



St Mary and St Joseph's RC Primary School

Prospectus
2026 -2027

"Being different, belonging together in the family of God"

Welcome to St Mary and St Joseph's RC Primary School

Dear Parents

May I take this opportunity to offer you a warm welcome to St Mary and St Joseph's. This is a happy, vibrant school with a wonderful energy to it and I truly believe that in order for a school to be successful it must be a motivating, happy and safe place to be. Relationships and attitudes are very positive and an ethos exists in which learning together becomes an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all.

We pride ourselves in promoting a family atmosphere where we know our children as individuals and therefore can provide them with a feeling of security and stability which gives them confidence and high self-esteem to achieve their potential.

We insist that our staff, governors, parents and pupils understand the need to work together; the need to celebrate success; to embrace change in order to be the best that we can be.

Our relationships are based firmly upon strong Catholic values where we put God into the centre of everything we do and we truly live by our motto of 'Being different, belonging together in the family of God'. As a school we firmly believe in developing the whole child academically, socially and spiritually and together with families, the Parish and the local community we strive for excellence.

I feel privileged to be the head teacher of a school which is truly unique and I hope that you enjoy finding out more about our school through our website.



Mrs Andrea Thomson

Headteacher

www.stmaryandstjosephs.co.uk



Our Mission Statement

Sharing our love of God throughout our Parish and local community

Making lasting memories by gaining knowledge through an enriched creative curriculum

Supporting every child to develop their full potential as caring and considerate citizens of the future

Journeying together along the learning path of life

Starting school

Children are admitted in the school year in which they reach their 5th birthday i.e. 1st September – 31st August. In order to make the start of your child's education at St Mary and St Joseph's a successful and happy experience a series of visits are arranged before he/she starts school. These sessions are arranged during the Summer Term prior to your child beginning school. They are intended to allow them to become familiar with the class teacher and teaching assistants, meet with their fellow class mates and become familiar with the more formal practices of a school session. We are conscious that for some pupils these sessions will be their first experiences away from home. The visits will hopefully make the transition from home or nursery to school as smooth as possible. A meeting is held each year in school to inform you of school procedures and expectations. This provides an opportunity for you to look around the school and become familiar with different aspects of the curriculum. Staff will be available to answer any queries that you may have about the school.

School Governors

Mr M Ashcroft *Chair of Governors*
Mr K Georgy *Vice Chair of Governors*
Andrea Thomson (Headteacher)

Foundation Governors

Mr A Staffa
Fr G Barry (Ex-officio)
Mr K Georgy
Mrs D Woloszczuk
Mrs L Baldwin

Staff Governor

Mrs A Parker

Parent Governor

Mrs Y Firfirey
Mrs M Chaudry

LA Governor

Councillor S Afzal

Observer

Mrs R Love

Clerk of Governors

Mrs C Butler

Admissions Policy

The number of places available for admission to the Reception class in September 2026 is 30.
A full copy of the schools Admissions Policy is available on website or from the school office.

School Hours

School begins: **8.55am**
Morning Break: **10.00am/10.45am**
Lunchtime: **12 noon – 1.00pm**
School closes: **3.25pm**

The gates to school will be opened at 8.45am, Children will be welcomed at the Parent Porch and provided with a piece of toast in class. Please collect children promptly at 3.25pm at the end of the school day. Should there be any change to the usual person collecting your child please inform the school in advance.



Safeguarding for Parents and Careers

At St Mary & St Joseph's RC Primary School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Designated Safeguarding Leads



Mrs Love
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Deputy Head



Mrs Thomson
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead
Head Teacher



Mrs Butler
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead
School Business
Manager



Mrs Parker
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead
SENCO



Mrs
Crossland
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead

If you are concerned about a child and you feel they are being abused, neglected or at risk of abuse/neglect, then you should consider making a safeguarding child referral.

