

ST JOHN RIGBY PRIMARY SCHOOL
BEDFORD **CATHOLIC** SCHOOLS

God's will be done, through work and play,
as we follow Jesus day by day.

PROSPECTUS



St John Rigby Catholic Primary School, Polhill Avenue, Bedford, MK41 9DQ
Tel: 01234 401900 | admin@stjohnrigby.org | www.stjohnrigby.org

Welcome to St John Rigby Primary School

St John Rigby is an established, friendly and successful Primary school offering a Catholic education to students within the Parishes of the Bedford Deanery.

As part of the Bedford Catholic Schools, along with St Joseph's & St Gregory's Primary and St Thomas More Secondary, your child will be part of a unique all-through educational community from 2-18 years.

Join us for your truly unique journey.

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WELCOME

A warm welcome



FROM MRS MCGETTIGAN,
HEADTEACHER

It is a real honour and a privilege to welcome you to St John Rigby Catholic Primary School. I joined the school in 2013, as a Year 5 teacher. I worked as an Assistant Headteacher before taking on the role of Interim Headteacher in June 2018 and appointed Headteacher in May 2019.

This is a school where you can see your child grow and develop in a loving, safe and inspiring environment where all of the children are encouraged to grow in the love of God and one another, develop their unique and God-given talents, form lasting friendships and fulfil their potential.


St John Rigby is a family-orientated thriving community with extremely talented and dedicated members of staff, supportive parents and carers, and inspirational children who strive to live out our Gospel Values of Faith, Love, Hope, Trust and Forgiveness in every aspect of their school life.

"We believe that children learn best in a secure and happy environment where they are confident, valued and trusted and which provides the highest quality of education."

We pride ourselves in having strong partnerships with parents, giving opportunities for you to be involved in the life of the school and the education of your child.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

God Bless, Mrs McGettigan



At SJR each and every person is unique & equal

WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO ENJOY COMING TO SCHOOL!

Children are encouraged to achieve the highest standards both in their work and in their conduct with an emphasis upon building relationships within our community.

FOUNDATION STAGE & LOWER PRIMARY



The Journey Begins

We understand that starting school is a big step for your little one (and sometimes an even bigger step for the parents!). Our Early Years Foundation Stage team are here to support you and your child at every step along the way. We work to strengthen links with local preschool and nursery settings and invite you to a settling in morning for you and your child in the Summer term before starting.

Class teachers come and meet parents and children at home before they start. This gives us a chance to get to know the children a little better (children love showing us their favourite toys and games!). The special celebration assembly brings the new community together ready for the new school year.

Early Years have their own spacious playground and a large open-plan area inside. They are still very much a part of the school family and regularly take part in school assemblies, musical performances, masses and other whole school events.

The transition from Early Years into Year One is a pivotal milestone in the children's learning journey. Teaching teams work in close collaboration to plan the smooth transition for each child. Parents remain an integral part of this process also. They are invited to a special transition day where the children spend time in their new Year 1 classroom. A parent workshop is also arranged so that staff can work with parents on how they can help with their child's phonetic development in literacy, reading for pleasure and other aspects of their child's development as a learner.

"All 3 of my children have adored SJR Early Years. A wonderful and friendly atmosphere of fun, happiness, caring and learning."

The curriculum is delicately balanced whereby opportunities for creativity sit alongside basic skills. There is a clear focus on nature and the outdoors with topics such as "Into the Woods", "Woodland Fairytales" and "At the Seaside".



Life in Years 2 and 3 ensures that an enriched curriculum allows children to thrive. The emphasis on creativity and the fostering of curiosity about the world are used as a basis for the teaching of the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy. Children are expected to self and peer assess on a regular basis in order that their ability to reflect on and review their learning becomes embedded.

Performance is an also an essential part of their experience throughout Key Stage One. All children take part in a year-group specific nativity and liturgy, both of which are very well attended by parents. In Year 3, a real highlight is the children's participation in the inter-schools Music Concert known as "Sing On" at Bedford Corn Exchange.



UPPER PRIMARY

Preparing for Next Steps

RESPONSIBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

As an established Primary, we know how important it is to have your child ready emotionally and intellectually for secondary school.

As your child progresses through St John Rigby, they are encouraged to accept greater responsibility for themselves and others. The years 4-6 are in a new building with a separate playground. However, from year 4, students thoroughly enjoy becoming 'Play Leaders'. From year 5 they have their own 'grown-up' uniform.

