

St. Ambrose Preparatory School



Inspirational education for boys and girls aged 3 to 11



Welcome

A warm welcome to our inspirational Catholic school which provides an enriched education for boys and girls aged 3 to 11.

With faith at its heart, St. Ambrose Preparatory School creates a nurturing environment where the unique talents of every child are celebrated.

Our team of vocational teachers are committed to inspiring a life-long love of learning through a rich and diverse curriculum which enables our children to thrive academically and socially.

With extensive facilities, endless extra-curricular opportunities, small classes, inspirational teaching, first-class results, and guided by a Catholic ethos, we offer a happy, secure, caring community for your child.

Pope Francis says "An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of our Catholic Schools." We believe in educating the whole child, where pastoral care is a priority, where we listen and work closely in partnership with parents, where diversity is celebrated and every person is respected having been created in God's image.

While this information provides a snapshot of our school, we would encourage you to visit St. Ambrose Preparatory School to experience first-hand the warmth, care and happiness of our wonderful world.



Our Aims

- To ensure every child feels happy, secure and valued as part of our community
- To celebrate the unique talents of each child and foster a life-long love of independent learning
- To respect our children as individuals and provide inspirational teaching in a nurturing environment to enable them to reach their potential and thrive academically, morally, spiritually and socially
- To work together in a partnership of trust and openness with children, parents and staff
- To have faith at the heart of all our actions and develop a firm foundation for each child's future



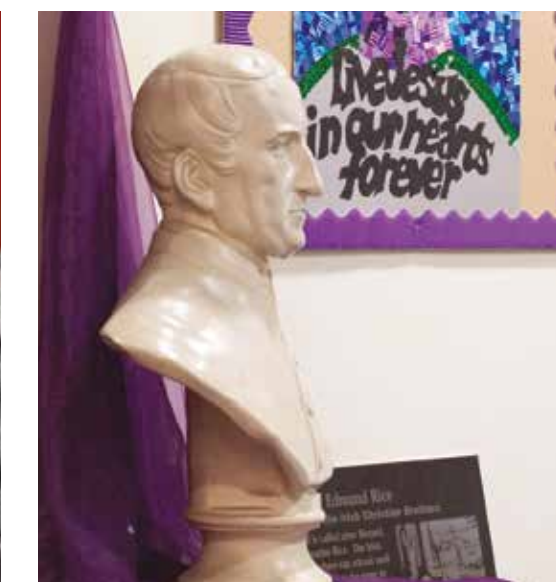
Our Spiritual Heart

Faith is at the heart of all we do. Our happy school community is based on kindness and respect and Christian values are demonstrated in all our words and actions.

We welcome children from all faiths and none and teach the importance of understanding and respect for the beliefs of others through our religious education programme.

As a Catholic school our children are actively involved in liturgical life and we have strong links with the local Parish and Diocese of Shrewsbury. Mass is celebrated regularly, daily prayers are offered, and each year we prepare our children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Shaped in the vision and charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, who was committed to educating the hearts and minds of the young, and part of the Edmund Rice Network of schools, we believe care for each other is Christ-inspired based on love and compassion.



Early Years

Girls and boys from age three can enjoy our happy, vibrant Nursery and Reception classes within a dedicated department featuring fantastic facilities and caring teachers which inspires an early appetite for learning.

Our children's introduction to school life is in a warm, exciting setting with experienced teachers who nurture and celebrate every child and where manners, kindness and good behaviour are encouraged and rewarded.

Enriched with specialist teaching in music, computing and sport, the small class sizes in both Nursery and Reception enables one-to-one learning through small, teacher-led groups.

Linked to topics, the areas are changed daily with an emphasis on creating a stimulating and secure environment to inspire the children.

Exciting facilities enhance gross motor skills and hand eye co-ordination and create a happy world where the children develop friendships through play – from enjoying the bespoke child-size outdoor café, to climbing frames and bicycle tracks, a mud kitchen, sandpit, sports equipment and endless resources for creativity and imagination.

Through a combination of play and a more formal approach introducing writing, reading and numeracy, the children's progress is accelerated and by the end of Year 1, when formal testing is introduced, results are consistently beyond age related expectations.

Parent involvement is actively encouraged at St. Ambrose Preparatory School. We firmly believe our 'open door' policy develops a strong partnership between families and staff enabling open conversations at any time. Regular information sessions and parent meetings alongside frequent updates also enhances the home/school relationship and supports the children throughout their school life.