Contact Blackburn Safeguarding team: 01254 666400

Pastoral Support

Pupils

- Nurture opportunities throughout the day
- Nurture room in school
- Social skills intervention with Family Support Worker
- Behavioral support
- Pupil support mentor

Parents

- DSLs signpost parents to other agencies
- Parental workshops
- Behavioral support at home
- Early Help Assessments
- Team around the Family meetings
- Liaising with housing and social care
- Assistance completing paperwork
- Career guidance and personal development for parents

Concerns about staff

If you have any concerns about Staff these should be shared with the Headteacher. Concerns can then be addressed. Should you feel that your concerns have not been appropriately dealt with, you can then contact the chair of governors Mr. Michael Ashcroft.

Operation Encompass

As part of St Mary & St Joseph's RC Primary School's commitment to keeping children safe, we are proud to be part of Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass is a unique Police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership which supports children and young people exposed to domestic abuse.

Useful Links

www.citizensadvice.org.uk For General Advice

www.netmums.com For general advice on parenting issues and local events happening

www.shelter.org.uk Housing and debt advice

www.net-aware.org.uk Keeping your child safe online

www.entitledto.co.uk Benefits Calculator - check you are receiving everything you are entitled to.

Please visit our school website for updated safeguarding information

<https://www.stmaryandstjosephs.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=116>

The Curriculum

The aims of the curriculum are to give the children a deep-rooted faith in God, to extend the children's knowledge of themselves and the world around them, to develop their skills and ideas as individuals and to help them to relate to others.

Children will be provided with a broad and balanced curriculum with Oracy at the heart of everything we do.

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education.
- Personal, social, health, citizenship education
- Modern Foreign Languages

The school uses a range of platforms to support the delivery of the curriculum. This includes; Literacy Counts, Read Write Inc, Kapow, Lighting of the path. Teachers adapt these resources to meet the needs of the children. The curriculum is organised through carefully planned curriculum maps that link directly to the National Curriculum.

Religious Education

St Mary and St Joseph's is a Catholic school and as such a Catholic ethos pervades all that takes place within our school community. During the year Mass is celebrated regularly in school. Other religious services and special assemblies are considered an integral part of school life and important in the spiritual development of the child.

Physical Education

The P.E. curriculum is subdivided into gymnastics, games, swimming, dance, and outdoor/adventurous activities.

Sporting Aims

The school aims to give all children the opportunity to experience a variety of sports and for as many as possible the opportunity to play as a member of a team. The school has been awarded the Sainsbury's Bronze award

Swimming

Swimming lessons are provided from Year 1 to Year 6. Each child will receive an intense block of swimming lessons over a 1-week period. The lessons will take place during the summer term using the 'Pools for Schools' service.

Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Pupils in all year groups are given a range of opportunities to join in with outdoor and adventurous learning. These opportunities are provided through a range of school trips across all year groups. In KS2 children participate in the 'Beyond Our Boundaries' incentive, where each year group is provided with a selection of adventurous activities to complete, ensuring all children have been given equal opportunities to complete adventurous activities.

Forest Schools

Our pupils have the opportunity to experience the outdoors through 'forest schools'. Sessions are delivered by Miss Boyle and the class Teaching Assistant.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

At St Mary and St Joseph's we aim, in partnership with parents, to meet the needs of each individual child. We recognise that a number of pupils will have some special educational needs at some stage during their time at school. We will support these children physically, pastorally, and academically whenever necessary to enable them to develop to their full potential. When a child has been identified as needing additional support, parents will be asked to talk to the Class Teacher, prior to inclusion on the SEND register. In order to ensure that the pupil's needs are met, advice is sought from various agencies including our Educational Psychologist, personnel from BwD Education Inclusion Service, Speech Therapy Department, Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health Services and the Education Welfare Officer.

Pupils are identified at the earliest possible stage and benefit from half-termly reviews of their progress and updated Individual Education Plans, which set out specific achievable targets within a set timescale. Some children receive additional support in class from teaching assistants, whilst others are withdrawn for 1:1 or small group sessions for short periods of time. We are pleased with the progress made by pupils with Special Educational Needs and this is closely tracked as they move through school.

Homework

Homework is given on a regular basis at an appropriate level for the child's age and stage of development. All children have reading books and may also have supplementary work to take home on a regular basis. Spellings or times tables may also be required to be practised as the class teacher requests.

Communication

Website

The school has a website, that can be viewed at www.stmaryandstjosephs.co.uk The site includes general information about the school as well as specific Parents and Class Pages.

