



Part of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust

# ST JOACHIM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



A photograph of a man in a dark suit and light blue tie, holding a piece of paper and looking to his left. He is standing in front of a group of children in school uniforms. The children are also holding papers and looking in the same direction. The background is a dark, out-of-focus interior space.

# Mission statement

**PLAYING AND PRAYING, LOVING AND LEARNING, WE ACHIEVE THROUGH GOD.**

## **OUR VISION AND AIMS**

St. Joachim's Catholic School exists to serve the Catholic communities of Beckton, Custom House, North Woolwich and Silvertown which are all part of the Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham. The school serves the church communities of St. Mark's Beckton, St. Anne's Custom House and St. Mary's and St. Edward's Silvertown.

St. Joachim's is here to educate all its children to the highest possible standards with the Gospel values and the Catholic teachings and traditions at the heart of the school ethos.

### **We aim to:**

- Celebrate our Catholic faith and to encourage children to be confident in their relationship with God.
- To create a love of learning and a school which children love and are proud of.
- Provide a broad and exciting curriculum for all our children, allowing them to develop their full potential academically, physically, socially and spiritually.
- Work in partnership with the Parish Community, our families and the wider community to prepare children for their future lives.
- Create a caring and secure environment in which teaching and learning can flourish for all children and staff.
- Value the professionalism of our staff, the dedication of our governors and the support of our parents.
- Promote Christian values with an emphasis on encouraging our children to be considerate and helpful to others.





# Welcome to St Joachim's Catholic Primary School

Our school prospectus provides key information about St Joachim's Catholic Primary School. It outlines our aims, achievements and day to day procedures. It is an opportunity to introduce you to our school ethos and highlight the school's expectations.

Our whole school community, children, parents, staff and governors are rightfully proud of our school and its achievements. Our success is both evident in the academic standards achieved and in the excellent curriculum we offer to our children.

We work hard to provide a caring and stimulating environment in which each child can thrive and develop their own interests and talents.

Your support in this process is essential, we strive to work with you as parents and carers to bring your child into our Catholic school family, where the values of the Gospels are at the heart of all that we do.

**James Allen**  
Headteacher

St Joachim's is an outstanding school with a Catholic ethos which permeates all areas of its work. Outcomes for pupils are excellent as is the provision for Catholic education and the capacity for sustained improvement.

Prayer and worship are central to school life. Pupils respond very positively to opportunities to develop their faith journey.

**R.E. 'OFSTED 2015'**





# School Admissions

St Joachim's Catholic Primary School is part of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust, which the school helped to establish in 2015, and is situated in the London Borough of Newham, within the Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Our location makes us very conscious of the diverse backgrounds where our children come from. What we are

makes us work hard to provide the best possible all-round education for each one of the children in our care.

The school is here for the children and we are proud that our efforts have been recognised by a large number of award giving and inspection agencies. Ofsted, for example, said, 'This inspirational school is outstanding in every area of its work. Pupils benefit enormously from teaching of the highest quality, which harnesses their natural exuberance and fosters a love of learning'.





## NURSERY

St Joachim's provides full-time and part-time Nursery provision for children aged 3 and 4. In line with government policy, we currently offer 30 hours free childcare. The Nursery curriculum is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework. Our Nursery is run by a fully qualified teacher, it is resourced with modern facilities and provides children with an excellent start to life at school.

The Local Governing Body of St Joachim's is responsible for admissions to the school.

Applications are welcome from parents who sincerely seek Catholic education for their children and are willing to participate in the life of the Parish and the school community in nurturing the Christian faith.

Parents are asked to note that children do not automatically transfer from the nursery to the reception year. A separate application has to be made for admission to the reception year.

Further details about our admissions procedures and criteria can be found on our website at [www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk/admissions.html](http://www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk/admissions.html)







# Inclusion and Behaviour

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)**

If your child has any difficulties in accessing the curriculum, we will work with you, as a parent or carer, to identify these difficulties and then find ways of providing appropriate support in line with the National Special Needs Code of Practice. Full details are on the school website.

## **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE**

We recognise and value other languages and encourage our children to learn their heritage language, whilst we support them in learning English through our visual, and practical curriculum.

## **FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED**

We welcome children with disabilities, our school offers a fully accessible environment including a shower room and toilets.