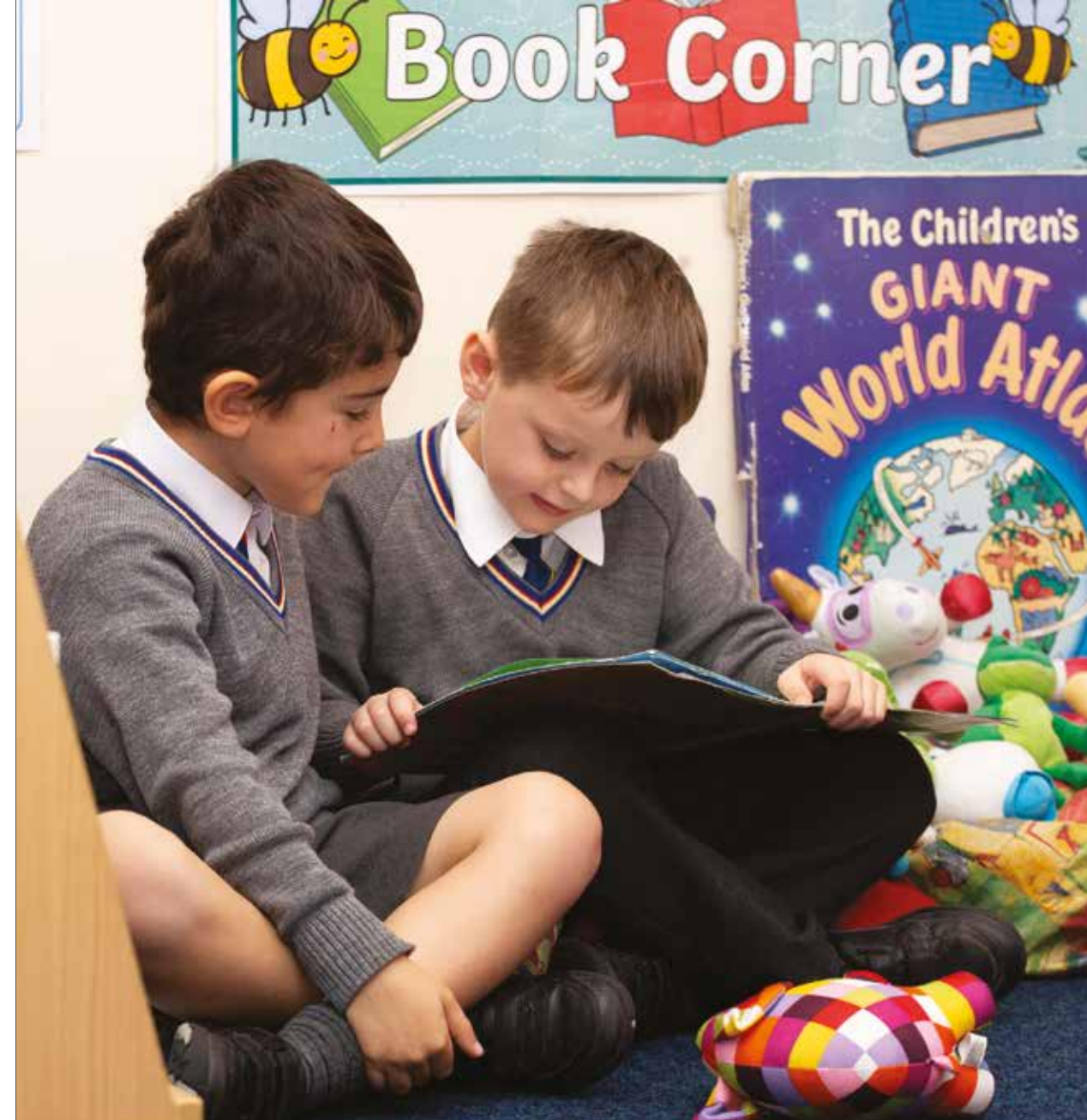
Infant Department

From outdoor science experiments to understanding electricity, appreciating world history, exploring geography, deepening religious education, undertaking mixed medium art projects, making music, using IT software and embracing computer coding, learning French with MFL specialists, performing concerts and drama, competing in sports ... the children of Infant 1 and Infant 2 enjoy a wide, stimulating curriculum to engage and inspire their learning.

As our pupils gain greater independence, a vast choice of opportunities with music, PE and computing experts, plus myriad of lunchtime clubs – from gardening to cooking, dancing, construction, sport and board games - add to the fun!

We encourage a thirst for knowledge by exciting the children about every subject through innovative teaching. Our English curriculum develops writing skills and instils a love of reading through exposure to a myriad of books, dramas, poems, plays, Podcasts and Blogs. Based on an internationally successful approach to maths teaching in Singapore which covers national curriculum topics, the children develop a confidence and mastery of maths which is consistency reflected in the end of year results.

Regular homework is introduced in the Infant Department and progress is carefully tested and monitored as the children progress towards formal testing at the end of each term. Working in partnership with parents, our teachers are committed to providing continued encouragement, motivation and support to enable each child to develop their skills and be the best they can be.



