



St Simon's Catholic Primary School



'Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God'

Welcome to St Simon's Catholic Primary School



Foreword: Mrs Rachel Crisp, Headteacher, says

I am delighted to welcome you to St Simon's Catholic Primary School. We are proud to be an inclusive school with a determination to provide an excellent education for all the children in our care.

Christ-centered

As a Catholic school we place Christ at the very centre of our learning and we encourage children to be the very best they can be; growing, learning and loving in a safe and secure way. We teach faith values in all aspects of learning.

Try new things

We encourage pupils to try new things, to be creative, to be resilient, and to constantly strive to improve, as whatever we do, we do for the glory of God.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

Improve outcomes

We offer many opportunities for independent and collaborative learning, enabling every child to reach their full potential and to build resilience, to cope with life and celebrate success.

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular visits and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff

I am very proud of our skilled and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning. We value school improvement and are committed to providing the highest quality teaching possible to allow successful life-long learning to take place.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here.

Get in touch

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please email headteacher@st-simons.stockport.sch.uk or telephone 0161 483 9696.



School day



Main School

Morning

9.10am - 12.15pm (with a 15 minute break).

Afternoon

1.15pm - 3.30pm 1.15pm - 3.30pm (with a 15 minute break for KS1).

Nursery Session Times

Morning sessions only

Monday - Friday 9.00am-12.00pm (15 hours per week).

In September 2017 we are planning to offer 30 hour provision for those children eligible for the funding.

Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club (Early Birds)

We have a Breakfast Club which runs from 7.30am each morning. This facility provides a really good start to the day for those parents who require extended child care provision.

After School Club (Night Owls)

Our after school club is run by three members of staff who all hold current First Aid and Safeguarding certificates and is available from 3.30pm until 6.00pm.

Uniform

We expect the children at St Simon's to come to school clean and neatly dressed. A school uniform provides the children with a sense of belonging, a good working attitude and a respectful and unified environment. School uniform is available to buy from Davensport, Bramhall Lane, Davenport or from our online supplier Stitch Design - www.stichdesign.co.uk. Ties are available from the school office.



School meals and snacks

School meals are prepared and cooked on school premises by our friendly and helpful kitchen staff. Our school dinners are packed with fresh, tasty and healthy ingredients. A vegetarian option is available.

Free school meals

The government provides free school meals to all children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Free school meals are available to older children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits.

Break-time and drinks

Under the Fruit in School scheme, Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a piece of fruit each day free of charge. This is given as a playtime snack. Older children may bring a piece of fruit from home for morning break. Alternatively, we offer the option of purchasing a slice of toast as a snack each day. Younger children are able to bring an additional piece of fruit from home for afternoon break.

Milk is free to all children under five and to all children under seven in receipt of free school meals. Subsidised milk is also available to other pupils through the Cool Milk scheme for a small charge.

Suzanne **believes** there should be more to school than the **three Rs**, and St Simon's Catholic Primary School believes that, too



Suzanne and Paul Ralphs live in Offerton with their children William, eight, and Poppy, four.

Valuing parents

From the very first day, the Ralphs knew they had chosen well and William settled into the Nursery very quickly. "As there was no automatic progression to Reception, we could have moved him to another school at that stage but we had no wish to do so. I loved the fact that the Head Teacher knew every child by name, and those of their parents, and that has not changed even under a change of leadership. The whole family is made to feel like a valued part of the school and that we are an important part of the education process."

The extra mile

In fact, believes Suzanne, if anything the welcoming atmosphere has only strengthened in recent times, and the overall provision extended even further. "I am astonished by the improvement in both William and Poppy's progress. They are very different in personality with William naturally outgoing and sociable, while Poppy is more reticent but they are both doing extremely well, and in more than just the core subjects. I love that their teachers pay attention to lesser-taught skills such as handwriting, and place emphasis on good manners and proper behaviour. The children are encouraged to socialise across all the year groups and Reception children are paired with a Special Friend from Year 6, to whom they can go if they have any worries. It makes it like an extended family and the system works beautifully."

A familiar, family feel

Somewhat unconventionally, Suzanne and Paul were so impressed by what they found during their online research of St Simon's Catholic Primary School, they applied for a place before they went to look round. "I just knew that it was exactly what we wanted for William," says Suzanne. "It reminded me of my own primary school and seemed so friendly and family-orientated that we had no hesitation in making it our first choice. The fact that it was a Catholic faith school wasn't the main factor in our decision, but my early education had been Catholic and the ethos was something I liked."

