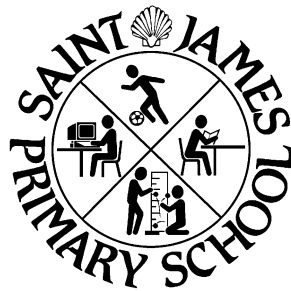


St. James Church of England Primary School, Handsworth

School Prospectus

2018-19



*Striving To Become
The Best That We Can Be*



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



My name is Sarah Cross. In 2006 I decided to change careers and follow my lifelong passion to work with children. I left my business management career in London and moved to Birmingham to attend University once more. Following on from my training, I began working at St James in 2007 as a class teacher.

As an Educator, I believe strongly that every child should be included in the learning and encouraged to achieve their best. As a person, I believe we should all be kind and positive to each other in order to achieve a wonderful school community.

Seeing children arrive every day filled with happiness and excitement about their time at school and most importantly keen to learn, convinces me that we are all working together to build the community of the future; that our children will be successful and that they will continue to contribute positively in the future.

This school is our family – we all care and we all strive to be the best that we can be.

We hope that you will find our School Prospectus helpful & useful. Much more information about our staff and our curriculum can be found on our school website at www.stjamesce.bham.sch.uk
If you would like to know more or would like to arrange a visit to look around our school, please contact us using the contact details below.



Sandwell Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham, B21 8NH

TELEPHONE: 0121 523 5861

Email:
s.cross@stjamesce.bham.sch.uk
enquiry@stjamesce.bham.sch.uk

THE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St James School is a gift of the Church of England to the local community in Handsworth.

We are here to serve the needs of the children in our community; whatever their faith or needs.

We provide a caring, stimulating and life enhancing learning environment where our children can grow in their sense of self-worth and go on to make a valuable contribution to society.

By developing our children's understanding and respect of one another, we hope to enable them to build the community of the future here in Handsworth.



AIMS OF ST JAMES SCHOOL

We intend to:

- ✓ Provide a learning environment in which our children can flourish because they are cared for, safe and secure, stimulated, motivated, encouraged and independent.
- ✓ Support our children in developing high self-esteem, because everything about them is highly valued in the school and they have many opportunities to be successful.
- ✓ Offer equality of opportunity of educational provision and access to the curriculum to all of our children.
- ✓ Support our children to achieve the highest level of academic success that they are capable of, beginning with our high level of expectation and continuing through a consistently high standard of teaching and knowledge of the needs of each individual child.
- ✓ Prepare our children for life by providing them with a wealth of knowledge and skills and the ability to apply them.
- ✓ Open our children's minds to a love of learning that will stay with them throughout their lives.
- ✓ Provide a top quality curriculum, which delivers the National Curriculum and provides a wide and varied range of learning experiences.
- ✓ Nurture in our children the qualities of good citizens; a strong moral code, positive behaviour, self-respect and respect for others, the desire to make a valuable contribution.
- ✓ Develop a strong two-way partnership with our parents, in which we work together to bring about the best education for our children.
- ✓ Celebrate and value the cultures and faiths of Handsworth within our curriculum and participate fully in our local community and at the same time encourage awareness of life and issues around the world.
- ✓ Encourage morality and spirituality based on the teaching of Christian values, recognising that these values are shared with the religions of our community and incorporating teachings from them.
- ✓ Help our children to recognise the value of religious belief.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“St James Church of England Primary School, Handsworth”

We are very proud that our school is in Handsworth serving this diverse, multi-ethnic community, multi-faith community. We believe that our children benefit from living and learning in this community. We believe that going to a really good school in Handsworth gives our children the chance to receive a top quality education but it also gives them a fantastic opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and beliefs. Our hope is that by doing this they will learn to respect one another and one another's faiths and cultures and that this will help them to grow into people who can work together to create the community of the future.

St James is a school that serves all of the families of its community, giving places to children of all faiths and providing a high standard of education for each of them.

The Christian faith is celebrated in school by following the Christian calendar and developing an ethos based on Christian values:

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Love | Respect | Compassion | Forgiveness |
| | Personal Worth | Sense of Belonging | |
| Truth | Honesty | Justice | Perseverance |

We see each child as precious. We nurture their sense of belonging and their personal worth by building the curriculum around their life experiences and heritages. We value and celebrate the faith backgrounds of all our families.

St James is particularly special in the importance it gives to religious belief. We support children to learn about and celebrate their own faiths and we help them to understand the faiths of their school friends and the wider community. It is important to us that children learn the central meaning of each festival we celebrate. We lead children to the point at which they can appreciate the guidance provided by religions.

An important part of our teaching is a focus on developing spirituality in our children. This means encouraging connections between ourselves and other people, nature and events and God.

What do School Council believe makes St James special

We asked our children on the School Council what they wanted to tell you about what they think makes their school special . . .



Everyone is treated in the same kind way.



We all learn in different ways, so the teachers help us in different ways, by giving us lots of support and challenges.