Junior Department

Throughout the Junior Department we inspire the children to become creative, critical thinkers and maximise their potential before stepping confidently onto secondary school.

While emphasis is given to all areas of English and maths, the broad, balanced curriculum includes science, history, geography, art and design, plus specialist teaching in computing, French, music and PE.

The school's state-of-the-art computer suite enables pupils to develop confidence using a range of software – from word-processing to creating animated presentations, desk-top publishing and spreadsheets - which furnishes them with skills for life. The children are also taught to write code and use the internet responsibly to source information.

All classes have lessons with a specialist MFL teacher as we believe learning another language – especially from an early age – is beneficial for all children and provides a firm foundation when moving to secondary education.

Our qualified PE coaches inspire the children across a vast range of sports including swimming, water polo, gymnastics, netball, cross country, rounders, hockey, rugby, golf and athletics with all children invited to participate in the school's enviable reputation for sporting success.

Opportunities in the arts are also encouraged and celebrated with pupils enjoying performing with the school choir, orchestra, ensembles and in drama productions.

Throughout the Junior Department children are encouraged to become independent learners, strive for the highest levels, adopt responsibility, support the younger children and embody the school's values in their work and play. Alongside regular homework and a raft of lunchtime and extra-curricular activities from sports to the arts, school life is further enhanced by inspirational trips to museums, activity centres such as Robinwood, art galleries, the Lake District and Chester Zoo.

While the 11+ entrance exams take priority at the beginning of Prep 4, the gradual, structured preparation throughout the school enables the children feel confident to succeed and it is with heartfelt pride we watch our wonderful pupils move onto new schools.



Beyond the Classroom

Our children thrive academically and socially through well-rounded, inspirational education which celebrates and nurtures the potential in every child.

A wealth of extra-curricular activities enables each child to discover hidden talents and passions that prepare them for life beyond the classroom..

Arts

Music:

From percussion to steel bands, and choir to orchestra, the energy and enthusiasm with which music is embraced at St. Ambrose Prep cannot be underestimated.

From Infant 1 all children play an instrument throughout their school life and singing is embedded in our curriculum. We believe musical performances develop confidence, that practice nurtures self-discipline, and most importantly, music brings joy.

Specialist teachers deliver more than 70 lessons a week inspiring children in percussion, saxophone, clarinet, flute, violin, cello, trumpet, piano and guitar. Soloists are given opportunities to shine and friendships develop across all age groups through our wonderful school choir, orchestra, steel pan ensemble and recorder group.

Drama:

From dressing up in Early Years, speaking in assemblies, performing the Nativity, to end of year productions, we believe performing can unearth untapped talent and develop life skills such as teamwork, communication, confidence and bravery.

LAMDA courses are offered through specialist teachers and every child is encouraged to participate in productions whether showcasing their talent as a solo performer, or being part of the ensemble, writing scripts, creating scenery and costumes or directing.

Art:

We believe in letting imagination run riot! Working with different media – from clay to charcoal and paint to papier-mâché – the classroom walls and hallways are galleries of creativity. Making art fun, appreciating different artists, exploring galleries, and welcoming visiting artists enables the children to take risks in their creativity and fuels their imaginations.



Sports

Swimming, water polo, archery, netball, gymnastics, athletics, hockey, football, tennis, rounders, rugby, golf, cricket, cross country running...these are just a selection of opportunities available for the children to discover and develop their sporting passions.

Our facilities are second-to-none with extensive grounds, swimming and water polo in a full size pool, AstroTurf and 4G pitches, a fully equipped hall, endless climbing equipment and Ringway Golf Club across the road.

PE is taught throughout the school and we have an enviable reputation for sporting success at local, regional and national level. Specialist coaches encourage and motivate the children to maximise their talents and additional non-selective sports clubs are also run at lunchtime and after school.

We believe in the benefits of working together as a team: that those who encourage others and are calm under pressure are as valuable as those who score goals.



Preparation for Life

We balance academic rigour with cultivating a life-long love of learning and believe the firm foundation provided by St. Ambrose Preparatory School prepares our children for life.

From Early Years through to their final term, children are progressively prepared for the local 11+ examinations through a structured programme to avoid needless pressure. We appreciate the demands in the area to secure places at the selective schools in the state and independent sectors and understand how to achieve success. Through regular testing and reviews, monitoring progress, working in partnership with parents, establishing individual plans and targets, plus dedicated exam preparation with the Headteacher, children are able to reach their potential.

In the past five years XX% of children have secured a place in the selective state grammar or independent school of their choice, St. Ambrose Preparatory School is committed to inspiring every child to thrive academically morally, spiritually and socially as they embark on the next chapter.







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