## **RACE AND EQUALITY**

In line with our ethos as a Catholic school, we celebrate the social, cultural and linguistic diversity of our school and local community. Our children are guided to an appreciation of, and respect for, each individual's contribution to the life of school and community. We learn from each other and our lives are enriched as a consequence of this diversity.





## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We place great importance on regular and punctual attendance both because it is a legal requirement and because days missed or late arrivals disrupt the education of the child concerned and that of his or her classmates. Discipline in this and all other matters is part of the ethos of the school, leading to appropriate self-esteem and respect for others. The impressive statistics of attendance, available on our website, are a major contributory factor to the success of our children and an achievement which we are very proud of. We urge parents to play their part by ensuring children attend school regularly and on time.

## BEHAVIOUR

We operate a positive behaviour policy at St Joachim's, which we rigorously follow. The same policy is applied throughout the school to ensure consistency and familiarity in expectations. We work alongside parents to promote positive learning behaviour, please see the whole school agreement on p.12 for further information.

## FAMILY HOLIDAYS

No family holidays will be authorised during term time. Any unauthorised absences are necessarily reported to the Governors and to the Department for Education.







# Curriculum at St. Joachim's

All children follow the [National Curriculum](#), which includes the subjects outlined below:

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious growth and development is not confined to timetabled lessons only but the curriculum as a whole. For Religious Education (RE) lessons, the children follow the diocesan approved scheme called 'Come and See.' This scheme teaches children about Catholic doctrine, morality and spirituality. RE is a core subject and as such takes up 10% of curriculum time.

The children develop their religious literacy and knowledge through a range of activities and experiences. RE lessons aim to inspire the children and help them learn about and understand

the Catholic faith. Assemblies and collective worship take place every day of the week with the children participating in them.

Once every half term we have class assemblies which parents are invited to attend. Several times a year, we also have special RE celebration assemblies, held on Friday afternoons. Our school is part of the Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham, comprising of the churches of St Anne's, Custom House; St Mark's, Beckton; and St John's Mass Centre, Silvertown. All the children attend Mass at the beginning and end of the school year and on other special occasions and selected Holy Days. We also have a timetabled class Mass rota. We have age appropriate liturgical celebrations in school and in church to coincide with the liturgical calendar. We also have many RE educational visits to



various places of worship and retreat. For children in Key Stage 2 this includes visits to Cathedrals, such as Westminster in London and Notre Dame in Paris, and for Year 5 pupils a chance to go to Rome to visit the Vatican City.

## ENGLISH

Children's literacy skills are developed through daily English lessons.

Our progressive and exciting curriculum contains a balance between reading, writing and grammar skills – which are often taught through whole school projects.

There is a daily 'guided reading' session timetabled throughout the school. The children will experience a range of different books including: fiction, information, poetry and plays, and will have a reading book to bring home, which is changed regularly along with weekly spelling lists.

They will have the opportunity to write in a range of styles and for a variety of audiences. Drama is widely used in English and across the curriculum to further enrich the learning experience of the children.



## MATHEMATICS

Children's mathematical skills are developed through daily Maths lessons.

All children follow a scheme of work directly linked to the National Curriculum, which promotes an emphasis on mental calculations and interactive work delivered through daily maths lesson and reinforced with weekly Maths homework.

We aim for all children to become fluent in the fundamentals of Mathematics, Mathematical reasoning and problem solving. They will also have the opportunity to acquire a range of practical skills in measuring, weighing, using money and telling the time.

## COMPUTING

At St Joachim's all classes from Years 1-6 have a class set of laptops. The use of ICT across all areas of the curriculum is actively encouraged. During computing lessons the children learn how to use ICT tools to effectively communicate, present and transmit information in the form of words, numbers, graphs, charts, pictures and sounds. They also learn to find, select, save and analyse information. The school uses a scheme of work directly linked to the National Curriculum. The children also use a variety of online programmes to support their learning. Online safety is a key part of our Computing curriculum.



## SCIENCE

At St Joachim's children are encouraged to widen their knowledge and understanding of the principles of biology, chemistry and physics. The children are taught to work scientifically, to plan and undertake a variety of investigations and use subsequent observations to draw and explain their conclusions.

Science at St Joachim's encourages children to explore, discover and understand the world and foster their curiosity for learning through investigative opportunities.

