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## Welcome

The Governors of St. Paul's Catholic Primary School extend a warm welcome to you. If you are a prospective parent, we hope this information is of help to you in gaining an insight as to what our school is all about. Being within the Diocese of Clifton, ours is a family orientated school, which is part of the Parish of St. Lawrence and St. Paul. Learning is at the heart of everything we do and our school is open to everyone. We serve the whole community of Chipping Sodbury and Yate extending to all outlying villages. Ours is a very busy and friendly school. We hope you get a snapshot of what our school is about through this prospectus. Current newsletters can be found on our website too!

Don't hesitate to contact the school for further information or to make an appointment to see it in action. We look forward in the years ahead to a partnership between home and school that will provide an excellent and distinctive education for your child.

**Maxine Sewell**

**Headteacher**

## Mission Statement

*St. Paul's Catholic Primary School provides an education that realises the full potential and talents of each individual in accordance with Gospel values and the teaching of our faith. Thereby...*

## "Raising God's children to distinction"

### AIMS

To meet the needs of individual children, enabling them to reach their potential through the provision of a high quality curriculum and through excellent teaching.

To foster the development of self worth in each child, in an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding that respects and values everyone.

To work in partnership with parents: to promote the social, moral, cultural and spiritual development of the children, in a stimulating, caring and safe environment.

To provide a Christian context which will permeate all activities, supported and enhanced by the provision of worship and religious education.



### ENGLISH CURRICULUM

Teaching and Learning in literacy starts with the introduction of the 42 sounds that make up 'synthetic phonics' in the Foundation Class. This helps the children to build up their knowledge very quickly and assists them with early reading and writing. Books are an essential component of learning at school as reading is the single most important activity your child will ever accomplish. Support from home with daily writing is vital if your child is to achieve and thrive academically. Children are taught a simple 'joined-up' style of handwriting right from the start of reception and it is linked to key words and spellings as they move through the school. Children have the opportunity to write in different forms including poetry, reporting, instructional writing and letter writing for example. variety of subject areas. We employ regularly, specialist teachers and coaches to provide more expertise especially in music, sport and foreign languages. All Key Stage 2 children learn to play the recorder, and go swimming from Year 4. All children are introduced to French from Reception level! R.E. is a core subject in our school. Assessments are a common feature of classroom life. Children are tested in Reading, Spelling, Literacy and Numeracy each year.

### MATHS CURRICULUM

Computation skills in the four rules are the major focus alongside, data handling and shape and space. It is vital that children understand mathematics through its application to real life problems as well as a necessary tool for science and other subjects. Mental ability to problem solve is also extremely important and forms part of the daily numeracy lesson. ICT is also an integral part of numeracy with supporting resources available for homework also.



### THE BROADER CURRICULUM

Our children thrive more when the curriculum is made as creative as possible. Through the development of the school grounds we are able to enhance the experiences we provide. The local environment is rich locally, to enable us to undertake river studies, the built environment and historical projects. School trips are a key factor in this. We regularly take advantage of educational facilities in Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, London the coast and beyond. Children are encouraged to undertake at least one residential visit during their time at school. We regularly invite speakers, writers, musicians and actors into school. Together with visits to theatres, Life Skills Centre, galleries and concert halls, make for an exciting curriculum. All children in KS 2 learn French and are encouraged to try musical instruments. Peripatetic music tuition is also available for violin, guitar and brass. Teachers often take extra-curricular activities and sports coaching features in PE activities from specialist coaches. Children from Year 4 onwards also receive swimming tuition.



### PERSONAL, SOCIAL & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The school follows guidance from the Diocese in regard to promoting within children an awareness of their own health, well being, safety and value. Following the "God Matters" scheme and other pertinent programmes including "Journey In Love" & "Living & Growing", the children engage in a curriculum appropriate to their stage of development. The school has 'Healthy Schools' status.

### SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, MORAL AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

It is important that the needs of the whole child are addressed. Our pupils have a voice through the school council, and they contribute to the ethos of the school by participating to consultations, moulding policies and practice especially regarding 'Play'. Pupils demonstrate their social awareness by fundraising throughout the year, which culminates in 'One World Week' and a sponsored run or walk depending on age. Spiritually, the services, liturgy, prayers and quiet reflections that are part of everyday life also support the children in developing a greater understanding of their role in the world, together with the knowledge of other cultures and traditions different to their own.

FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

We endeavour to get children settled in as quickly as possible into the Reception Foundation Class. Our programme of induction includes two visits during the Summer Term to help familiarise themselves and their surroundings before starting. All children start the new term together and attend mornings with the expectation to stay for lunch. After two weeks the children can attend full time. As most children attend some form of pre-school, they cope extremely well and it's therefore rare for a child to continue part time attendance. We offer the facility of home visits from your child's teacher to help build up relationships in their own home or you may choose to have a one to one appointment with them in school. The curriculum emphasis is very much on structured play, but this supports the teaching of reading, writing, maths, science, as well as developing social skills alongside gross and fine motor skills.

INCLUSION FOR CHILDREN WHOSE NEEDS ARE SPECIAL (SEN) OR HAVE ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

The regular assessment of all children at St Paul's ensures that any child who is experiencing difficulties is recognised at an early stage. This ensures that staff is able to provide support for the child before they begin to experience severe problems in working towards targets set for the class.

The school employs a designated SEND Coordinator, who manages our special needs roll, as well as a designated coordinator for children that English is an additional language (EAL). They work alongside our Teaching Assistants who monitor individual education plans and language acquisition plans in providing structured support.

As the policy at St. Paul's is to maximise each child's potential, we recognise that many children have different needs and strengths. Our aim is to nurture these, giving support where necessary and celebrating success. We also aim to foster good learning for those children who are gifted or talented by adjusting their provision to offer them greater challenge

SAFEGUARDING

It is of the utmost importance to have good systems in place for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare in all activities. Staff must always be alert to possible concerns about each and every pupil and report these appropriately. The school has a rigorous policy in place and maintains appropriate levels of staff training to ensure its validation.

ATTENDANCE

Governor targets for the school are pre-set at 96%. Holidays are actively discouraged during term time as these often adversely affect the learning of the pupils. Any request for an authorised absence is at the Headteacher's discretion and can only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

SCHOOL – FAMILY LINK

We have a designated member of staff whose role it is to support children and their families who need advice with a variety of personal issues from supporting homework, challenging behaviour, family break-ups etc to help and advice where possible on other issues.

HOME-SCHOOL LIAISON

Parents will be issued with a statutory 'Home-School

Agreement' to sign alongside their child. This sets out the expectations we have of each other. We ask that parents:-

Show support for school policies and procedures

-Take an active interest in their child's education by listening to their child read regularly, support homework, and by attending parent evenings, workshops, celebrations and services

-Ensure their child attends

punctually, regularly, and equipped for the rigors of the day

-Support the highest standards of behaviour, showing courtesy and consideration at all times

COMMUNICATION

The Headteacher sends out regular newsletters and teachers produce class newsletters each term outlining the curriculum to be covered.

We use a text message and

email system to send day to day information .Parents are invited three times per year to meet with their child's class teacher to monitor progress. Parents of children with Special Needs or English as an Additional Language will also have the opportunity of reviewing targets on *Individual Support Plans* and *Language Acquisition Plans*. An annual progress report is also sent home with your child's latest



## ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNDRIDGE PARK,  
YATE,  
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
BS37 4EP



TEL. 01454 866790

FAX. 01454 866792

[www.stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk](http://www.stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk)

E-mail: [admin@stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk)

### LUNCHTIME MEALS

Integra Catering Service provides midday meals from the school's kitchen. Children eating school meals do so in the hall. Children can opt to bring in a packed lunch which is eaten in a designated classroom. Fizzy beverages, sweets and chocolate are actively discouraged. A healthy snack is recommended for the morning break. The kitchen provides a tuck shop that sells fresh fruits and freshly baked bread at a reasonable price.



