Welcome to St. Paul's Catholic Primary School

Welcome

Dear parents,

I am delighted to welcome you to St. Paul's Catholic Primary School. I personally have had a long relationship with the school; firstly, as a parent of four children who attended the school, then as a teacher and now, as the Headteacher.

I can tell you from all of these perspectives that St. Paul's is a thriving, caring community that is focused on ensuring every child flourishes.

- Our dedicated and skilled teachers love being teachers – and it shows.
- The strength of our parent community – friendly, supportive, and very active.
- And, I can't say enough about the children at St. Paul's – they are truly outstanding and gorgeous with big hearts and boundless enthusiasm.

At St. Paul's, we embrace the Gospel values and Catholic virtues, including friendship, responsibility, forgiveness and empathy. Uniquely, we serve a wide area that includes Claygate, Cobham, Esher, Thames Ditton, Molesey, Walton on Thames and the surrounding areas. Our school is inclusive, and we welcome families of all faiths and beliefs.

We support our students to be excellent learners and exceed academically, while also nurturing them to grow spiritually, emotionally and physically. Knowing every child is unique with special gifts, we offer an exciting and enriched school experience with sporting, creative, and academic opportunities.

Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference for the children…

- like reaching Year 5 and learning who your Reception partner is going to be; or
- having numerous opportunities to represent the school through sport, singing, drama; or
- knowing the staff are there to guide you and discover your unique gifts.

St. Paul's is a family and, as with all loving families, our children are our priority, our purpose, and our joy. I am thrilled to be leading St. Paul's and invite you to visit so we can show you around and answer any questions you may have.

Mrs. Hayley Townsend
Head Teacher

We journey together: loving learning; daring to discover; caring for all; with Jesus as our guide.

Catholic Schools Inspection

St Paul's celebrates Outstanding Catholic Schools Inspection.

We are delighted that our school was judged Outstanding following its Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection in the Autumn term 2025.

The school achieved Outstanding in all three main areas: Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Inspectors recognised the warmth and care at the heart of our community, stating: **"Pupils feel loved and cared for within the school."** The report also captured **"a real sense of joy here"**, reflecting the strong relationships between pupils, staff, families and our parish.

The inspection praised pupils' exemplary behaviour, kindness and respect, alongside the dedication of staff who work tirelessly to give children the very best experience.

Religious education was recognised as consistently strong, with inspectors noting that **"pupils' books demonstrate exceptional outcomes."**

If you would like to view the full inspection this is available on our website.

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Day to Day

Timings

Our school day runs between 8.45am - 3.30pm

The school gates are opened at 8.45am and closed at 9.00am, allowing a 15 minute window to come into school. The children go straight to their classrooms, to get ready for their lessons.

The school day is split into various lessons across each year group. All year groups have two 15 minute breaks across the day with a 1 hour lunch break.

Reception follow early years curriculum with continuous provision across the day.

All classes from year 1 - 6 have a structured timetable of lessons, varying in length, depending on the subject being taught.

Daily Assemblies

Whole School Gospel – Monday
KS assemblies – Tuesday
Hymn Practice – Wednesday
Celebration – Thursday
Class - Friday

All children follow the RWI phonics scheme. Children follow their unique reading journey. Each morning phonics is taught for 30 minutes across the lower years in small groups.

Curriculum at St Paul's

At St Paul's, we have designed a curriculum to meet the needs of our school and the community we serve. Our focus on 'educating the whole child' sits at the heart of our decision making.

Our mission statement was also a key inspiration when creating our curriculum
We journey together: loving learning; daring to discover; caring for all; with Jesus as our guide.

We journey together – the staff, governors and parents are responsible for creating a valuable learning experience and an enriched curriculum for our children.

Loving learning – our pupils gain a joy of learning through a broad, balanced and inspiring curriculum that is driven by pupils' needs and interests.

Daring to discover – we enable children to learn by connecting them to their local, national and global world and by creating a curriculum that opens doors to new experiences and opportunities.

Caring for all – we have built a curriculum that supports every pupil to excel, regardless of the challenges they may face.

With Jesus as our guide – holding the Catholic faith true to our hearts, we use the Gospel values to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and the example he set.

94% meeting phonics check at the end of year 1 (2026)

Ofsted quote:
"Ambitious curriculum."

