



St Patrick's

Catholic Voluntary Academy





Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to St Patrick's Catholic Academy – an inclusive, caring, learning community. Our vision is to provide the very best Catholic education for every pupil enabling them to be happy, resilient, ambitious, achieve highly and feel safe, respected and cared for.

At St Patrick's you will be welcomed and supported every day by helpful, caring, dedicated adults who want to work with you to provide the very best Catholic education for all our children. We welcome all children from all cultural, religious and non-religious backgrounds whose families support our ethos and want their children to experience the caring character of the school. Together with the teachings of the Catholic Church, our mission in teaching our children to Love First, Live the Gospels and Learn for Life underpins all that we do.

We aim for all our children to love and respect themselves and others, to be guided by the teachings and life of Jesus in caring for the world that God gave us and all the people in it. We aim for them to live out the Gospels by showing everyone through their behaviour and attitudes how God wants us to live. We aim to provide high standards of education for our children so they can be knowledgeable, confident, resilient, responsible and successful learners. It is our aim to encourage our children to develop a lifelong love of learning so they can make a valuable contribution to society and the wider world.

St Patrick's children are proud of themselves and their school and we are equally proud of them. We believe every child is created in the image of God and everyone has a valuable contribution to make to the school, parish and wider community. We want our children to feel safe, happy, secure, aspirational and successful. We aim for them to develop a lifelong relationship with God and to know his love, understanding, forgiveness and protection which in turn will teach them to build healthy, positive relationships with others in their lives.

All of this can be achieved by working closely with you as parents and carers and we very much value your involvement, views and support for your child and school as a whole. Together we can provide the very best care and education for all of our children in the St Patrick's family.

Miss Luisa Ferrara
Headteacher



Our primary Mission

Love first

Everything we do is underpinned by the teachings of Jesus who taught us to love ourselves and each other as God loved us.

'We love because He first loved us' John 4:19

Live the Gospels

We aim to provide our children with the opportunities to live out the message of the Gospels.

*'Preach the Gospel at all times.
When necessary, use words.' St Francis of Assisi*

Learn for life

Our curriculum is designed for life not just for today. We want our children to develop a love for learning that will last a lifetime.

*'Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me,
or seen in me, put it into practice.' Philippians 4:9*

St Patrick's Catholic School has been at its current site since 1963, but has its origins dating back in Nottingham from the 19th century.

It has always been a popular school with a family atmosphere and an excellent reputation for attainment, behaviour and politeness.

Innovative and effective learning and teaching strategies are core and school leaders use current research to inform decisions ensuring an effective curriculum.

We have a vibrant, inspiring, dynamic and technological learning environment. It is child-centred and inspires independence.

Learning takes place in a range of settings in and around the school grounds, from the bright, learning centred classrooms, well-resourced inviting library, to our extensive rural outdoor area. This includes a Forest School site, sports pitches, mini orchards, trim trails, adventures playgrounds, reading areas and the creative child-led EYFS outdoor learning area.

The design of all classrooms provides direct safe access to outdoor learning opportunities providing for the differing learning styles and needs of all pupils.

'We work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust and challenge. Leaders appreciate and support us and consider our wellbeing at all times.'

Staff quote 2021

'I love the playleaders, they play with us, include everyone and teach us new games. I want to be one when I'm older.'

Pupil quote 2021



Our learning
environment

Our curriculum

We strive to offer the very best for all pupils and are proud of our thematic, topic-based and varied curriculum. Each subject has been planned to ensure continuous learning so that pupils are always deepening their understanding and acquiring and retaining new knowledge.

In addition to high quality classroom teaching in all subjects, we also have subject specialist providers who teach French, music and PE to ensure pupils acquire the very best wider curriculum knowledge.

Our curriculum is enhanced through additional opportunities to engage in individual and group activities. These include:

- Instrumental music tuition
- Singing coaching, school and cathedral choir
- Engagement in achieving national awards
- Parish and community work
- Sporting events and competitions
- Trips, visits and inspirational visitors.

'Pupils focus on their learning and produce work that is of high quality.'

Ofsted 2021

Teaching and learning

Our teachers ensure that every lesson is planned so that pupils can be challenged and supported whatever their ability. Teachers track pupils' progress carefully and use this to inform their day-to-day and medium-term planning.

Every class is supported by a teaching assistant who provides small group and individual support and challenge. They also deliver daily 'subject surgeries' for pupils who may not have fully understood the concept taught in the lesson – to secure understanding and prepare them for the new learning in the next lesson.



Collective and personal prayer is at the centre of school life and is part of every school day.

We aim to educate, promote and support each individual's journey of faith by bringing the Gospel values and the teaching of the Catholic Church into every aspect of school life.

Catholic social teaching and teaching of British values are important elements of our curriculum and ethos.

We develop our children's understanding of the importance of living in a way which upholds the principles of:

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Solidarity
- Care for God's creation
- Call to family, community and participation

- Option for the poor and vulnerable
- Rights and responsibilities
- Dignity of work and rights of workers
- Promotion of peace
- Promotion of the common good
- Economic justice
- Rule of law
- Democracy
- Mutual respect
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different cultures and religions
- Individual liberty

'They teach the children about equality and diversity and that's so important.'