The curriculum from Year 5 changes from being topic based curriculum to one that is more in line with Secondary schools with separate subject lessons.

**"My favourite part of lunchtimes is when I get to be a play leader in Early Years"
(Year 5 girl)**

St John Rigby students are guaranteed a place at St Thomas More Secondary school in Bedford.

From an early age, students are aware that they are part of a Bedford Catholic Schools (BCS) family of schools. There are sporting events at St Thomas More, 6th Formers come to visit SJR, joint faith-related special occasions and it is very much seen as a natural progression to move from year 6 up to year 7. Staff from both schools work very closely together to ensure that the transition for your child is seamless.

**"I really like the fact that we wear a grown-up uniform when we get to Year 5"
(Year 6 boy)**

“

The school has a wonderful family feel. I think this is because all of the adults, from the dinner supervisors to the Headteacher really get to know my child as an individual.

”

OPPORTUNITIES



Creative Learning

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our offering of extra curricular clubs increases each year. With a wonderful mix of sport, music, dance, art and much more offered before school, during lunchtimes and after school - there is something for everyone!

Every year group takes part in a variety of activities to enrich their learning. This ranges from a Teddy Bears Picnic in the School Field for our Early Years pupils, author visits and Viking Reenactment Days to museum trips and residential camps.

As a faith school, music is core to our school life in assemblies, masses and services. Students also have the opportunity to learn musical instruments and perform in assemblies, concerts and school events.

Our students really enjoy participating in the town KS1 and KS2 sporting events run by the Beds School Sports Partnerships (and often hosted by our sister schools, St Joseph's & St Gregory's and St Thomas More).

Our sports teams in KS2 (football, rounders and rugby) are now training at the weekends and matches against our neighbouring schools are always popular!

**"This term I signed up for Wednesday before-school gymnastics and Thursday Street Dance. I loved performing in assemblies and at the Summer Fete."
(Year 4 boy)**

Our School House is a Centre for Extended Services. This provides space for cooking lessons and music lessons, as well as PTA meetings, Family Support Services and intervention groups.

OUR STAFF

All of our staff help to make St John Rigby Primary School a 'family' school. They are committed to the spiritual, emotional and educational development of your child, enabling them to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Teachers, teaching assistants, adult play leaders, lunchtime staff and office staff work as a team to provide continuous support for the children.

"There is a culture of openness paired with an expectation of continual self-improvement that is shared by all members of staff. "

We promote creativity and enthusiasm because we believe that children should enjoy their learning and also be challenged to their full potential.



"As a new member of staff, I have been welcomed by colleagues into their lessons where the level of pupil enjoyment in learning is quite stunning. "

As a Catholic School, we strongly believe we are all God's family and aim to provide an educational environment which supports our mission statement. We have strong links with our local Parishes and the Priests within the Bedford Deanery.

We have a dynamic professional team who are dedicated and committed to providing an education of the highest quality. The class teacher is central to the care of your child but the door is always open to discuss any issues or concerns.

We are very fortunate to have a school chaplain, who is always available to support children, parents and staff. We also have a family worker who supports the needs of our families.

For further information about vacancies and working within the Bedford Catholic Schools, please visit www.bedfordcatholicschools.org/join-us



BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Bedford Catholic Schools have been providing outstanding Catholic education to families in Bedford for over 50 years. We are proud of the role we play in our local community. St John Rigby Primary, St Joseph's & St Gregory's Primary and St Thomas More Secondary and 6th Form are all part of the Bedford Catholic Schools.

Our family of schools, along with our Inspirit Teaching School, works closely and collaboratively in order to support one another, share best practice and above all provide an excellent education to our 2000 students and a seamless transition throughout the educational journey from age 2-18 years.

"My aim is that all students in our schools have access to an outstanding curriculum, in the tradition of the Catholic Church, in an environment that fully supports their academic, emotional and social needs. Our schools are already fantastic places to be. I work with Head Teachers to keep them that way and make things even better!"

MR TONY BISHOP

Executive Principal, BCS

Book a visit

Please do get in touch and we would be delighted to show you our school during the working day.

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Polhill Avenue
Bedford
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St John Rigby Catholic
Primary School



@stjohnrig

"When you visit
our school you will
find a warm and
welcoming
community with
happy children"

Bedford Catholic Schools
St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust
Central Trust Offices
c/o St Thomas More Secondary School
Tyne Crescent
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BEDFORD **CATHOLIC**SCHOOLS – A TRULY UNIQUE JOURNEY