Reception

Within the Foundation Stage at St. Paul's, every child is given the opportunity to develop key learning skills and attitudes. We aim to produce confident, happy and successful children who will become independent learners. We foster this approach by offering a broad and balanced curriculum, where all areas of learning are recognised to be of equal importance.

The Reception teaching staff have together, many years of teaching in the Foundation Stage, which is a testament to how much they enjoy working with young children.

The two Reception classes are: St. Matthew and St. Bernadette.

Our Reception team support the children to develop their social, emotional, and physical needs as well as to promote a positive attitude to learning. Children are supported and encouraged to think for themselves, to become reflective learners. The children engage in independent learning both in the indoor and outdoor classrooms selecting their own resources, making responsible choices and are encouraged to solve problems for themselves.

87% meeting GLD assessments at the end of the year.
(national average: 67%)

Ofsted quote:
"Children in the early years are making a strong start."

Wellbeing

At St. Paul's, we believe that supporting your child's happiness and wellbeing is central to our roles as teachers; now more than ever. We have initiatives that we hope will alleviate the emotional impact that some children may experience, and to ensure that our pupils feel as safe, happy and motivated within the learning environment as possible this includes the PASS survey.

We have a 'Wellbeing Weekly Check-in' initiative across the school. On Fridays, each class participates in a session focusing on their mental health and wellbeing. This is conducted through worksheets for years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and verbally using a poster prompt in Reception and year 1. We offer this as an opportunity for each child to develop the skill of recognising and understanding their own emotions, and importantly, to allow their teachers to support them. We believe that, having conversations and validating emotions, will be intrinsic to instilling mental and emotional wellbeing at St. Paul's.

Creative Arts

At St. Paul's pupils get many opportunities to express their creative side, from 'Show Choir and Drama' performance, singing in the local community, writing and composing their own music, recording and publishing it.

We host an annual art exhibition where all parents are invited to view the amazing artistic talents of the children. We are currently "Claygate Flower Show" winners.

Sports at St Paul's

At St. Paul's, we look to ensure every child is involved in staying active, keeping fit and being inspired through sport. Two hours of the curriculum are allocated to P.E. each week for all pupils, offering football, cricket, rugby, hockey, running, golf, gymnastics, netball and tennis.

Our school is part of the Esher District Primary School Sports Association (EDPSSA). Throughout the year, events are organised by our P.E. co-ordinators to enable pupils to take part in inter-school matches and competitions. The children compete in:

- Cross Country
- Netball
- Football
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Rugby
- Cricket

In addition, all children have the opportunity to take part in competitive sport during the Infants' and Juniors' Sports Days in the Summer Term. With their peers and parents cheering them on, the children have a wonderful time competing in various events and races.

School Trips

The children participate in three school trips each academic year to extend their education beyond the classroom. We believe that knowledge is enriched when children can experience their learning using a 'hands-on' approach.
During the trips, children make essential connections with the natural world in a stimulating and safe environment, developing a sense of place and wonder for the world around them. They increase their understanding of others' religious beliefs to nurture a mutual respect and dynamic world perspective.

Examples of School Trips:

Reception
Chertsey Museum
Bocketts Farm – with Year 5 partner

Year 1
Polka Theatre
Painshill Park
National Gallery Museum

Year 2
Goldstone Farm
Great Fire of London Walking Tour

Year 3
Butser Farm
Wisley Gardens

Year 4
Residential Trip – Sayers Croft

Year 5
Residential Trip – High Ashurst
Hampton Court
Bocketts Farm – with Reception partner

Year 6
Henley Fort
Residential Trip – Osmington Bay

The Premises at St. Paul's

Established in 1963, St. Paul's is a purpose-built, 2-form entry primary school situated in a private and secure area off Hampton Court Way in Thames Ditton. We are fortunate to have premises that provide ample space for our children to explore, learn, play and perform.

Play areas

St. Paul's has a Junior playground, Infant playground, and a dedicated outdoor learning area for Reception. All children also have access to the grass school field. We have a wooden obstacle/balance trim trail, new climbing frames, mud kitchens, trampolines, modern outdoor gym equipment and 2 traversing walls. We have a new surface in our reception playground. Our main assembly hall is used for collective worship, indoor P.E. sports training, and school discos.

Libraries

We are proud of our well-stocked libraries, encouraging reading and discovery. Our main Junior Library has books available to borrow, and is open daily for all children. We also have an Infant Library, which has been newly refurbishment, for KS1 to borrow books to enjoy.

