



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

OUR MISSION

At Sacred Heart School we strive to:

Know and love our God.

Grow in knowledge, skills and understanding.

Learn what is right and wrong

Be kind, helpful and thoughtful,

And try to live as Jesus teaches us.



School Prospectus 2023-2024

'Excellence through Faith and Learning'

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

On behalf of the children, staff and governors, I would like to offer you a warm welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. I hope that you will find the prospectus helpful and informative and that it gives you an insight into the vibrant life at our school.

Sacred Heart is a friendly and happy school where every child is valued and encouraged to develop to their full potential. It is a place where staff, children, parents, governors and parish work together to provide a safe and caring environment. As a Christian community in the Catholic tradition, the Gospel values of love, friendship, inclusivity, respect and forgiveness are key to the nurture that each child receives. Our school motto, 'Excellence through Faith and Learning', reflects this and the children are encouraged to develop in their faith whilst engaging in a rich and varied curriculum focused on offering all children the skills, enthusiasm and resilience that they will need in order to embrace future opportunities and the experiences of later life.

Visitors to our school are always welcome. If you require any further information or you would like your child to join our school, please ring the office and make an appointment to come and see the school in action. I look forward to meeting you,

Mrs Sue Allen



Head Teacher



OUR AIMS

Within our catholic community of Sacred Heart we aim to encourage everyone to :

- Live by Gospel Values.
- Respond to a broad, balanced curriculum that is relevant to the children's age, ability, experience, and differentiated to meet their needs in line with statutory requirements.
- Work towards and maintain the highest standards.
- Celebrate success and achievement.
- Develop a positive image of themselves with a sense of self-discipline and a respect for others.
- Inspire and awaken a sense of awe, wonder and curiosity.
- Be responsible members of the wider community.



SCHOOL HISTORY



Sacred Heart School is situated in its own extensive grounds off Old London Road, just above the picturesque Old Town of Hastings and is the official primary school of St. Mary Star-of-the-Sea Church, Hastings.

The school buildings and grounds occupy what was once the extensive gardens to Hastings Lodge, which was built in 1827. The house was owned by Fred North, MP for Hastings, and then his daughter, Miss Marianne North, a famous botanical artist and Victorian explorer whose life work, bequeathed to the nation, is displayed in The North Gallery, Kew Gardens, in London.

Later, Hastings Lodge became a convent and school, enlarged by the sisters (Order of Our Lady of the Missions), who provided a private secondary school education for girls.

In 1963 the school changed to provide a Catholic education to families in the local parish.

Many former teachers and pupils now have their own children and grandchildren attending the school and strong links continue to be fostered within the Parish and local community.

The convent closed in the 1980's and the building was refurbished as private accommodation, but the school continues to be developed and the grounds are also constantly being improved.

A 1.4 million building programme providing a new Hall, Music/ Drama room and Library was completed in 2010.



**Sacred Heart School is part of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Arundel + Brighton.**



ADMISSIONS POLICY

This is available, along with the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) on the school website: www.sacredheartastings.co.uk or via the school office.

RE- ADMISSIONS

Parents of children applying to return to Sacred Heart School must do so formally and the Governors will consider each case according to our Admission Policy.



OUR SCHOOL DAY

The school day starts at 8:50am

Infants 08:50 - 15:10

Juniors 08:50 - 15:15

Parking

There is limited parking on Old London Road. Please do not park on the yellow zigzags and double yellow lines outside of school.

We are fortunate that we have a crossing patrol who will help you and your children to cross the road safely outside the school

Morning Playtime

10:30am to 10:50am.

Lunch

Children have their lunchtime break at 12:00pm. Lunchtimes end for KS1 and KS2 at 1pm.



All EYFS and KS1 children have free fruit through the Government Fruit Scheme.

All children under the age of 5 are entitled to free milk. To register, please go online at www.coolmilk.co.uk

We encourage all children to drink water regularly.

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Dinner Money

All EYFS & Key Stage 1 (Infants) are entitled to a free dinner on a daily basis during term time. For Key Stage 2 children, the cost of a school dinner is £2.60 and includes a cup of milk and/or water. All meals must be paid for in advance or on the day, via Parent Pay.

Packed Lunch

Children may bring a packed lunch daily and a drink in a carton or plastic flask. No glass bottles or cans please.



