



St. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Part of the Edmund Rice Family

29th April 2019

Dear Parents,

I write on behalf of the Governing Body, following the completion of another successful and busy year for the school.

The school year is never static; 2018 to 2019 has seen another very fluid year in the life of St Joseph's Preparatory. Governors and staff are constantly striving to ensure that children are receiving an excellent holistic education which parents see as value for money.

September 2018 saw school opening to another academic year with a tighter staffing model following a restructure.

The staff continue to deliver a well-planned, broad, balanced and exciting curriculum in line with current statutory legislation. Staff know the children that they teach very well and consequently are able to give specific education to nurture and challenge.

Our results, which are externally marked, show that in core areas of the curriculum including SEND the school performs above the National average.

The school remains grateful for the support of Father Glover for leading our School Masses as his busy time table allows. Staff continue to prepare children for the Sacraments as part of the Curriculum in readiness for the Parishes to take on the final preparations as children approach First Holy Communion and Confirmation; this is in line with the Arch Diocese of Birmingham. We are pleased to be able to celebrate with the children who receive these Sacraments at our special Mass on 10th June.

The Governors and Staff meet during May for the annual Saturday Governor / Staff Day, this year the focus will be on preparation for a forth coming ISI Inspection.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors for their continued support as I have taken on the role of Chairperson and for their time and dedication in leading the school forward.

I trust that you find this Report informative and take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Atherton
Chair of Governors

St Joseph's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Headteacher: Mrs S.D. Hutchinson BEd

Rookery Lane, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent, ST4 5RF Tel: 01782 417533 Email: enquiries @stjosepsprepschool.co.uk

St. Joseph's Preparatory School is a Registered Charity and a member of the Independent Schools Association and the Catholic Independent Schools Conference



THE GOVERNING BODY 2018/19 OF ST. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

All Governors are appointed by the Trustees of the school, the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

Mrs L Atherton (Chair)

Mr D Harding (Vice Chair)

Ms R Maguire (Director Edmund Rice Schools)

Mr B Slater (Safeguarding Governor) (CB Headteacher)

Mr S Hulme

Mrs S Shipley

Mrs R. Watkins

Mr D Edge

Mrs R Gradwell (RE/Catholic Life Governor)

Governors (Ex Officio) Headteacher: Mrs S Hutchinson

Staff Representative: Mr D Hood

Clerk to Governors: Mrs H Pickford



The Governing Body's Report to Parents

Curriculum and Staff Development

All teaching staff meet regularly to review Curriculum provision.
Professional Development is in line with the School Improvement Plan and Individual Performance Management targets.
Professional Development is an on-going and important aspect of the school.
Mrs Taylor and Mrs Brown have received Early Years Training
Mrs Brown has attended meetings Moderation training.
Mr Salt has received RE training and has attended local Catholic Teacher Association meetings.
Staff maintains First Aid training in line with legislation.
Miss Gerrard has received Well-being and Mindfulness training.
Miss Biggs has attended Science training.
All teaching staff have received Literacy, Mathematics and Assessment training.
Mrs Hutchinson received training on Safeguarding
Mrs Hutchinson has attended meetings and conferences arranged by the Edmund Rice English Province.
Governors have attended Governor Training provided by the Edmund Rice Team and Safeguard training from the Local Authority
Governors and staff have received Prevent Training
Staff, parents and governors attended a Drugs Awareness evening.