The St James Community builds us into people, who can be friends inside and outside of school, by teaching us to care.



We are all friends who stick together. We have time to enjoy the happiness of our friendships.



Our teachers teach us lots of new things and, if you don't understand it at first, they try different ways, until you understand.



We are good at welcoming and supporting people, who are new to our school, so they are happy and settle in well.



The friends that we have, because they are truly supportive, like, if we get nervous, they encourage us.



It is all about the love and kindness that is shown. There is always a Thumbs Up!



We share our smiles and comfort one another if we have bad times.



In class we talk about how to engage with the community and how people in the past have changed the world.



Our school website is full of pictures and reports of exciting things that we have done in our time at St. James.



If you have a problem, the staff don't talk over you. They listen and then they give us ideas about what to do about it.



The teachers make school special, because they take care of the children. They help us with our learning and sort out our problems.



In our assemblies we can interact and think about our individual personalities, how we treat each other and be inspired by great leaders from past.



For me, it is the teachers who make you feel welcome and then all of the special events that we have, that you probably won't find in other schools.



The people in our school have a really positive attitude.

OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



St. James is still one of the most modern schools in Birmingham, having been rebuilt in 2007. Children, staff, parents and members of the wider community agree that our part of Handsworth has benefitted enormously from having a school designed for 21st Century teaching and learning.



Space for outdoor learning



Learning beyond the core subjects



All of our classrooms have Interactive White Boards



Our 32 work place ICT Suite

BEING A PARENT AT ST. JAMES

The partnership between our parents and our school is crucial. We pride ourselves on the relationship we build with our parents and we are keen to welcome you into school and work in partnership with you for the benefit of your children.

Each year we consult our parents about their views on the work that is being done with their children. At the same time, we consult the children. This information is crucial to the plans that we make for the next stage of our development.

What our parents say about St. James School:

- ☺ The atmosphere is welcoming, pleasant, friendly & supportive
- ☺ It has a good reputation for teaching pupils as individuals
- ☺ Gives my child a sense of belonging
- ☺ It involves parents in their children's progress and development
- ☺ School shows respect for different religions & that it's part of the community it caters for
- ☺ I personally know that my child is in the best capable hands for learning, for safety and to develop more as he grows

Our parents say that St. James teaches their children:

- ☺ So much!
- ☺ That life should be lived with love, understanding and in harmony, with people from other faiths, as well as your own.
- ☺ To learn the values of each other's faith and the reasons why they believe in what they believe in

What our parents say about their children's feelings and thoughts:

- ☺ She's very happy going there – she's always looking forward to going to school every morning
- ☺ She has become a lot more confident thanks to the staff allowing her to grow
- ☺ My children have friends of all religions and I think religion makes them more intelligent – when they pass the Gurdwara, Church or Mosque, they have a lot of facts to tell and ask lots of questions too, which is great!

TEACHING AND LEARNING AT ST. JAMES

TARGETED LEARNING



Pupil Tutoring

At St. James we pride ourselves on striving to achieve the highest standards of learning for each individual child and we have a clear vision of what learning our children are expected to achieve in their time here.

Careful assessment is vital to our teaching. We work very hard to make certain that we have a strong understanding of what each child is able to do.

We use this information to plan the next learning steps for individual child and for groups of children. These learning steps are identified with highest realistic expectations. There has been some brilliant work done by parents to support their children's learning.



A targeted phonics group
in Reception



Developing a secure foundation of Phonics skills
for our children in Reception

Children are given careful feedback about how successful their learning is. This feedback is both verbal and in written marking. Teachers and Teaching Assistants ensure that children are given additional challenges to take their learning further or, where necessary, misunderstandings are explored and support and practice are arranged.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We nurture positive attitudes based on respect and consideration for others, irrespective of race or gender.

We ensure that the children are given positive images of all peoples.

We value everyone in our school community and work hard to celebrate the achievements and talents of every one of our children.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We are deeply committed to providing the right educational opportunities for all our children. Some children have particular needs beyond those of the majority of pupils. Sometimes these may be caused by a specific learning difficulty, a physical disability or a behaviour difficulty. We pride ourselves on the care and support that is given to our children. Parents of children with any special needs are involved as much as possible in the work we do with their children.

Our Special Needs Coordinator supports staff to develop provision maps & individual education plans for targeted children. Support is delivered within class teaching, small group support and 1:1 or paired work.

We also call upon other support agencies in some cases. These include Pupil Support Service, City of Birmingham School (behaviour specialists) and our Educational Psychologist.

SUPPORTING OUR MOST ABLE PUPILS

In the same way as it is important to support children with learning difficulties, we believe that it is important to identify children's special gifts and talents and nurture them.

We do this through staff assessing the abilities of their pupils and identifying those children with need greater challenges. We are also open to parents sharing their knowledge of their children's abilities.

We then differentiate our teaching to stretch these children when it is appropriate. We also seek to direct the children and their parents to out of school activities and opportunities that will give their children even more opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities.