## HISTORY

The children study changes in their own lives, the lives of their parents and grandparents, and specific times beyond living memory such as: The Great Fire of London, The Romans, Tudors and Egyptians. They are encouraged to find similarities and differences between then and now and suggest reasons for these. Black History Week takes place in the autumn term and children celebrate their learning with a whole school assembly at the end of the project.







# Curriculum at St. Joachim's *continued*

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Children look at the relationships between people and the places they live in, both at home and abroad. This helps them to develop an understanding of their own surroundings and be able to compare them to other places around the world. Opportunities for analysing evidence and drawing conclusions are encouraged through topics across all year groups such as the London Project.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All children cover a programme that includes games, gymnastics and dance. All the classes in KS1 and KS2 have

two PE lessons a week. Children in KS 2 have the opportunity to go swimming and in year 6 parts of the curriculum are covered through a residential visit. On this visit the children do a variety of outdoor activities such as sailing, rock climbing, canoeing and orienteering. Team building is a key aspect of this visit. There is an annual Sports Day organised in collaboration with St Bonaventure's Secondary School. Parents are invited to attend. St. Joachim's enters a considerable number of sporting competitions for children from both key stages. A number of before and after school sporting clubs are provided for all children from both key stages.



## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

All children in KS2 have the opportunity to learn French. Teachers deliver French lessons that follow a set scheme. In addition to this there are French out-of-hours learning opportunities for children in both KS1 and KS2. During the year the children also participate in a French Day, which provides a practical experience in using French, they are completely immersed in both the language and the culture. We have annual educational visits to France and Italy, these opportunities are available to KS2 children. There are also other initiatives available for the children to take part in, such as pen pal programmes.

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

PSHE is embedded in our school life and delivered across the curriculum, we also have a focused whole school Citizenship Project each year. Children are taught to understand British values through cross curricular links as well as designated whole school assemblies. Children are encouraged to learn about local, national and international issues and support agencies that help those in need. They learn the importance of helping other people and each term the school aims to fund raise for a different charity.

## MUSIC

Children compose and perform their own music and appraise a wide variety of music from different times and cultures in their music lessons. They are given the opportunity to play a percussion instrument and we also have a comprehensive string programme in place. Musical tuition is provided to children in KS2. All children at St Joachim's take part in a weekly hymn practice, there is an out-of-hours learning provision to develop children's voices and the school also has different choirs that perform at various musical events.

## ART

Children learn a variety of art skills through using different media such as paint, clay, collage and textiles. Art is taught through topics, half termly. The topics are reflective of children's interests and cover a wide range of art skills. Each year an Art Project takes place across the school. We have an Art Committee made up of children from each year group who ensure that pupil's voices are evident in topic choices and the planning of our Artsweeks. Displays in classrooms and corridors are designed to reflect all aspects of learning and celebrate achievement. Children are encouraged to value their own and others work and to present it neatly and attractively. Children's works of art are also celebrated by being displayed in the St. Joachim's Art Gallery.

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The children learn to plan, design and make a variety of items such as puppets, bread, mobile phone holders and vehicles as they use a range of media such as textiles, food and wood. Design and Technology is delivered through projects that are often linked with other curriculum areas in order to provide purpose and context.







# Extra Curricular Activities

We are lucky to have a number of before and after school clubs run by teachers, teaching support staff and external coaches.

They can include the following:

- Chess
- Music
- Tennis
- Netball
- French
- Homework Club
- Drama
- Art
- Dance
- Football
- Maths
- Athletics
- Booster Classes
- Instrument Tuition
- Archery

At the beginning of each term children get a chance to sign up for those clubs which they are eligible for.

## Home School Links

### PARENTS' INFORMATION/ CONSULTATION/ OPEN EVENINGS

In September a parents' information evening is held to give you the chance to meet your child's new teacher and to find out the topics they will be learning during that academic year. It will also outline homework expectations and deal with any issues or worries you may have. There will also be Consultation Evenings in October and March and an Open Evening in July. Each half term starts with topic information briefing for pupils and parents.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

An annual written report of your child's overall progress during the year is sent out in July. These are detailed and include all curriculum areas.

### TEACHER APPOINTMENTS

If you have concerns about your child, you are welcome to make an appointment to see your child's teacher at any stage of the year.