The invaluable and enjoyable PTA

Suzanne is a member of the PTA and when time permits contributes to the various fund-raising events which she feels are such an important addition to the school. "If it wasn't for an effective PTA it would not be possible to hold regular Fun Days, the annual Summer Fair, Quiz Nights and things like Film Night for the children. We also organise a coffee morning every week after the Family Assembly which is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to get together, and it creates a strong sense of community. The Head Teacher always points out that every parent is an automatic member of the PTA and that any contribution however small, is valued and appreciated."

Kindness, good manners and mutual respect

William is invariably keen to go to school each day and proud of his 100% attendance record, and although Poppy is sometimes less enthusiastic it's clear that they are fond of their teachers. "It's so nice to watch the children run to their teachers in the playground in the morning," says Suzanne. "They obviously like them and have respect for them, too, as well as for the other children. The interaction between staff and all the children throughout the year groups is a pleasure to see and generally speaking the behaviour reflects the importance the school places on kindness and politeness. I have never had to worry

about the welfare of my children at St Simon's and I know that if there is ever any minor problem it will always be addressed and sorted out quickly and effectively, to everyone's benefit."

Support for family life

It is clear that the school fully appreciates the needs of parents as well as the children, and measures are in place to support them wherever possible. Suzanne is grateful for the system of text reminders for events such as non-uniform day or outings, for the weekly emailed Newsletter and for the easy-to-use Parent Pay scheme which does away with the need for cash for dinner money or payment for clubs. "Good home/school communication is really important and St Simon's has got it absolutely right," she says. "This is a lovely school, a lovely environment and the only one I want for my children. We are shortly moving house but it will be to somewhere close by - I would not consider leaving the area, purely because of St Simon's."

Children say

William: "I love St Simon's because everyone is really nice to each other, all the different year groups get along and we do lots of fun lessons like art and DT (design and technology)."

Poppy: "I love St Simon's because I get to have a Special Friend in Year 6."

Curriculum: happy and enquiring



Planning together

As a staff, we plan together, to ensure that we are offering a balanced curriculum. Our first objective is to ensure that your child will be happy in coming to school in order to learn effectively. The teachers assess your child's needs and match work to their stage of development. The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5.
2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7.
3. Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11.

Nursery and Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- Communication and Language.
- Physical Development.
- Literacy.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding the World.
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics.
- Literacy.
- Science.
- Information and Design Technology.
- History.
- Geography.
- Art.
- Music
- Religious Education.

- Physical Education.
- Health.
- Citizenship.
- Personal and Social Education.
- Modern Foreign Language.

Music

Our children experience a variety of music. They learn to listen, enjoy, compose and perform. Children also have the opportunity to play an instrument and sing in the school choir.

Behaviour and self-development



Self-discipline

We recognise the importance of self - discipline when it comes to developing the whole child. Everybody is encouraged to take personal responsibility for their own actions and to acknowledge that there are consequences for all actions chosen. A positive, growth mindset approach is encouraged to allow each individual to grow in God's love. Children's efforts

are praised and perseverance is modelled to build resilience in our learners.

Happy and caring

The teachers are all firm but friendly and provide a happy and caring atmosphere where children can mature freely and confidently, learn to make decisions and be trusted to carry out tasks in a responsible manner.

School rules and rewards

The school has a house point system whereby all children are split into one of four houses. House points are awarded to children for conducting themselves in a positive way. A whole school dojo system is also in operation. This promotes growth mindset behaviours, with a focus on

each individual trying to be the very best that they can be.

All classes have personalised learning time on a Friday afternoon which allows children to work on preferred activities, often promoted following good attitude and behaviour.

Enriched curriculum: trips and visits



Trips

Teachers plan educational visits throughout the year to further enrich the children's education and curriculum learning. Our children enjoy trips to places such as:

- Hat Works Museum, Stockport.
- Greater Manchester Police Museum.
- Chester Zoo.
- Manchester History Museum.
- Local library.
- Lyme Park.
- Bramhall Park.
- Quarry Bank Mill.