Class Dojo

The school uses Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a classroom communication app used to share reports between parents and teachers.

Assessment and Reporting

Within the first few weeks in school, pupils are assessed with a simple one to one baseline procedure. Teachers then continuously assess pupils in the EYFS so they can ensure children are making good progress. Also required by the DfE are the National Curriculum Tests at the end of Key Stage 2. These are important assessments for the child and the school. The results of these statutory assessments in the form of Teacher Assessment for Year 2 and Teacher Assessment and test results for Year 6 are reported to parents. Children in Years 3 to 5 are also tested in relation to the National Curriculum, in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar during the course of the summer term. Teachers assess all children informally and continuously during their time at school, using information gathered to plan for future learning.

Parents' Meetings

Autumn Term

Our first parents meeting is held in November, when there is an opportunity for you to find out how your child is progressing. Any information you have about your child's learning abilities or your comments on your child's work would be most helpful at this point. This meeting is a sharing information session for the benefit of your child.

Spring Term

Our second parents meeting is an opportunity for you to appreciate your child's improvement since the last meeting and raise any concerns you have for the future. This still leaves time in the academic year to tackle any concerns.

Summer Term

All children receive a comprehensive written report in July covering all the National Curriculum subjects. Parents have the right to discuss the report further, if they wish to do so.

School Uniform

Boys

- Navy school jumper
- Navy tailored trousers
- Striped tie (Navy and Red)
- White Shirt

Girls

- Navy school jumper
- Patterned skirt
- Navy tailored trousers
- White Shirt
- Navy plain tie
- Socks or Navy tights – no leggings are permitted.
- As a general safety rule please ensure that your child wears sensible shoes for school, e.g. no high heels, trainers or flimsy sandals. It is helpful if children have shoes, they can fasten themselves.

NO JEWELLERY ITEMS ARE TO BE WORN due to Health and Safety regulations.

P.E.

Both boys and girls wear a compulsory navy-blue sports top and an optional quarter zip (purchase from schools' website). Black pumps are worn for indoor activities and trainers for outdoor activities. It is essential that you put your child's name in each item of clothing and footwear so they can be identified clearly.

Safeguarding

We are a caring school with the welfare of all our pupils deeply entrenched in our philosophy. For this reason, we comply with the Department for Education's request that all parents should be informed of our duties and responsibilities under the local Child Protection Procedures. Day to day contact with children, schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. Parents should be aware, therefore, that where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been abused, the school is required, as part of the local Child Protection Procedures, to report their concern immediately to the School's Senior Designated Teacher who may need to refer it on to the local Social Services Department. The Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection is Mrs Love (Deputy Headteacher). The Deputy Designated Leads are Mrs Thomson (Headteacher), Mrs AM Parker (SENDCo), Mrs C Butler (School Business Manager) & Mrs A Crossland (Family Support Worker)

School Meals/Lunchtimes

School meals are cooked on the premises and are available to all children. Payment for meals is made in advance on Monday each week. Dinner monies can be paid on the School Gateway app or in cash at the office. The cost of school meals is £2.20 per day (£11.00 per week).

Facilities are available for children to bring packed lunches to school. Please make sure that they are in a suitable container. For safety reasons, no cans or glass bottles please. Please label your child's lunch box with name and class. Children wishing to change from packed lunches to hot dinners, or vice versa, should give at least three weeks' notice in writing.

Friday Favourite/Monday Meal

If your child has a packed lunch, they may have a school dinner at a cost of £2.20 each day

School Milk

Milk is provided for all children at an additional cost – more information is provided on the 'Cool Milk' information letter.

Fruit

Fruit is provided for all infant children. This is provided by the National Fruit Scheme at no cost to school or parents.

Water

Research shows that drinking water during lessons aids concentration, each class is supplied with fresh drinking water. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office for £1.

KS2 Snacks

From Year 3 healthy snacks are available every day, there is no cost for this.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.45am at £1 a day. Children are offered a well-balanced healthy breakfast as well as a variety of activities. It is a great way to start the day.

Out of the Classroom

As they progress through the school children are encouraged to participate in a variety of clubs, which cater for many interests and are organised on a voluntary basis by members of staff. In addition to the formal curriculum, we aim to enrich children's experiences through a variety of visits and visitors to school.