Staffing

Staff changes followed staff restructuring in July 2018
Miss Farnley joined staff in November 2018
Mrs MacDonald retired at end of Autumn Term 2018
Miss Biggs joined staff in January 2019
Mrs Watkins joined staff 29th April 2019

Religious and Pastoral Life

We thank Father M Glover as he supports the Catholic nature of the school by celebrating Mass for us as often as his busy schedule allows.
Collective Worship, Daily Prayer and Intercession continue to be an important aspect of the school for staff and pupils.
The whole school celebrated with the candidates in the Prep department who had received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in their own Parish.
The Early Years celebrated a Harvest Thanksgiving in school.
A whole school Harvest Mass was held at St Teresa's Church.
Produce was donated to Age UK and cheques presented to our chosen charities including the work of the Christian Brothers.
The charity for 2018/2019 is The Staffordshire Wild Life Trust.
The Prep Christmas Carol Service took place at Holy Trinity Church.
In February PP1 led a Christingle Service.
P3 led a May Day Procession and Service in honour of Our Blessed Lady.
All classes have led or will lead a whole school assembly and Prep children take regular turns to prepare Mass.
An Ash Wednesday Service was held in school.
Father Glover led P6 to say the "Stations of The Cross" during Lent.
All the school family have taken part in Lenten activities and times of Reflection.
Miss Kent continues to work with P6 and the Edmund Rice Development Team.



Staff and pupils embraced the 'Looking Through Our Window' theme set by the Edmund Rice family and became engaged in charity work including providing food for the Homeless, Refugee engagement and encouraging the EYFS to paint and drop off stones painted with words from the Fruits of the Spirit.

Mrs Hutchinson and Miss Kent attended Edmund Rice European Congress in Dublin.

Members of staff spent an evening at SERV in Salford meeting Asylum seekers and putting up Language and Maths displays in their classroom.

The school continues to support CAFOD and has representatives in school to take to the school community.

External Examinations

The school continues to prepare the children for a wide range of Entrance examinations.

Our children have successfully gained places at:

Adams Grammar

Newcastle under Lyme School

St Dominic's Priory

Newport Girls

Kings School, Macclesfield

St Joseph's College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trentham Academy

Children have been successful in gaining Scholarships again this year.

Community Links and School Visitors

The school continues as an International School and an Eco School.

The school continues to be enriched by visitors; in particular visitors from within the Edmund Rice Family and CAFOD.

The children take part in running Fair Trade Stalls every Friday and understand the impact of Fair Trading.

Events throughout the year have enabled us to make donations to our chosen charities.

We continue to support the Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice Family.

The school has worked with and had visits from the local Police, the local Crossing Patrol, and representatives from the NHS.

Children from the Early Years have visited the local area and undertaken Litter picks in the local area.

We are very grateful to the voluntary contribution of Mrs Rhead who continues to run our school Library.

External Support

The school is extremely grateful to outside agencies which support our school in anyway.

We are also grateful to Oakhill Primary School for the use of their fields for Sports Day and the Physical Education links formed with the school for Extra-Curricular clubs.

Parents

Parent/Teacher Consultation evenings were held in October and March.

Parents and families have been welcomed to a variety of events throughout the year May 2018 to 2019.

Questionnaires have been sent out to fully involve parents and to take into account their views. Religious Education/ Catholic life have also been sent to parents. These are discussed by the Governors and staff and are used to inform further planning.

We are most grateful to parents, grandparents and the wider school family for all their support.

Marketing

Mrs Hutchinson continues to show a wide range of visitors around the school.

A successful Open Day was held on 13th March

Advertisements have featured in locally distributed magazines.



School adverts were part of a Marketing campaign focused on specific areas. Advertisements are currently on the NHS website and the school is included in the free Maternity Pack distributed to new mothers at the Royal Stoke Hospital. Prospectus are available in the Show Homes of local housing developments.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

This remains a high priority and termly agenda item for Governors and a weekly agenda item for staff with current legislation and statutory requirements adhered to.

All staff have been trained and up dated in this area in line with statutory requirements.

Mrs Hutchinson is the designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Hood is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs Hutchinson and Mr Hood receive training in line with statutory requirements.

Miss Gerrard is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Joe's Club

Health and Safety

This remains a weekly item on the staff agenda, involving all members of the school family.

Mr Denson and Mrs Hutchinson have conducted the annual Health and Safety Audit and a Fire Safety Audit; these are reported to Governors.