Classrooms

Each classroom is a happy, colourful and peaceful environment in which to learn, with an interactive whiteboard, chrome books and iPads. In addition, we benefit from extra rooms, including a studio, art room, DT room, flourish and wellbeing room.

School Lunches

Our in-school catering is provided by Innovate.

At Innovate, we believe that great food fuels great learning. Our menu has been specially designed for primary school children—offering tasty, nutritious meals that support healthy growth, curious minds, and happy lunchtimes.

Innovate by name and nature. Food choice, flexibility, quality and speed are at the heart of what we do. Inspired by the best and most fashionable high street concepts, we pride ourselves on fusing fantastic quality food with the industry's leading quick-service style food markets and cafés.

Only the highest quality produce
Everything has to start with fantastic quality and responsible food. Across our wide, diverse and ever-changing menus, we ensure that every single morsel is safe, sustainable and tastes great. We only source from farmers, wholesalers and catering butchers that are audited to UKAS-accredited standards and meet the highest possible assurance levels.

Children in KS1 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Therefore there is no charge for the meals. You are able to choose your child's main meal and dessert on the online based system from home.

Wrap-Around Care

We are delighted to have both a Breakfast Club and After-School Club on site at St. Paul's, where children can relax and play with children from all years in a safe, secure and happy environment. It is managed and run by staff within the St. Paul's community, and all children at St. Paul's can have the opportunity to attend.

Breakfast Club - £8

Opening at 7:45am, our Breakfast Club is a great way for the children to start their day. Whether they spend their time at the art table, reading a book in our cosy corner, or playing outside with their friends, the children will all benefit from a healthy breakfast and a chance to get ready for their school day.

After School Club - £15

Running from 3:30pm to 6:00pm, our After-School Club is always a hive of activity. Fully staffed by members of our teaching team and former St. Paul's pupils, children can choose from art and crafts, imaginary play, and a wide variety of games and toys. The children have use of the outdoor space – and outside lighting means this is available all year round. A healthy snack is given to them at the beginning of the session.

Clubs and activities

St. Paul's offers a wide range of extra curricular clubs and activities, available both during and after school. These clubs are led by members of staff as well as external providers, and a fee may apply. Clubs offered throughout the year include:

- Tennis
- Cricket
- Spanish
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Gymnastics
- Choir
- Chess
- Football Boys / Girls
- Art
- Drama
- Playball
- Netball
- Athletics
- Cooking

Music Provision

We offer a variety of private music lessons for the children.

- Drumming
- Singing
- Guitar
- Piano

Secondary Schools

St. Paul's children leave Year 6 confidently prepared for the transition to secondary school. We are fortunate to have many excellent secondary schools available for our students, including:

State options

- **Salesian in Chertsey (feeder)**
- **Ursuline High School - Wimbledon**
- **Holy Cross Girls School – New Malden**
- **Tiffin Girls and Boys - Kingston**
- **Richard Challoner**
- **Esher High School (feeder)**
- **Hinchley Wood**
- **St Andrews – Leatherhead**
- **Oratory – London**

Private options

- **Reeds**
- **Kingston Grammar School**
- **Kings**
- **St Johns**
- **Hamptons**
- **St. Georges**
- **Notre Dame**
- **Surbiton High**
- **ACS**

Before they leave us, we ask our Year 6 students what they have accomplished while at St. Paul's. The extraordinary academic achievements are apparent through their school work and exams. In addition, the maturity that develops in these young children is incredible. Here are some of the consistent responses we see from our Year 6 students:

- "I have learnt how to show love and compassion to others."
- "I have learnt to know my challenges and work them out."
- "I have made friends for life."
- "I have learnt how to be kind, thoughtful and how to show a good example to younger children."

Admissions at St Paul's

While St. Paul's is a Catholic school, admission is open to children of any belief, and we welcome all local families to apply from all areas. We are located in the parish of Weybridge.
Our local Churches are:

- Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton
- Church of the Holy Name, Claygate and Esher
- Sacred Heart Church, Cobham and Oxshott
- St Barnabas, Molesey

St. Paul's is a Voluntary Aided school in the Surrey County Council school system, and as such, all information related to the admissions process is available from Surrey County Council.

To apply for a place at St. Paul's, you need to complete and return the following two forms:

- The Common Application Form (CAF)
- The school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

The governing body of St. Paul's is responsible for determining the admission arrangements of the school, including the priority of admissions to the school when the school is oversubscribed. The priority guidelines are available on the school's website.