We create opportunities that are provided for all children but are created especially to challenge, extend, excite and nurture children with particular interests and abilities e.g. choir, music tuition, sports and dance coaches etc.

OUR CURRICULUM

Our Curriculum is made up of all of the learning opportunities given to your child in their time in school. It supports each child to develop as a whole, happy, successful person.

On our website we provide our parents and carers a Curriculum Overview for each topic, so that they have a good idea of what their children will be learning and how they can help to support their children.



Learning about Romans at
Wroxeter Roman City



Ghost Hunting at Aston Hall



Keeping Fit & Exercising with
Scoot Fit

We aim to make the teaching of each subject vivid and interesting so that all of our children build a real enthusiasm for learning.

We support our teaching of the curriculum with a huge range of trips away from school and visitors to the school and other exciting firsthand learning experiences.



Reception visiting Umberslade Farm



Visiting Warwick Castle as part of our Y2 Towers, Tunnels & Turrets topic



Y3 visit from the Predator Man, where they were able to get hands on with different predators

Much of our curriculum is built around the “engage, develop, innovate, express” approach of the Cornerstones resource (find out more on our website).

The approach is very practical with children involved in a lot of “doing”. We believe that this helps them to get involved in their learning and to remember it more effectively.



Much of our P.E. is taught by specialist coaches



Creating a “Fountain of Gold” in a Y5 Science lesson



Gymnastics as part of Physical Education



Y2 children visit Birmingham Central Mosque

We have a very strong focuses on Religious Education and Personal Social and Health Education

Through R.E. our children learn about their own religion (if they are a member of a faith) and other people's religions. They learn to understand and respect one another's religious backgrounds.



Y5 children visit the Shree Geeta Bhawan Hindu Temple

They also explore what can be learned *from* religion e.g. the guidance that religion gives to people in how to live their lives.



We visit St James church for Christingle and Easter

Through P.S.H.E. our children learn about relationships, feelings, safety, lifestyles etc. and are helped to develop a foundation upon which they can make important decisions in a well-informed way, later in their lives.

We aim to develop children intellectually, physically, socially, morally, culturally and spiritually, through experiences in and out of the school. Part of our approach is to build positively upon the heritages, cultures and life experiences of our children so that we are positively valuing them and raising their self-esteem.

Above all we want our children to enjoy their time at St. James and all of the learning that they do, so that they can achieve their very, very best.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Our children's learning experiences are extended through a range of clubs and activities, which are a response to children's ideas of what they would like to do in their "freer" time. The Clubs & Activities timetable has included: Choir, Trampolining, Ukulele, Recorders, ICT, Street Dance, Dance, Drama, Sewing, Art, and Multi Sports. We are always evolving and looking to add new opportunities!

Our School Council asked us to include a lot of sport and fitness and creative opportunities in our clubs programme because they wanted more sporty, active and arty activities.



Yoga



Gymnastics



Gymnastics



Football

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

The school recognises the importance of residential experience in developing the children's independence, self-confidence and social skills. We are committed to the idea that, during their lives with us, every child will be given the opportunity to take part in a short residential learning opportunities.



Zip-lining across the lake



The climbing wall challenge

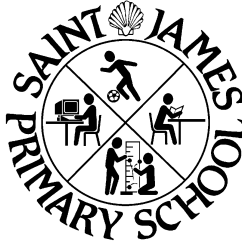
Every year, children in Y4 and Y6 are given the opportunity to take part in residential visits to a field centre. This provides them with the chance to take part in adventurous outdoor activities and geographical and historical fieldwork.

Currently, we take Year 4 to Woodlands Activity Centre near Aldridge for 3 school days and we take Year 6 to Boreatton Park in Shropshire over a weekend.

Apart from all of the different adventurous activities that the children have the chance to take part in (including canoeing, orienteering, obstacle courses, archery, zip-lining, climbing and abseiling), it is a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop away from the classroom.

For many children it is one of the absolute highlights of their school lives.

MR. LANYON'S FAVOURITE ST. JAMES STORY



Very often at St. James, we ask our older children to act as Y6 Guides to show visitors around their school and to talk about their experiences of being part of what we call "The Family of St. James".

A few years ago, it was our Reception Open Day and a group of our Y6 Guides was showing some parents around, who were trying to decide whether St. James was the school for their little children.

At the end of their visit, one family came to me to say how impressed they had been by their Y6 Guide and wanted to tell me about what he had said to them, which was:

"I didn't choose this school for myself. My mum did that, because I was too young then.

Now that I am older and have been here up to Y6, I can say that I would definitely choose St. James for myself."

As a head teacher, I love that! Mr Lanyon



As that child's Year 6 class teacher, I also love that story and remember that child with a smile, because of how far he came in his time here. I can't pick a favourite story from school, yet, as I get a new reason to smile every day.

The children and staff in our school continue to make me proud and giggle with joy daily!

Miss Cross