Residential and visitors

Older children have the opportunity to go on a residential trip in Year 6. Children learn independence, build relationships and develop confidence.

Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists and musicians etc.



Ginny **believes** her children have **benefitted** in more ways than she expected at St Simon's Catholic Primary School



Ginny and Wasin Awan live in Davenport with their four sons. Omar, Sully, Zak and Sami are fourteen, twelve, seven and five respectively

Good things come in small packages

At first, Ginny had not considered looking at St Simon's, thinking that it would accept only the children of practising Catholic families. "It was a pleasant surprise to be welcomed as we are not a Catholic family, but I like the fact that it is a faith school and teaches the importance of Christian values. It is also a smaller school than many and I believe that means the children have more opportunity to take part in what it can offer, and St Simon's has a great deal to offer. Even though I was hesitant about moving Sully in his final year of primary education, I am so glad I did; it has been the making of him."

A difficult decision

Ginny believes that one of most difficult decisions she has ever had to make was whether or not to move her children to a different school, especially as Sully was just about to enter the all-important Year 6. "When we first moved to the area three years ago we found it very difficult to find a primary school which could take three children so we were relieved when we eventually found one with places for them," she remembers. "Unfortunately, Sully in particular didn't thrive there and I started looking at alternatives. When I looked at St Simon's I felt straightaway it was somewhere much better suited to his needs, and we have not been disappointed in any way."

'Be the best you can be'

Within just one year Sully has, says Ginny, grown hugely in confidence and maturity, enabling him to make a smooth transition to High School. "Even though none of his friends from St Simon's have gone to his new school with him, he has settled in really well because of the support he received in Year 6, and I honestly think he would have struggled with the move up to secondary had he stayed at his previous school. Academically he is doing well but as far as I am concerned, a really good school helps children to be the best they can be in every way and focuses on more than the achievement of high exam marks. That's what St Simon's does so well - encouraging every aspect of the children's personal development."

Strong connections

Sully joined Year 6 at the same time as Sami started in Reception and Ginny was impressed with the Special Friends initiative which helped both boys to quickly feel at home. "For the children in Reception, it makes the move from Nursery less intimidating and gives them the security of knowing there is someone looking out for them. The older children are encouraged to take responsibility for the younger ones and both Sami and Sully benefitted from this. The system is the perfect way to make a strong connection throughout the school as a whole."

A new engagement with learning

The overall wellbeing of the pupils is taken very seriously, Ginny has found, and this was proved when she mentioned specifically her concerns about moving Sully. "I needed to know that this wouldn't be a sideways step for him, or even one which could be detrimental but in the event I was completely reassured. Sully's class teacher was truly inspirational in every way and that is not said lightly. By the end of Year 6, Sully was a different boy, with a renewed engagement to learning and enthusiastic about everything he had the chance to do."

Opportunities

Those opportunities included taking part in a Young Entrepreneur competition where a team comprising Year 5 and Year 6 pupils put together a business

plan to present to a judging panel, planning the process from inception to delivery. Sully also played a big part in a Shakespeare theatre project which, surprisingly to Ginny, he absolutely loved. "Sully learned so much and enjoyed being a part of something he'd never done before. These experiences among others ignited his interest in business, in Shakespeare and in teamwork, and have motivated him to learn more."

Where families matter

All three of Ginny's youngest children have, and still are, enjoying school, are achieving and gaining both academic and life skills, and she would not hesitate to recommend St Simon's Catholic Primary School to any other parent. "This is a small, caring, community-based school where both children and families matter. I have had first-hand experience of other schools, but I am convinced that St Simon's has been the one to give my children the early education I want for them and which I believe will set them up for their future."

Children say

Zak: "I like maths because it's hard and I enjoy working it out, and I like music because it makes me feel happy!"

Sami: "I like Me Time, and my Special Friends played with me and were kind to me."

Sully: "It was a nice, caring school. The teachers were kind and I settled there because it was so welcoming."

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



At St Simon's we are proud of our diverse community and are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and racism. Our school roll includes children with Special Educational Needs. We have been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark.

Special Educational Needs

We offer every pupil, including children with special educational

needs, a broad and balanced curriculum to enable them to make the greatest possible progress, in partnership with parents and with support from the appropriate agencies. Children who may have special educational needs are identified as early as possible, monitored and given individual consideration and attention.