## ASSEMBLIES AND CELEBRATIONS

We encourage parents to watch their child's class assembly and the special celebrations at Christmas, Easter and one at the end of the school year. We also have a special awards' evening at the end of the school year to celebrate all our children's achievements.

## OTHER MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

We provide a number of parental workshops each year to support parents in helping children with their learning. Workshops include: Phonics, Reading, Writing, Maths, R.E and a number of other curriculum subject areas.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

At St Joachim's educational visits are a very essential and important part of the children's learning experience. All children from Nursery to year 6 go on educational visits which are linked to their learning and the curriculum. These visits can range from local to international and some are residential.

## PAYMENTS

St Joachim's uses 'SchoolMoney' as its online payment system. It is an easy, safe and secure way to pay for your child's trips, dinners, uniform and other expenses online via your debit or credit card.

## SCHOOL MEALS

Lunch-times are staggered in Key Stage 1 and 2 to allow the children to have sufficient time to eat their lunch and plenty of space to play. Duty teachers and midday assistants supervise the lunch break. Lunches are cooked on site providing nourishing and well-balanced meals with a choice of both first and second courses. These are available for all children whose parents wish them to have a cooked meal. Alternatively parents may provide their child with a healthy packed lunch in a suitable, labelled box.

## UNIFORM

At St Joachim's all children, including Nursery, wear school uniform. Children have a uniformed PE kit also. Uniform can be purchased at the school office, it can also be ordered online through our cashless system. See our school website for further details regarding school uniform.

# Home School Agreement

## AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS

**TO HELP ME DO WELL AT SCHOOL, I WILL DO MY BEST TO:**

1. Work hard, and listen carefully to instructions
2. Talk at home about what I learn at school
3. Ask the teacher or someone at home if I find my work hard
4. Read or discuss my books to someone at home
5. Do all of my homework, and catch up with any work that I might have missed
6. Take care of books and other resources in my care
7. Not miss school, and be on time
8. Wear school uniform to show I belong to the school community
9. Respect that other children need to learn in peace
10. Keep the school rules, behave well, and be polite and helpful to other pupils and teachers, classroom assistants, and all adults within the school community

## AGREEMENT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

**TO HELP MY CHILD DO WELL AT SCHOOL, I WILL DO MY BEST TO:**

1. Make sure that my child attends school regularly, and is on time for school
2. Support the Catholic education of my child by regularly attending Mass, and sharing in the life of the Parish
3. Encourage my child to work hard, and listen to my child read at home
4. Support my child with homework, and other opportunities for learning at home
5. Ensure my child wears the correct uniform, and that it is appropriately fitted
6. Collect my child on time after school
7. Contact the school as soon as possible, by phone or in writing, if my child is absent
8. Work with the school to try and make sure that my child behaves well, supporting the school's policy and guidelines for behaviour
9. Attend open evenings, and school meetings arranged for parents, and reply to any communications from school, by phone or letter
10. Support school trips financially, when reasonably requested, where appropriate

## AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL

**THE SCHOOL WILL:**


1. Encourage your child in the development of the Catholic Faith
2. Provide a safe environment for your child to be encouraged to work to his/her full potential
3. Promote tolerance and respect
4. Contact you as soon as possible if we are concerned about your child's work or behaviour, or if there are problems with attendance or punctuality
5. Respond to you as soon as possible if you write to us, or phone us
6. Welcome parents/carers into the life of the school, and keep you informed about general school matters, through fortnightly newsletters and letters home
7. Let you know regularly how your child is progressing
8. Set your child regular homework tasks, including reading and spelling, and mark and monitor it
9. Offer a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of your child, including additional after school activities
10. To work in partnership with the parents and the parish to promote the best wellbeing of all our children









A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue school sweater over a light blue collared shirt, is sitting on the ground. He is holding a large blue clipboard with both hands and looking down at it. In his right hand, he also holds a yellow pencil. The sweater has "ST. JOACHIM'S C" embroidered on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a blue wall and some foliage in the foreground.

The impact of the school's excellent leadership is not only seen in pupils' outstanding achievements and high standards, but also in the high quality of care, guidance and support that pupils receive.

**Ofsted 2007**





Design, Photography and Production - thepartnership.co



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# ST JOACHIM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

St. Joachim's Catholic Primary School

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Custom House  
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[www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk](http://www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk)

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[www.ourladyofgraceacademy.org.uk](http://www.ourladyofgraceacademy.org.uk)