

In our School, may there be prayer,
learning and humour, hard work,
faith and friendship.



St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Prospectus 2023

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. Joseph's, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

Becoming a member of our community here at St. Joseph's Catholic Academy provides memories and opportunities that last a lifetime. Our aim is to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of each of our students so that we can best support each one to learn and achieve.

Developing an effective partnership between home and school is key to the success of our students. We look forward to working together in the future to ensure your child reaches their potential.

Our school prayer, written by students of St. Joseph's, summarises what we strive towards.

"Lord help us to become the people you want us to be. In our school may there be prayer, learning and humour, hard work, faith and friendship. May we respect everyone we meet, use our gifts and encourage each other. Send your angels to guide us and let your peace be with us and our families always. We ask these things through Christ our Lord. Amen."



Choose Us

Choosing which secondary school your child goes to is a big decision.

A milestone for both your child and for you as parents. We believe that St. Joseph's is the right place to make the educational experience for your child and you as rewarding as possible.

- St. Joseph's is a high achieving, caring and disciplined Catholic community with a rich history of excellent education provision
- In the Diocese Inspection during March 2019, St. Joseph's was judged to be 'Outstanding' regarding the values we hold in school. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is strong with exam results on a continued upward trajectory
- The more recent Ofsted inspection of September 2022, praised the school as "all pupils, including those with special education needs and/or disabilities, benefit from studying an ambitious curriculum and from having dedicated lessons that help them to develop as individuals"



Our Mission

Inspired by God's love and aspiration that each member of our school community lives life to the full, we commit ourselves to the following aims:

FLAME

Faith – Learning – Attitude – Mutual Respect – Enrichment

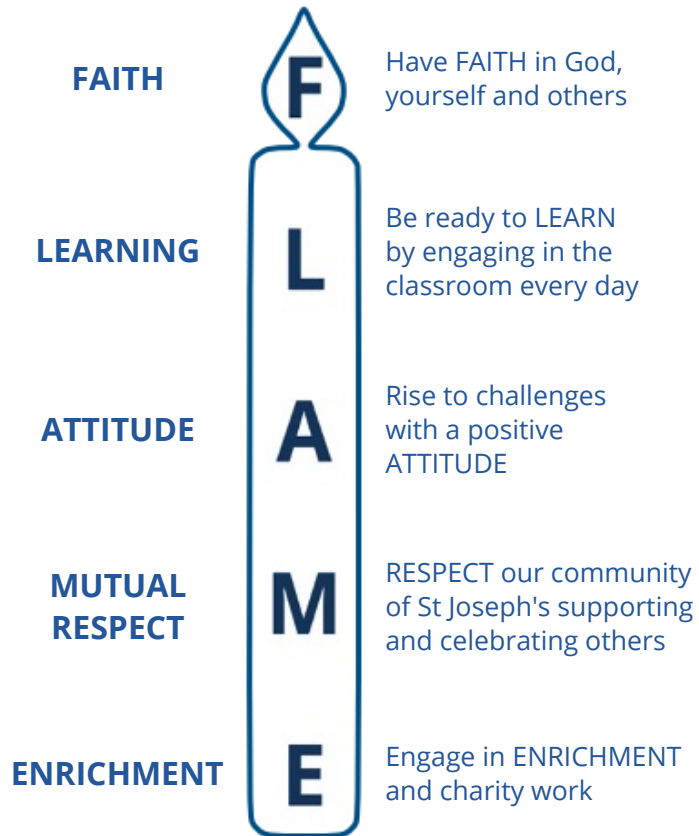
Following our aims, we create an environment in which the intellectual, physical, social, moral and spiritual development of every student is able to flourish.

At St. Joseph's we offer a broad and balanced curriculum, where each and every pupil is an equally valued member of our community.

The culture of our school is based distinctively on Gospel values, which are reflected in everything we do.

We encourage pupils to demonstrate high levels of commitment and co-operation while all members of staff endeavour to provide maximum opportunities for learning and progression within a secure and safe environment.

Our education philosophy is based strongly on partnership where home, school, parish and the wider community work closely together to provide maximum support to the educational process.



Let your light shine
Matthew 5:16



Our School

St. Joseph's is a school with a strong sense of community and we value each member as a uniquely created individual with God-given talents and abilities which we strive to nurture so that every person lives their life to the full.

