

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for the interest you have shown in St John's Church of England Primary School in Watford. We are excited that you are considering joining us on our journey as we create a unique primary school, in the very heart of St John's parish and community.

This brochure includes background information about the vision for our school, but it is difficult to convey our passion for this opportunity to serve our children with merely words on paper. We would be very happy to speak to you at greater length and to show you our site within the local community.

I hope that you find the prospect of becoming part of our team an inspiring, exciting and challenging one. I really appreciate your interest and I'm excited in welcoming the right individuals to join our school family. St John's welcomes applications from throughout the community, who can support the Christian ethos of the school.

I hope that you are that special person we are looking for.

With my best wishes

Mrs Helen Langeveld
Headteacher



Our Vision, Values and Ethos

St John's is at the heart of a richly diverse community. The education and services it provides serves the whole community, valuing and making the most of its dynamic blend of ethnicities, languages, cultures and religions. Its extended school activities will widen horizons for both children and adults alike. It will be a social hub for families and carers so that they can see it as a centre of support, care, community and education in its widest sense.



We welcome children from all families - Christian, from other faiths and from no faith backgrounds.

The school and church work together – serving our children and serving our community, to enhance life chances for all. The Christian ethos of St John's will be based on our core Christian values of:

Loving your neighbour
Respecting each other
Valuing diversity

Love, Respect and Value is the golden thread weaving throughout the school. These underpin all elements of school life, and enable every child to develop as a moral, social and spiritual human being. Every child, whatever their background, is valued as a unique child of God, and enabled to grow in confidence and self-belief through their experience of school life at St John's.



St John's provides a stimulating and engaging learning environment where every child, whatever their needs, their language or their background are challenged to succeed. We are a unique educational experience for children in Watford through our Anglican ethos, understanding the needs of the community and the profile of pupils. We are totally committed to high quality education and the improvement of life chances for all.

About our School

St John's C of E School, in the heart of Watford, believes that every pupil is entitled to success and that with an engaging, rich curriculum St John's will challenge all pupils to succeed.

St John's C of E is a Free School working in partnership with the Diocese of St Albans. The rationale for the school is to help meet the growing need for more school places, as well as providing the choice of an inclusive church school. Mrs Langeveld has a wealth of experience within primary education. She already has a well-developed educational network that enriches our school, and is always seeking further opportunities to expand that network of support, both locally and nationally, to learn from and share experiences.

The school journey from an initial one form entry in temporary accommodation to a two form entry 420 capacity primary school has now started. We have a diverse intake that incorporates EAL children.



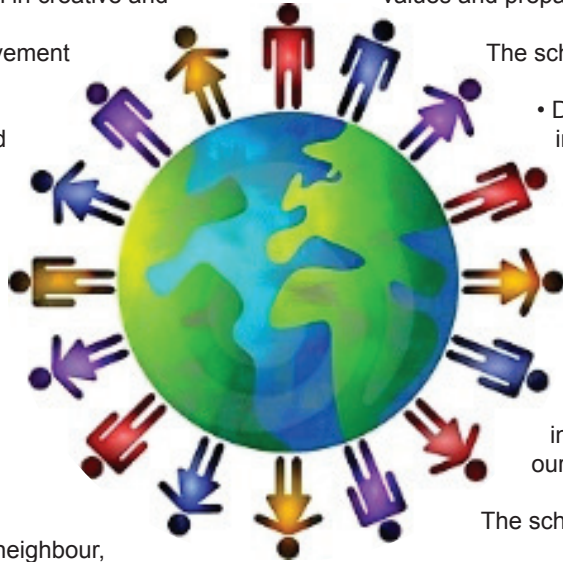
The vision for the school has four key areas:

Educational Excellence

The school will embrace a philosophy of active learning where all are engaged in learning to learn.

The school is committed to:

- Being fully inclusive and meeting the needs of all children
- Delivering the National Curriculum in creative and exciting ways
- Ensuring high standards of achievement that exceed national standards
- Giving high priority to spoken English, reading, writing, maths and computing
- Challenging all children to achieve their full potential and preparing them to move to the next stage of their education with confidence.



Christian Ethos

The Christian ethos of loving your neighbour, respecting each other, and valuing diversity will be integral to our school life.

The ethos of the school is:

- Be rooted in Christian values
- Enable all children to explore the Christian faith, experiencing collective worship and prayer
- Enable children to have an understanding of people of variety of faiths.

Developing the Whole Child

The school is committed to all aspects of a child's development, supporting them to become responsible and moral members of the community, to make healthy lifestyle choices and to become creative and inquisitive life-long learners. Through education inside and outside the classroom, the school will raise awareness of core British values and prepare children for life in modern Britain.

The school will enable children to:

- Develop as creative and inquisitive independent learners
- Understand right and wrong and achieve exemplary standards of behaviour
- Make healthy lifestyle choices
- Have opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth.

Community Spirit

The school is at the heart of our community, serving those that need us and instilling values of service and community in our children.

The school strives to:

- Have strong links with the Parish Church and wider community
- Encourage children, staff, parents and carers, Church and local community to work together as a team
- Develop social responsibility through serving others in the local community
- Build a strong partnership with parents to support the education of their children and the life of the school
- Provide support for families through local services, social events, adult education courses and parenting advice.

Inclusivity

St John's is committed to high expectations for all and embracing equality. The Christian ethos of loving your neighbour, respecting each other, and valuing diversity is integral to our school life. St John's School welcomes pupils and parents/carers of all faiths and no faith. Our school is based in the parish of St John's Watford, which serves the local community by welcoming all people to join in many activities run by the church. For example, Messy Church each month attracts approximately 120 adults and children.



Children in our school have the opportunity find out about each other's faith and what it means to live as member of that faith community. There are opportunities for children of other faiths to share and celebrate their festivals in the school.

Values Based Learning

The school has a carefully planned and in depth focus on values which has a positive impact on behaviour, well-being, relationships and attitudes to learning. The core Christian values underpin the ethos, relationships, the curriculum and all learning experiences in the school.

Collective Worship

There is a daily act of collective worship in school or church. Whole school collective worship is fully inclusive and there is no assumption that all pupils are expected to follow Christian beliefs. If pupils are withdrawn from collective worship, the school ensures that alternative provision is meaningful and relevant.