



# St Patrick's

Catholic Primary School



Part of  
**OUR LADY  
OF LOURDES**  
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

**Belonging, caring and sharing, safe in the arms of God's love**

# Headteacher's Welcome



At St Patrick's Catholic Academy, we are part of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Our school serves the church community of St Patrick's and the surrounding area. We are part of the Catholic Parish of Our Lady and All Saints, serving the pastoral area of St Patrick's, St Joseph's, St Philip Neri and St Teresa's.

While the school is Catholic, we warmly welcome children from all cultural, religious and non-religious backgrounds whose families support our all-inclusive ethos. Within a calm and safe environment, children experience the caring, nurturing ethos of the school, where everyone is valued as a child of God. There is a real sense of belonging to a community and as such, traditionally, there is a great sense of pride for all to contribute towards the wider aspects of community life.

We view all aspects of school life to be part of the wider faith community, with close links to the pastoral area, home and school, along with All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy, Mansfield as our secondary school. We highly value the opportunity of working in collaboration with parents and carers, governors, pupils and staff, and the views, support and cooperation of all stakeholders are sought to ensure all pupils enjoy all the opportunities they deserve.

We offer a broad range of creative and engaging learning experiences that go beyond the curriculum so that our children are motivated, independent and resilient learners, eager to find out about the world around them. Within a very supportive community, we aim to equip our children with life skills for life in modern society.

If you would like to know more about our school, you are very welcome to come and visit, where you will receive a very happy and warm welcome!

**Mrs Jane Smedley**  
Headteacher



## Our primary Mission

Belonging, caring and sharing, safe in the arms of God's love.

Through our school's mission statement of 'Belonging, caring and sharing, safe in the arms of God's love'. Our vision is to provide the very best Catholic education for every pupil. This mission enables them to be happy, confident and resilient learners, to feel safe, respected and cared for and to achieve highly across the curriculum.

All in our community know that everyone belongs to God's family and that we must care for each other, the environment and all we are given. They learn, through our mission, that what we have must be shared out fairly with all, including sharing our unique gifts and talents with others.

Linked to Bishop Patrick's spiritual themes of encounter, discipleship and missionary discipleship, we journey through the school year, meeting Jesus in others and being like Jesus to others. We are inspired, through these themes and through our school mission, to be aware of our individual skills and to reach out to those in our homes, school, parish, wider community and world, called to serve others in God's world willingly and in response to our faith. This enables all children at St Patrick's to be enthusiastic, happy learners who are confident in expressing and living out their faith each day.

**'Pupils live out the school's mission by 'belonging, caring, sharing - safe in the arms of God's love.' They show enthusiasm and engagement in all aspects of school life.'**

Nottingham RC Diocesan Education Service 2018

St Patrick's has always been a popular school with a family atmosphere and an excellent reputation for behaviour, manners and attainment.

The school benefits from being situated in spacious grounds which enables learning to take 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, trim trails, an adventure playground, a reading area and the creative child-led EYFS outdoor learning area.

The design of each classroom provides safe access to outdoor learning opportunities, which cater for the differing learning styles and needs of all pupils.

Our Foundation Stage internal and external areas have recently undergone a complete renovation to provide a calm and inviting environment.

Children are able to practise their learning through purposeful activities throughout the unit and take every opportunity to explore, investigate and learn about the world around them.

***'The school provides a wonderful quality of provision for my child's spiritual, moral and religious development.'***

Parent quote 2023

***'All the staff support and help me so much in my learning, they are always there to look after us and I can go to talk to any adult in school.'***

Pupil quote 2023

Our learning  
**environment**



# Our curriculum

St Patrick's curriculum is designed to ensure that all children achieve. Our curriculum aims to provide children with learning opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and lifelong skills.

We aim to ensure that all children:

- Learn within an environment which develops their full potential; academically, spiritually and morally.
- Are provided with a book-rich, broad and balanced curriculum, which enriches and challenges them to be ambitious, articulate and resilient learners.
- Are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for their future learning and success.

Our curriculum is enhanced through additional opportunities to engage in individual and group activities. These include instrumental music tuition, singing coaching, school singing programmes, engagement in national awards, community work, sporting events and competitions, swimming, trips, visits and inspirational visitors

## Teaching and learning

Teaching and learning take place in spacious classrooms with dedicated areas for group work. Our teaching staff ensure that every lesson is planned so that all pupils feel supported, challenged and inspired whatever their ability. Teachers track pupils' progress carefully and use this to inform their day-to-day and medium-term planning to provide every opportunity for continuity and progression.

Support staff provide individual, small group and whole class support and challenge. They also deliver daily interventions for pupils who may not have fully understood the concept taught in the lesson, supporting them for new learning in the next lesson. Tailored interventions, based on individual pupil needs, are also provided throughout the school to ensure that pupils make good progress in relation to their starting points.



At St Patrick's, Catholic life and mission is central to and woven through all aspects of school life. Each day begins and ends in pupil-led prayer.

Liturgical prayer, which is planned and led by pupils, the Chaplaincy Team and a range of supporting adults or clergy, enables pupils to engage with Scripture and Church Teaching in an age-appropriate, meaningful way.

