

Love, Learn and Grow Together



**St John Fisher Primary**  
A Catholic Voluntary Academy



“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

Harriet Tubman

# Welcome

Thank you for taking an interest in our academy and I hope you find the enclosed information helpful.

St John Fisher is a learning community with a strong vision, shared values and a proud Catholic ethos. It is a special place of aspiration where expectations are high. We are ambitious and work hard to go further in order to be our very best. Young people deserve nothing less.

We are focused on our wonderful children and our aim is to provide them with a rich and caring environment in which they will feel happy, safe and loved and are inspired to enjoy and achieve every day. We believe that all children are talented and unique and should be affirmed and supported to appreciate their uniqueness and own gifts and talents. This is why our community is one where every child is known, understood and respected.

St John Fisher is a place where everyone is treated with respect, tolerance and understanding. We aim to be highly inclusive; a place where good manners are valued and every child can experience success whilst developing the skills and attitudes necessary to be happy and successful life-long learners.

We recognise and value the important role of parents as our children's first educators. We invite them to be our partners and engage with our school. We share lots of information and work closely with them to ensure that their children enjoy and achieve.

I am honoured to be Headteacher of such a special place. I am immensely proud of our young people and of how we continue to grow and develop as a community. St John Fisher now looks forward with confidence and a strong sense of purpose.

**Frank Barratt**  
**Headteacher**

“Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfils its commitment to the dignity of the person and the building of a community.”

**Archbishop Mansell**





## Overview

St John Fisher is a primary Catholic academy situated in south-east Sheffield. Our community is located within the Catholic Diocese of Hallam. Helping pupils fulfil their potential is paramount and ensures that academic standards and expectations of both pupils and staff are high. We take pride in the fact that we are a community on the move; constantly building and developing. St John Fisher is a happy and energetic place increasingly defined by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere that prevails throughout each and every day.

Success is underpinned by high standards. Expectations of pupil behaviour, appearance and attitude are therefore high. Good manners are valued highly because they are very important.

We also work hard to ensure that children are punctual and attend regularly as this is key for ensuring their development as happy and confident learners who enjoy and achieve.

**“If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life we have to reach out to others and see their good.”**

Pope Francis

## Ethos

Our Catholic ethos underpins all we do and defines our vision to 'live, learn and grow together' – body, mind and spirit. It shapes our views, decisions, priorities and approaches. To achieve the vision our daily mission is to:

- celebrate what we are good at
- challenge ourselves and try our best
- love and respect ourselves and others
- recognise that we are loved for being just how God made us
- remember that everyone is special

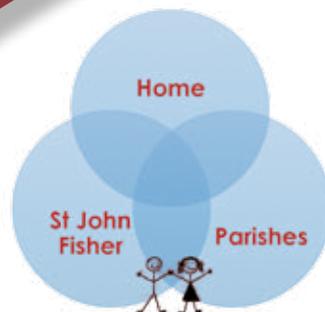
**“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”**

Aristotle

## Aims

As a Catholic primary academy, provision is made for the spiritual, religious, social, intellectual and emotional development of our young people. We take our role in the development of each child very seriously. We therefore recognise that as a community we are one part of a special partnership alongside the home and our Catholic parishes and clergy.

One of our aims is for every child to learn about different Christian denominations and world faiths, nationalities and cultures. We want our young people to be respectful and appreciative of others' lives, families and backgrounds – especially where there are differences. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community where the pursuit of excellence demands that all in our community have an equal opportunity to develop their gifts and talents and fulfil their potential.





## Inclusion

If our aim is for every child to fulfil his/her potential then provision should be made to support those pupils who have additional barriers to overcome on their personal journeys with us. Obstacles can come in many forms and at any time; whether they be academic, emotional, behavioural, social, cognitive or physical - and we have to be vigilant and ready to act swiftly to address them.

Our approach is to first understand the need and its impact before working with parents/carers and multi-agency partners to develop a personalised strategy that will support the child to overcome or come to terms with his/her situation.

All children have an equal right to succeed so our inclusion strategy is all about empowering the most vulnerable so that they too can reach their full potential. It is about developing and embedding, at an early stage, those positive attitudes and behaviours that will enable them make academic progress and ultimately to lead independent, happy, successful and fulfilling lives.

**“Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.”**

Christian D Larson

## Curriculum

The aim of our curriculum is to develop inquisitive and independent learners who are happy and successful. In order to ensure that our young people are positive about learning the curriculum needs to be rich, broad and connected. Our young people need to be excited by the curriculum because they learn and achieve best when they are having fun and can see how it all fits together.

Broad whole-school cross-curricular 'Themes' provide a common 'root' to ensure that learning is joined up. There is also a sharp and constant focus on developing key skills in reading, writing and mathematics both discretely and within each theme. Every opportunity is taken for learners to use and apply them in a context that matters to them.

Curriculum Overviews are shared at the beginning of each of the six terms and parents/carers are invited to get involved. RE is a core subject and cornerstone of our curriculum. Specialists support the learning of music and PE throughout the school and French from Year 3.

**“Education is the kindling of a flame not the filling of a vessel.”**

Socrates





# Partnership

We recognise that parents and carers are the first educators of their children and as such we understand that we play an important supporting role. We therefore invite parents and carers to engage with school life and become our full partners.

- Annual 'Welcome Meetings' are a great opportunity for parents/carers to meet the team working with their particular children
- Termly 'Curriculum Overviews' provide information about what the children are learning and tips for supporting them at home
- Support for individual families in crisis or need
- Workshops to provide information on the teaching and learning approaches and strategies used in school
- Courses to support and affirm parents and carers in their challenging role
- Invitations to share information or experiences relating to a curriculum theme
- Invitations to be part of school events like the curriculum exhibitions at the end of each theme that celebrate learning
- Invitations to be part of our rich spiritual life, including the weekly liturgy, Masses and special services in school and church
- Opportunities to volunteer and support our community in class or around school in different ways
- Opportunities to be part of the 'Parent & Carer Focus Group'
- Opportunities to get involved with the Parents, Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA)

"There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent."

Mahatma Gandhi



# Catholicity

Our Catholicity permeates all areas of school life. It underpins our ethos, mission and vision and shapes our culture. There are daily opportunities for collective worship as a whole-school community and within classes. Year Groups take turns leading a weekly Liturgy of the Word and there are Masses and services both in school and in the parish church of Our Lady of Lourdes. Prayer tables are a focal point of every classroom and we pray at the beginning and end of the day in classrooms, and as a community we say the Grace before lunch is served.

We recite formal prayers and also support and encourage our children to 'live' the faith each day by being proud of who they are; by being thoughtful and kind to others; and by making good decisions. Every child also has a buddy; a positive role-model who they can turn to. Children are encouraged to support each other.

**"We can do no  
great things only  
small things with  
great love."**

Blessed Teresa  
of Calcutta







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