United, we will provide an outstanding learning environment for the children in our care. Our aim is to help nurture these children through a creative and intellectually rigorous curriculum to enable them to grow into independent and motivated learners. We will ensure that all children, of every ability level, will be supported and challenged to attain their potential. The skills and talents of each child will be celebrated and nourished; they will leave us confident and fully prepared to succeed in their secondary education. No child will be left behind. We will strive to be excellent teachers and team members who are reflective and honest in constantly seeking to learn and improve our performance so that St Joseph’s is outstanding.

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No-one came into teaching to get rich. We come to work in a job where what you do matters – we came to make a difference, a positive difference. And we can make the biggest difference in an area where the children need us the most.

Taking into account crime, housing, income, unemployment and health, Southwark is one of the most deprived boroughs in the country. Without looking to generalise or patronise, a higher proportion of our children come from households facing severe challenges than one would expect nationally. For some the first time they will be taught how to open a book is in our nursery. Some live in a flat in which the only book will be the one that they bring home from school.

The difficulties of dealing with these challenges are surely balanced by the knowledge that our efforts are worthwhile. Nevertheless, those challenges are very real. Some of our children do not receive the parental support or have the role models they need. Consequently, we have to ensure that these children do not get left behind – not one of them.

If a child leaves Year 6 without a fundamental understanding of how to learn or indeed without a sufficient level of literacy or maths, the reality is that they face an enormous challenge to access the secondary curriculum. Some will inevitably become disillusioned and eventually decide that school is simply not for them. It is why we, as St Joseph’s teachers, strive continuously to ensure our children make progress - whether it is working in a smaller group, in a support group or receiving additional individual or small group work in the afternoon sessions. These daily positive interventions add up cumulatively to a child making progress and understanding.

Challenging all our children to reach their potential in all subjects is fundamental to what we are, indeed *who* we are as a school. No one gets written off. We can be justifiably proud of the fact that our children make outstanding progress.

When we see a statistic such as 100% of pupils reaching Level 4 or above, or whatever percentage reaching Levels 5 or 6, we know that that bare statistic is made up of 25 or so individuals with different skills, talents, laughs. Children who have been with us for up to eight years. And we can be satisfied in the knowledge that we did our best to ensure that they did *their* best – every one of them.