Inclusion Leader

The school has a full special needs policy, a designated Inclusion Leader

who is a member of the School Leadership Team, and a Inclusion Governor.

Access

We have an Equal Opportunities Policy and do not discriminate against any individuals. We actively promote a caring ethos within our school. Our building is fully accessible and meets all existing requirements for children and adults with physical disabilities as laid down under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Gifted and talented children

We have a well-developed policy for more-able pupils. The school aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to reach their potential, to extend and develop individual excellence and aptitude and to recognise and celebrate the range of pupils' gifts, talents and abilities.

Your child's achievements



Ongoing assessments

Teachers regularly assess children's attainment and progress over the course of the school year. They use the acquired knowledge to identify where each child is on their learning journey and to plan for future teaching and learning opportunities.

Children are formally assessed at the end of the Early Years' Foundation Stage (Reception class) against the Early Learning Goals.

SATS

At the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2 class) children are assessed in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science by their teachers.

At the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6 class) children sit Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) that are measured against national standards. Teachers report these test results, along with Teacher Assessments to parents at the end of the school year.

School reports

There is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher at the end of each term to discuss their progress and achievement.



All parents from Nursery to Year 6 receive an annual written report from the class teacher at the end of the summer term which provides information about your child's academic achievement and summarises their personal and social development. There is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher in the Autumn and Spring terms to discuss their progress and achievement.



Wide variety

The school holds many extra-curricular activities throughout the year during lunch time and after school. These activities are run by school staff and coaches. Recent examples include:

- Football (girls' and boys').
- Netball.
- Film Club.
- Cross Country Running.
- Craft Club.
- Choir.
- 'Funtastic'.
- Mini Vinnies.
- Cricket.