Through this and through weekly class masses or liturgies of the word, pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural needs are nourished and met. They learn to value their own uniqueness, whilst remembering that we are all made in the likeness and image of God.

All pupils also learn about the diverse world we live in and how to celebrate diversity. They learn about ways to engage in life in modern Britain, growing progressively in

their knowledge of the protected characteristics and the fundamental British values.

Through learning in these curriculum areas and through visitors and enrichment opportunities such as CAFOD talks and workshops, Catholic Social Teaching is a real and constant part of school life, where pupils learn that God calls each one of us to love and serve one another fairly and equally. They learn to strive for justice and equality, empowered to welcome all and to serve the needs of the poor, lonely, marginalised and voiceless.

**'St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy is a place where community spirit shines through all that is undertaken. Relationships are outstanding.'**

Nottingham RC Diocesan Education Service 2018



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

We have developed an extensive offer of rich experiences to provide pupils with as many hooks for learning as possible, including:

- Day visits and visitors to school
- Drama workshops
- Residential experiences
- DAaRT and Web Warriors
- STEM workshops
- Paws B workshop
- External agencies workshops, such as NSPCC, Bikeability, CAFOD
- Sporting competitions and tournaments with Mansfield Sports Partnership
- School choir
- Weekly class masses or Liturgies of the Word, Clergy and Church visits

## Forest Schools

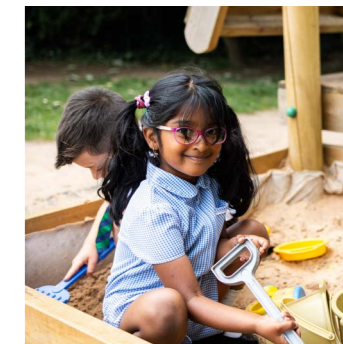
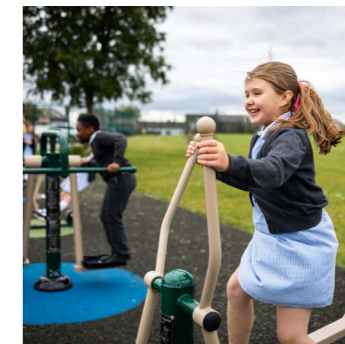
All pupils have an opportunity every year to engage with the Forest Schools programme at an age-appropriate level as they move through school. Forest Schools is a long-term programme that supports personal achievement, teamwork and risk-taking through exploratory hands-on experience. It develops a child's resilience, self-esteem and confidence within a natural outdoor learning environment.

## Extra Curricula activities

The school offers an extensive range of lunchtime and after-school activities so that pupils are active, energised and inquisitive learners. Examples of activities include; yoga, sports (including with the local football team), computing, choir and drama, to name but a few! We aim for all pupils to represent the school at some point during their time at St Patrick's.

***'I really like the reward system as it is very fair, as we are given lots of praise and rewards as well as helping us to always show our best attitude towards learning.'***

Pupil quote 2023



## Achieving full potential

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

This is a strong aspect of the Catholic life and mission of the school. We support and encourage pupils to take up at least one of these opportunities for personal development:

- A member of the Chaplaincy Team
- A House or Vice-House Captain
- An Altar Server (for pupils who have made their First Holy Communion)
- A Junior Health and Safety Representative
- A representative for Pupil Voice (Y1-Y6)
- Faith in Action Award (Y5/6)
- A Young Sports Leader (Y5)

*'I enjoy learning about lots of different things and having lots of fun!'*

Pupil quote 2023

## Our community

Our school enjoys a strong, positive partnership and works closely with parents/carers on every aspect of their child's education. The school operates an open-door policy, and views and opinions are always heard and considered. We firmly believe in the importance of strong communication between all stakeholders, which is vital for pupils to succeed. This ensures that we can provide our pupils with the best possible education.

Parents and carers are always warmly welcomed into St Patrick's school community, and, upon arrival, new pupils and their parents/carers are given an opportunity to meet the head teacher or senior leader to share information about their child, ask questions, look around our school and meet their teacher. We want all parents and carers to feel happy, secure and as well-informed as possible when handing over their child to us. We believe it is a privilege to be here for and to educate all of our parents, carers and children.

There are numerous ways in which parents/carers are encouraged to be included in the school community. These include access via the pastoral areas of school life, as a member of the Parents Teacher Association (PTA) or as a Foundation or Parent Governor. The school actively welcomes volunteers to support children's learning throughout the curriculum as it recognises the many talents and gifts of its community.



*'We appreciate the relationships with staff and the support that they provide for us as parents alongside the personal development and leadership opportunities offered to my child.'*

Parent quote 2023



## Joining St Patrick's

You are warmly invited to contact the school office to arrange an appointment for a tour of the school to see the school day in action.

Children can join Nursery from the term after they turn three years old, provided we have a space available. Children join Reception in the September they turn four.

The Academy Trust admission arrangements, including oversubscription criteria and the appeals process, are available on our website:  
[www.st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk](http://www.st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk)

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

***'Pupils are happy at St Patrick's school.  
They enjoy school and feel safe.'***

***'Behaviour in school is calm. Pupils respect adults and  
their peers. The playground is a happy place to be and  
full of laughter.'***

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## St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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