Facilities

St. Joseph's Catholic Academy was part of the South Tyneside & Gateshead 'Building Schools for the Future' government initiative. As a result, we benefited from a multi-million pound re-development of the school site. We have a fantastic new school building with modern classrooms, sports facilities and large indoor spaces for dining and pupil use. We also have a designated sixth form block.

Our Facilities Include:

- Sports Hall
- Gymnasium
- Multi Use Game Area (MUGA)
- Extensive school playing fields
- Main Hall
- Purpose built dining facilities
- ICT Suites
- Science laboratories
- Technology rooms
- Music rooms
- Library Resource Centre -Students are able to take books out on loan and the centre is available for access at break time and lunchtime
- Hair and Beauty Salon

Meals

All school meals are freshly prepared on the premises each day. We have three designated serving areas on the ground floor in the main school building. Three meal deals are available daily, offering great value and a balanced nutritious meal as follows:

Best of British: Any main meal choice plus hot pudding or drink.

Street Food: Hand-held healthy food plus a drink, cookie or fresh fruit.

Chilled Pick 'n' Mix: Sandwich and drink plus one other item, either yoghurt, cookie, fruit jelly or fresh fruit.

Fresh pasta with a choice of home cooked Italian sauces is served each day.

St. Joseph's operates a cashless catering system using a biometric (finger scanning) process. Parents/Carers are able to pay for school meals by using the online ParentPay service. This makes lunchtime more efficient and removes the need for students to carry money. It also enables you to view meal choices online and your balance will be updated daily based on the meals your child selects. Students entitled to free meals are allowed to purchase food to the value of a free school meal allowance daily.

Students can also bring a packed lunch. However nuts or nut-based products are not permitted.



Our Curriculum

The curriculum is designed, structured and taught so as to achieve the aim stated in our Mission Statement: that each member of our school community lives life to the full.

Through our formal and informal curriculum we aim to:

- Develop in students, lively, enquiring minds
- Enable students to use language and numbers effectively
- Develop the vocational education of students
- Foster attitudes and a learning context which will enhance self-esteem and instil self-awareness and self-confidence in all students
- Help students develop personal, social, spiritual and moral values and a tolerance of the way of life of others

Inclusion

All children have particular needs which must be met if the goal of developing their full potential is to be achieved. Ideally the education of every child will be individually planned to make this possible. In line with our Mission Statement, we will strive to create an environment where all our children are equally valued and respected.

Students with specific learning needs will be provided with individual programmes of work which may be undertaken with an individual teacher. More information on how we work to address the needs of children with Special Educational Needs can be found on our website at: <http://www.stjosephs.uk.net/send/>



Our Curriculum

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students follow a common curriculum:

Religious Education: As a Catholic School all RE courses are in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic church. Core Subjects are English, Mathematics and Science.

Foundation Subjects are French; Design and Technology; Information Technology; Geography; History; Art; Music; Physical Education.

In Years 10 and 11, all students study a common core of compulsory subjects:

Religious Education; English Language; English Literature; Mathematics; Science and Physical Education. Students can also study a language and will choose a Humanities subject.

Other GCSE and BTEC qualifications include:

Art; Business; Computing; Design and Technology; Engineering Health and Social Care; Hair and Beauty; Information Technology; Music; Spanish; Sport Studies



Pastoral

To ensure that each individual student has a sense of being well-known and valued, both the group tutor and the Head of House ideally remain with the same group of students from Year 7 to Year 11.

This allows the group tutor to develop a good relationship with each of their tutees. Siblings are placed in the same House.

Throughout these five years the students will also experience personal, social and health education each week. These sessions are designed to teach Christian values as well as knowledge and skills. They cover topics such as citizenship, self-awareness, health education, relationships education, environmental issues and careers.

To provide an education which offers students the best opportunity to attain their full potential without being hindered by others, the staff aim to promote, within our students, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility in order to create a disciplined, orderly, respectful community within a loving, caring and forgiving framework. We look for, and welcome, the support of parents in this process.

Faith, Learning, Attitude, Mutual Respect and Enrichment are our central school themes. A more detailed list of our expectations and rules is found within the student planners and also on our school website.

We expect all students to strive for 100% attendance with a minimum of 97% attendance in each year. Please keep medical appointments outside of the school day if possible. If this is not possible, please bring a letter into school prior to this to receive a pass from your child's Head of House.

School starts at 8.40 am and students begin the day lining up ready for registration/assembly.



Admissions

More information on the scheme can be found at:
<http://www.fastfeetfa.com>

The full Admissions Policy is available under the Policies page on the school's website.