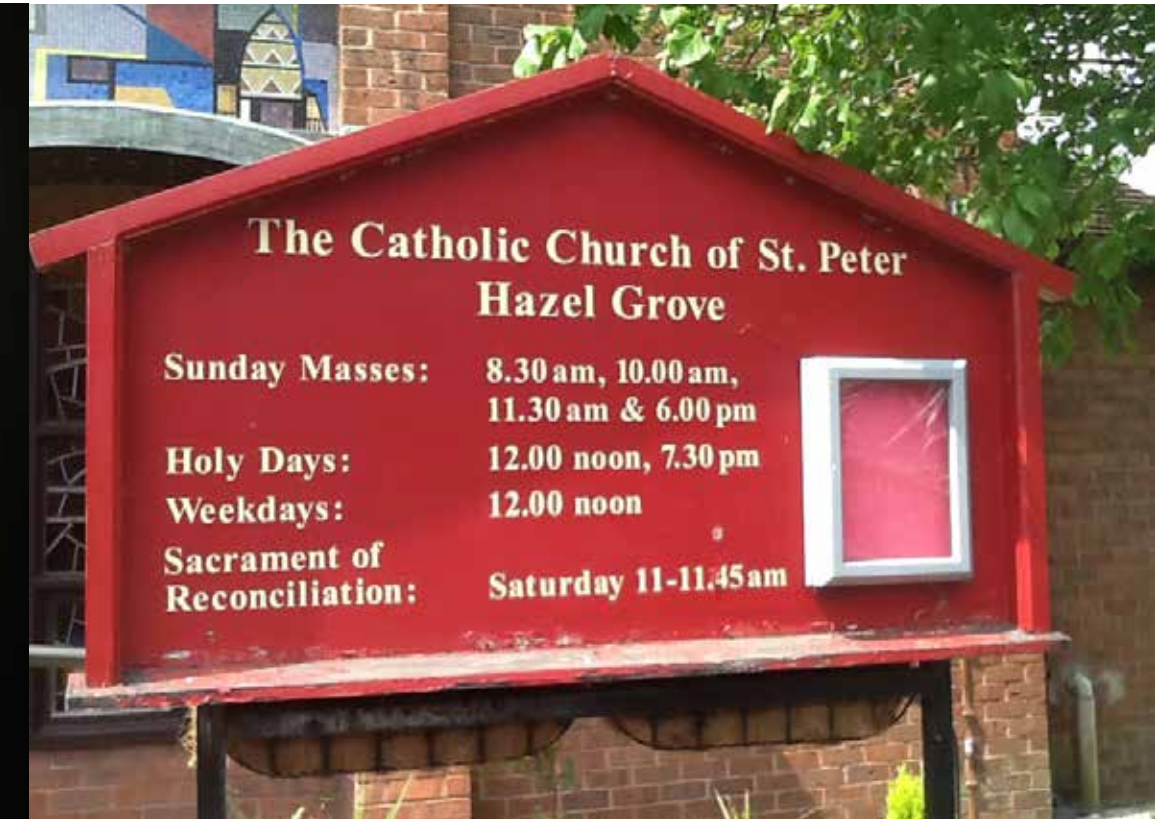
Sport

The children's entitlement to two hours physical activity each week is provided through a range of physical activities including team games, dance, gymnastics and swimming.



Stockport Schools' Sports Partnership

We are actively involved in the Stockport Schools' Sports Partnership which ensures the children have access to a wide range of local schools for competition. The school is a member of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, the primary focus of which is the building of character through excellence in sport skills and fitness.



St Simon's is a school where we value the importance of loving God and loving one another, of learning more about our faith and differing faiths too. It is also a place where we listen to and reflect upon scripture. We lead by the example of Christ, always trying to be the very best that we can be.

Our daily practice reflects our mission statement:

'Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God' (1 Corinthians 10 - 31)

We are part of St Peter's parish community and we frequently join together to celebrate God's work. The Sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy communion are celebrated as a parish, journeying together and learning more about Christ as we grow.

Weekly class masses and liturgies are prepared by the teachers and children and take place in school, led by Fr Peter Sharrocks. Parents

and members of our community are warmly invited too. Mrs Crisp leads a liturgical assembly every Monday and each Friday morning all our families are invited to join us for our liturgy followed by the Gold award assembly.

Collective worship takes place daily within each class setting and children engage in faith development and understanding at their own level.

Catholic feasts are celebrated; our Mini Vinnies lead us in Advent and

Lenten prayer trails, allowing the opportunity to pause and reflect on the power and strength of God's love.

It is a joy to witness our children having awe and wonder moments allowing them to make better sense of the gifts that God blessed them with.

Admissions



Admission to Nursery

Applications for a place in Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) class must be made online at www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Priority is given to baptised, Catholic children. Please note that admission to Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) does not give any priority of place in Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) and applications must be submitted at the appropriate time.

Admission into Reception

As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority for St Simon's and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. Children are admitted into Reception in the September following their fourth birthday.

Admission into other year groups

If you are considering St Simon's for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit to the school. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment where we will be very happy to show you around our school.

Applications

Please ask about applications at the school office.

You will need to register and apply for a place for your child online by visiting www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Tel: 0161 217 6022

Web: www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Email: via the contact form on the Stockport Council School Admissions page: <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/contactschooladmissions/>

Getting involved



Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We have an active PTA, which raises additional funds for the children. Every parent is automatically a member of the St Simon's PTA, the function of which is to develop closer links between the parents, teachers and local community and to provide financial support towards educational resources and equipment. The events that are organised vary from year to year.

Do you want to actively involved in the PTA?

The success of our PTA depends

on a continual cycle of parental involvement. We welcome any ideas for fundraising and encourage parents and carers to share these with us. Information about meetings are shared with parents, and you can find more information on the school website. Please come and share your talents with our school!

Voluntary helpers

We value the contribution of parents and family and we actively encourage your help during the school day. Parents and family help with a variety of activities which include reading with our children, helping children

to choose a library book, sewing, cooking, and acting as extra pairs of hands on educational visits. We accept all help gratefully. All volunteers must have a DBS check before they commence work in school.

Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes parent governors as well as representatives from staff, the local authority and the local community. The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational

achievement including setting targets for pupil achievement, managing the school's finances, making sure the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay.

Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our Parent Governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office.

Mission Statement

"Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whatever we do at St. Simons Catholic Primary School, we do for the glory of God.

We are part of St Peter's Parish Community

We provide a Catholic education with Christ at the heart of all we do.

We recognise, respect, appreciate and affirm the uniqueness of each person created in the image and likeness of God.

We welcome those in need and seek to provide an environment in which they will thrive.

The education we offer will bring fullness of life.

We say sorry, forgive and support each other when things go wrong, as Jesus taught us.

'Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God'

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