Parent survey 2021



**Catholic social teaching
and
British values**

Beyond the curriculum

At St Patrick's, we value the uniqueness of all our pupils and establish an ethos that develops the 'whole child'.

Our pupils are encouraged to take risks and build resilience. They are encouraged to be inquisitive lifelong learners who question and explore the world around them.

Our nurturing staff recognise and support a diversity of needs relating to learning, health, mental wellbeing, behaviour as well as emotional and physical requirements ensuring that all our pupils feel safe, secure and are able to aspire to be the very best they can be.

Developing the whole child



Enrichment activities

The extensive range of extra-curricular activities offered to pupils continues to be a real success of our school. Our pupils have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities across the school year at lunchtimes and after school including ECO club, dance, gymnastics, basketball, didi rugby, maths and football. Please see our school website for the current range of clubs and enrichment opportunities available.

Forest Schools

All pupils have an opportunity every year to engage with the Forest Schools programme at an age appropriate level as they move through school. Forest Schools is a child-centred inspirational learning process. It is a long-term programme that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in our beautiful natural and extensive outdoor learning environment.

Sporting activities

Our pupils take part in a wide range of sports both within the curriculum, and through extra-curricular clubs. We recognise that sport should be enjoyed by children at every level, but we also appreciate the value of nurturing a natural and friendly competitive spirit in our pupils. We aim for every pupil to experience pride in representing the school at some point during their time at St Patrick's.

After School Club

Our before and after school clubs are for pupils in reception to year 6, run on site by TB Sports, an OFSTED registered independent childcare company. Breakfast club runs from 7.30am–8.45am providing a variety of healthy breakfast options and extensive range of child and adult led play and sports activities. After school club runs from 3.15pm–5.30pm. Sessions can be used daily for before or after school care or both or as the need arises.

'Parents and carers spoke warmly about the care and education their children receive. Some especially like that the school celebrates diversity alongside strong Catholic values.'

Ofsted 2021



Achieving full potential

St Patrick's is very proud to be an inclusive school. We are ambitious for every pupil to achieve their very best. Our high expectations of work and behaviour are shared by the parents/carers and together, we work in close partnership to ensure that standards are consistently high.

We want all of our pupils to experience the joy of success in and out of the classroom. There is a strong focus on recognising and celebrating pupils' strengths in different areas and children are rewarded in many ways. We carefully monitor the attainment of all pupils which allows us to identify needs and inform our provision. We work closely with outside agencies and families of children with additional needs to ensure that all pupils make progress from their differing starting points.

'At St Patrick's we know that we can be anything we want to be and everyone can make a difference in the world.'

Pupil quote 2021

Opportunities for personal development

During their time at St Patrick's our pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in becoming a young leader and team member who make a valuable contribution to the school, parish, local and wider community.

We aim for them to be able to lead, cooperate, persevere, have a voice, show responsibility, resilience, determination and respect.

This is very strong aspect of the Catholic life of our school. We strongly encourage pupils to take up at least one these opportunities for personal development:

- a mini class chaplain (all classes)
- a pupil voice member (Year 1 to Year 6)
- an altar server (for pupils who have made the First Holy Communion)
- an ECO Warrior (Year 3 & 4)
- a young sports leader (Year 5)
- a member of the chaplaincy team (Year 5)
- Faith in Action Award (Year 5)
- a house captain (Year 6)
- a librarian (Year 6)



Working with parents/carers

At St Patrick's we greatly value working with parents/carers and respect and appreciate your opinions and contribution to continuing school development so that we can provide our pupils with the best possible education.

We passionately believe in a strong and positive partnership between pupil, parent and school. We believe that good communication between parents/carers and school is vital for pupils to succeed.

Before starting school in reception year, there will be an opportunity for new pupils to visit their class and parents/carers to attend an information meeting where they can ask any questions they may have.

If a child starts mid-year, there is an opportunity to meet the headteacher or senior leader to share information about their child, ask questions, look around school and meet their teacher. We want our parents/carers to feel as happy, secure and well informed as possible when handing over their child to us. We believe It is a privilege to care for and educate parents/carers' children.

Joining St Patrick's

You are warmly invited to visit our school and see the children involved in their learning; this can be arranged by calling the school office and making an appointment.

Children can join Nursery as soon as possible after they turn three provided we have a space available. Children join Reception, in the September after they turn four.

The Academy Trust admissions arrangements, including over subscription criteria and the appeals process, are available on our school website:

www.st-patricks.nottingham.sch.uk/parents/admissions-arrangements

Applications for places in the nursery can be made directly to the school by contacting the admin team at the school office.



'Pupils are proud of their school saying staff 'listen to us and understand us'.'

'The support for pupils' personal development is strong. Pupils expressed an awareness of, and appreciation for, a range of faiths and cultures. They are developing as thoughtful, tolerant young citizens.'

'Pupils spoke about feeling safe at the school, because they trust adults to care for them and keep them safe. They are also well informed about how to stay safe online.'

Ofsted 2021

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St Patrick's

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OF LOURDES**
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