Behaviour Curriculum

Positive behaviour will be taught to all pupils in order to enable them to understand what behaviour is expected and encouraged and what is unacceptable. Positive reinforcement will be used by staff where expectations are met to acknowledge good behaviour and encourage repetition. The school will focus on defining positive behaviour and making it clear what this looks like, including any routines required by the school, e.g., exit and entry routines.

Our three school rules are;

- Be Safe
- Be Ready
- Be Respectful

Celebration

At SMSJ, we celebrate children's achievements weekly. Children will be selected by their class teacher to receive SPIRIT awards throughout the year, these are awarded for; Skills for Life, participation, Independence, Roles and Responsibilities, Innovation & Taking Risks.

Children are also awarded for reading, attendance & punctuality.

Home/School Links

Parents are kept well informed of events through the weekly newsletter. We also operate a text messaging service which ensures a quick and efficient way of communicating important news and information. All parents need to sign up to Class Dojo to keep up to date with the activities your child is learning throughout the school day.

Parental Involvement

The main way to help the school is to let your child see that you take an interest in what they do at school and that you are keen for them to do their best. Don't forget to ask your child about what they have done and give time to listen to them. Do try to make the effort to come and see the teacher at Parents' Meetings and to attend school functions or class assemblies.

It is important that children see home and school working together, which we have illustrated by gaining the Leading Parent Partnership award.

Home/School Agreement

Parents are asked to sign a parental declaration, agreeing their responsibilities whilst their child is registered with us. The Home-School Agreement, as well as asking parents to acknowledge their responsibilities, also sets out the school's aims, values and responsibilities and expectations of its pupils.

Attendance

St Mary and St Joseph's RC Primary School seeks to ensure that all its pupils receive their entitlement of a full-time education in order for each pupil to achieve their true potential. We recognise that poor attendance can result in lower attainment, and can impact on the personal, social and emotional development of pupils. Therefore, we strive to provide a welcoming and caring environment in which each member of the school community feels wanted and safe. Staff at St Mary and St Joseph's will work alongside family members, and their children, to ensure that pupils at our school want to come to school every day and on time.

We aim for all children to have 96% - 100% attendance (no more than 8 days missed). If your child's attendance drops below 90% they are classed as a 'Persistent Absentee' and this will impact on your child's education. As we carefully monitor attendance using 'Attend', support will be put in place for those who need it. Families with Children who need to improve their attendance, will be supported by the attendance Hero team. Children who maintain a 100% attendance record will be awarded. For more information on attendance, please read our detailed attendance policy available on the school website.

Lateness/Sickness

Please let us know if your child cannot attend school because he/she is unwell on every day of sickness. A telephone call will suffice. If a child has to be absent for medical, dental or other appointments please inform the school as soon as possible. Whilst realising that it is not always possible to do so, we would ask that these appointments be made outside school hours whenever they can be so arranged. A parent or named representative must collect the child from the school premises. It is essential that we have a telephone number so that we can contact you if your child becomes ill or is injured at school. It is important to update the information as soon as possible if there is any change in your family circumstances.

Medicines in School

The school must be informed immediately about any medical conditions your child develops. Only prescribed medicines will be administered by school support staff once the "Medication Consent Form" has been completed. We keep records of all accidents and injuries, and have procedures in place for ensuring that they are reviewed regularly. We will always contact you if your child suffers anything more than a trivial injury, or if they become unwell, or if we have any worries or concerns about their health.

Health

The school nurse regularly visits the children and contacts parents if further attention is necessary. At regular intervals your child's hearing and sight will be checked by specially trained staff. Medicals are also carried out in school and parents are always given adequate notice to attend with their child if they wish

Transfer to High School

During the Autumn Term of your child's last year at St Mary and St Joseph's you will receive information about the various High Schools in this area, from which to make your selection. In addition, you will be notified of Open Evenings so that you will be able to see the schools at first hand. St Mary and St Joseph's is a feeder school for Our Lady and St John's Catholic Arts College. We enjoy close links with Our Lady and St John with many joint ventures and visits taking place. We aim to make transition to High School as smooth as possible.