The admission policies explain:

- How we consider applications for each age group
- What parents should do if they want to apply for their child to attend St. Joseph's
- Our arrangements for selecting the pupils who apply
- Our 'over-subscription criteria' (how we offer places if there are more applicants than places)
- How parents can find out about our school's admission arrangements through our local authority

St. Joseph's Elite Football Academy

St. Joseph's offers a dedicated football training programme for both boys and girls who have talent for the sport. Students will be given professional-standard coaching aimed at enhancing their chance of a career in football, while at the same time guaranteeing them a good education.

The aim is not only to make the most of a young player's ability but also to support their character development. Any top coach or manager will tell you that to succeed in sport, talent alone is not enough – discipline, drive and a professional attitude focused on personal achievement is crucial.



Extra Curricular

Extra-curricular activities and inter-school sport are an important part of the broader concept of education. They are felt to be of great value, not just for the satisfaction and fulfilment they give but also for the contribution they make to a happy school.

Music

St. Joseph's has an active school choir which all pupils can join; there is an Orchestra for our students who take extra instrumental lessons and St. Joseph's own Rock Band. Pupils perform in a variety of settings including school masses, open evenings and end of term celebrations. The music department offers a selection of instrumental lessons on guitar, piano, singing, keyboard, violin and drums.

Sport

We have an extremely successful sporting culture at St. Joseph's with students representing the school in a variety of different sporting contexts. We have achieved regional and national awards in sports such as boys and girls football (not least of all, the girls under 13 football team who became national champions at Wembley!), basketball, table tennis and sport hall athletics. Students also do well at the South Tyneside athletics meeting across all year groups and are able to show these skills at our annual sports day at Monkton Stadium. However, our sporting success is not all about medals and championships. St Joseph's also has many students who become Level 2 sports leaders, leading many activities and festivals within the community. We also hold many House events throughout the year that are extremely well attended by students passionate about sport.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

This is a very popular course, with over 100 students participating each year, making St. Joseph's one of the largest providers in South Tyneside. Students can begin their personal development journey in Year 9 working towards the Bronze Award. Our Year 10 students complete the Silver Award while the Sixth Formers aim for the ultimate challenge, Gold Award. Our expeditions take students to a variety of locations including Northumberland, North Yorkshire and the Lake District.



Our Uniform

The school requires high standards of personal appearance. All students should wear school uniform to and from school, during the school day or when participating in school-organised events.

Uniform (Years 7-11)

- Plain white school shirt with top button fastened (not a polo shirt). No visible tops worn under the shirt
- Plain black formal school trousers. No denim- type material or jean style trousers. No 'skinny fit' trousers. No zipped pockets or gold/silver fashion accessories
- Black drop-waisted skirt with box style pleats. No lycra-type or pull on stretchy material skirts are allowed. Our expectation is that skirts are worn at knee length
- Black opaque tights or grey socks
- Optional plain grey or black jumper with or without school badge
- A grey blazer with the St. Joseph's school badge and House ribbon attached. Blazers must be worn at all times
- A St. Joseph's school tie
- Plain black formal school shoes. Trainers are prohibited. In extreme weather stout footwear can be worn but must be covered by trousers. Fashion boots (eg. Uggs) are forbidden. No hats or hooded /tracksuit tops to be worn

PE Kit

- Royal blue polo shirt and quarter-zip jumper
- Black shorts, socks, jogging bottoms and leggings

Jewellery (other than a wrist watch) including piercings and charity bands must not be worn. Extreme haircuts (tramlines, extreme patterns or unnatural dyed colours) are forbidden. Hair should be professional and of natural colour. Make-up is not allowed for students in years 7-11.

All students should come to school with a suitable school bag. We define "suitable" as a school bag which can easily contain room for class books, planner, textbooks and a PE kit.

Students must have a planner, two black or blue pens, a green pen, pencil and ruler with them at all times. The school planner must be used every lesson to highlight homework and signed once a week by the tutor and at home. This can also be a good method of communicating information to your child's tutor.





St Joseph's Catholic Academy

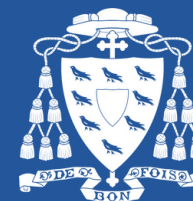
Mill Lane
Hebburn
South Tyneside
NE31 2ET

✉ office@stjosephs.uk.net

🌐 www.stjosephs.uk.net

☎ 0191 428 2700

📘 @stjosephsca



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