knowledge with ease.
- Children are taught to think like mathematicians. They are expected to investigate mathematical patterns, relationships and generalisations and to explain, argue and prove their theories using mathematical language.
- Children apply their mathematical knowledge to problems, showing their understanding of how maths enables us to solve problems and how we use mathematics in real life.



OUR CURRICULUM

We have planned an exciting and innovative curriculum in order to instil a love of learning which will remain with our children throughout their lives. Across the curriculum, children develop and refine a wide range of skills and positive attitudes. We create opportunities for them to be reflective, resilient, resourceful individuals, able to work effectively both independently and collaboratively.

Our whole school curriculum map details the termly topics that have been designed to engage and inspire the pupils. Through these topics the foundation subjects of History, Geography, Science, Art, Computing and PHSE are taught.

Music and Drama are an important part of school life. All classes are taught Music by a Music specialist and all children learn a musical instrument in Years 4 and 5. Every child is involved in a school production at least once a year, and from Year 3 everybody is invited to join the school choir. We are developing a school orchestra.

Sport and physical education enjoy a high profile in our school. There are weekly sports lessons, including swimming. St Joseph's is represented in a wide range of sports, at fixtures and competitions throughout the year. We employ specialist coaching in a range of sports.

After-school clubs are available to children including sports, arts and academic clubs.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Governors

St Joseph's has a team of governors, including parents, staff and parishioners who dedicate themselves to leading and guiding the school. They have a clear vision for the school and are committed to providing the best possible opportunities for the children.

Parental Involvement

There is an active Parent, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) to involve and consult parents in key decisions relating to the smooth running of the school. Many parent volunteers support in class, on trips and doing other useful tasks. This type of support is always welcome.

Extended School Club

We have an extended school club offering before and after-school care for those families who require it.

Contact Information

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