### TRANSPORT

Children are encouraged to walk or cycle to school for health reasons and to aid parents keep parking problems to a minimum. As our catchment covers a wide geographical area, car transport is often the only means of arrival. In this case parents are encouraged to park in the supermarket car parks just a few minutes' walk away. Cycling Proficiency is offered to all ten-year-olds in Year 6.



### CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Activities that take place during the school day are expected to be free of charge as part of the curriculum. However, only limited funding exists within the school to pay the costs of theatre groups, day trips or residential trips. Unless parents voluntarily contribute the amount needed, trips may not proceed. Any finished product or piece of work remains the property of the school unless parents have indicated they will cover the costs of materials / ingredients etc. Please note! No pupil will ever be disadvantaged in participating in activities, solely by their parents' inability to pay. The school budgets for several activities during the year, that are offered free of charge to the children. Parents are expected to cover one activity per term where possible.

### COMPLAINTS

If you are not happy about any aspect of the way the school is run, then we welcome the chance to sit down informally with you to discuss this. If you're still not satisfied then

### BEHAVIOUR

In order to enable children to have the energy and motivation to meet the daily challenges they face, it is important that they are supported by ensuring they have plenty of sleep and are properly breakfasted. We encourage positive behaviour and reward success with recognition in our Friday 'Well Done' Assembly". Achievement is also recognised in the awarding of House Points, and Merit Badges. Our only school rule is that everyone should be happy! This can be achieved by following our school *Code of Conduct* established by the children themselves.

### HOMEWORK

All children receive homework irrespective of age. In the early years it starts with reading, learning key words and number bonds. This develops into times tables, spellings as well as regular literacy and numeracy tasks. Special projects are often undertaken, but we insist that parents listen to and question their child about reading all through their primary years. *Reading is the most important single activity your child will EVER learn. Without a good basis for reading they will not be able to write.*

### UNIFORM

The school colours are navy blue tops, white shirts and grey trousers or skirts. Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts and ties can be ordered from 'Initially Yours' together with P.E. kit bags and book bags.

Ties look very smart and are optional according to individual preference. Shoes must be black.

In summer, girls have the added option of wearing navy blue/white gingham dresses.

P.E Kit: Navy Shorts, plain white T-shirt, indoor pumps, outdoor trainers [Key Stage 2 only].

Your child's P.E. kit should be hung on their coat peg in a drawstring bag as this takes up little space in what can be very congested areas.

Outdoor shoes and wellies are encouraged if children want to go on grassy areas in wet weather

as a last resort you are able to contact the Governing body who have a complaints procedure to deal with these situations.

### COMMUNITY: FRIENDS

We are ever grateful to our 'Friends' association who actively encourage participation and involvement in fundraising activities. The children have benefited from thousands of pounds worth of equipment raised by the group over the years. There is always an expectation that parents will join and do what they can in supporting all of our children.

### COMMUNITY: PARTNERSHIPS

The school belongs to the local cluster of schools and benefits from liaison with Yate Academy, Chipping Sodbury Secondary School and Brimsham Green School.

We are also part of the South Gloucestershire Alliance of Catholic Schools and the Camino Hub with other feeder schools from Wiltshire and Bath who feed in to St. Gregory's Catholic College, Bath.

### COMMUNITY: PARISH

The school utilises the church on site for worship and celebrations throughout the year. Formal catechism is undertaken by the parish outside school time for occasions such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The parish priest acts as chaplain to the school and supports us in major feasts and celebrations. The school has benefitted in recent years by receiving donations from the parish, including established links with the SVP Society.



"The St. Paul's Way: City of Values"