Governors review this termly and as need occurs.

The Christian Brothers provide HR cover for all the schools which they own including St Joseph's Preparatory School

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The staff and visiting experts provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities; all of these are popular and add to the extended curriculum.

Some activities take place off the school site.

The Governors are grateful to all members of staff for the time, planning and enthusiasm that go into each of the extra-curricular clubs.

Joe's Club

Joe's Club is well attended both at Breakfast and After School. A variety of snacks and planned activities ensure that the children are well provided for. The Governors are grateful to all the staff who contribute and to Mrs Maskery and Miss Gerrard who lead the Breakfast and After School Club.

Sports Report

Summer & Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019

St Joseph's have once again competed in ten different sports over the last 12 months, participating in nine Midlands Independent School tournaments, two National Independent Schools Championships, five South Stoke Level 1 tournaments, three County Level 3 Championships, one friendly fixture v Edenhurst and a KS1 Multi-sports event. Sixty-nine children from both the Prep and the Pre-Prep were chosen to compete in inter-school competition - 9 more than last year and all pupils from PP1 to P6 competed in our Inter House Athletics, Swimming, Football, and Hockey tournaments. There were also Inter House tournaments in Cross Country, Mini Tennis, Table Tennis and Tag Rugby for all children from P3 to P6 this year. We have enjoyed a particularly good level of success within the sports of Athletics, Cricket, Cross Country, Mini Tennis and Table Tennis this year and the following list of teams and individuals highlight our most memorable sporting achievements:

Summer Term 2018 (Teams)

- South Stoke U'9 Short Tennis Champions (8 Schools participated). Qualification for the County Level 3 tournament - Top 10 Schools in Staffordshire (May/Jun)
- ISA Midlands U'11 Kwik Cricket Finalists (May) - 16 Schools participated



- Our Year 5 Girls Athletics team finished in 3rd place at the ISA Midlands Athletics Championships (Jun) - 21 Schools participated

Summer Term 2018 (Individual)

- Rebecca of Prep 6 and Macey of Prep 5 both won their High Jump events at the ISA Midlands Athletics Championships and went on to represent their region at the National ISA Athletics Championships - both winning a Bronze medal with personal best jumps of 1.20m and 1.15m, respectively. (June/Jul)

Autumn Term 2018 (Teams)

- Our Boys U'9 5-a-side Football team were Plate Finalists at the ISA Midlands Football Tournament, scoring 19 goals in 10 matches (Nov)

Spring Term 2019 (Teams)

- South Stoke U'11 Mixed High5 Netball Semi-Finalists, winning 4 matches out of 6 and finishing with a +19 goal difference (Jan)

Spring Term 2019 (Individuals)

- Ruby Dee - ISA Midlands U'11 Girls Table Tennis Singles Runner-up and County Semi-Finalist at the Staffordshire Schools U'11 Singles tournament (Jan/Feb)
- Macey - ISA Midlands U'11 Girls Cross Country Champion (Feb)

High School Sports Scholarships

- Liam - Sports Captain 2017/18 received a Cricket & Rugby Scholarship to Denstone College last year
- Jack - Sports Captain 2018/19 received a Rugby Scholarship to Newcastle-u-Lyme School this year
- Ruby Dee - Sports Captain 2018/19 received a Hockey Scholarship to Newcastle-u-Lyme School this year

Our thanks go out once again to Denstone College, Moddershall CC, Oakhill Primary School, Stafford Gymnastics Centre and Whitmore Cricket Club for the use of their facilities and to all the staff and external coaches for their help in running sports clubs throughout the year and preparing children for competition.

I would once again like to thank all the staff for their hard work, dedication and care for our children.

In conclusion the Governors continue to be proud of St Joseph's Preparatory School as it offers a unique combination of excellent education underpinned by strong Christian values.

God Bless.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lorraine Atherton, Chair of Governors

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