OUR CURRICULUM

Early Years / Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children in Reception class are taught the curriculum specified in the Early Years Framework which consists of 17 Early Learning Goals and covers 7 areas of Learning and Development.

There are 3 **PRIME AREAS** of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

There are 4 **SPECIFIC AREAS** of Learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

From Year 1 onwards, all children follow the National Curriculum.

Many of the basic skills and National Curriculum requirements are taught through a structured creative curriculum, which aim to make relevant links between subjects and themes through a 'topic based' approach. We use the Maths Mastery approach and are fortunate to have an accredited Maths Mastery lead within our staff.

As a Catholic School, Religious Education is very important to us and we follow the "Come and See" programme. Life Skills, which incorporates PSHE and RSE is taught in all classes and is linked to RE.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a Catholic School, the teaching of Religious Education is central to the curriculum. We follow the Diocesan recommended scheme of work which is called “Come and See” in years 1 - 6. In September 2022, the EYFS class started to use the new Arundel and Brighton Diocesan scheme.

Topics are based around the liturgical year and church themes such as thanksgiving, forgiveness, belonging/ service to others. We encourage children to develop knowledge and understanding of God through studying the Bible and by participating in the Sacraments, prayer and life of the school/ parish community.

Children learn about what it means to live as a Christian in the tradition of the Catholic Church, beginning with their own experience (at home and in the parish) and leading on to exploring the wider world. Children will also learn about Judaism and Islam as part of their RE Programme of Study.

Each class votes 2 children to be part of our Prayer Council and these children meet regularly as a group.

An act of collective worship is celebrated in school each day in addition to liturgies for Christingle, celebrating Mary and also the class saint days.

Strong links exist between the school and the Parish of St. Mary Star-of-the-Sea.

Father Eamonn Monson SAC, our Parish Priest, is our school Chaplain.



MATHEMATICS

It is our belief that all children can succeed in Mathematics. Within every child is the ability to spot patterns, to work with numbers and to explain their thinking. As a school, we focus on fluency, problem solving and reasoning to develop confident mathematicians. We are a Maths Mastery beacon school and work closely with the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCETM) to ensure that our curriculum is robust, coherent and enjoyable for our children. We endeavour to produce maths students who appreciate the beauty of the subject, love a challenge and are curious about numbers!

ENGLISH

We provide a stimulating and language rich environment from EYFS to Year 6. We use the Twinkl Phonics scheme from EYFS to ensure that all children develop secure early reading skills. This programme extends to Year 3. Reading has a high priority and all classes have well resourced book corners. We also have a newly refurbished library that the children love to use. There are many opportunities for children to develop their spoken English on a daily basis and as part of liturgy and class performances. All year groups follow the Literacy Tree programme and use high quality texts to support both reading and writing skills.

SCIENCE

We use a topic based approach to Science closely related to other areas of the curriculum. We teach some Science as a separate subject where appropriate. As far as possible the work is of a practical nature and based on first hand experiences. It is carefully planned to enable the children to acquire scientific knowledge and develop their skills of observation, enquiry, measurement, testing, recording and predicting as well as encouraging awareness of their environment. We are fortunate to have extensive grounds that the children can use.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education programme taught at Sacred Heart enables the children to develop skills in a range of activities. We have a well equipped hall for gymnastics, dance and indoor games. We use the hard surface playgrounds for sports activities such as football, rugby and netball. Our large sports field is used for athletics, cricket, rounders, football and cross-country. There is also a running track, outdoor gym equipment and a good selection of after school sports and games clubs, which add enrichment to the curriculum.

In Year 5 the children are taught to swim at Freedom Leisure Centre for one session each week throughout the spring term. We hold annual Infant and Junior Sports Days. Children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to belong to teams that participate in rugby, cricket, football and netball tournaments and matches against other schools.

We have good links with local secondary schools, especially St Richards Catholic College. We attend 'Time to Dance' festivals and take part in local initiatives such as 'Chance to Shine'.

In Year 5, children attend a residential trip to Carrot Wood, where they take part in different activities such as canoeing, archery, climbing, BMXing, raft building etc.



We are delighted to be holders of an
Healthy Schools Excellence Award.
September 2022– September 2025

This award recognises the emphasis
that our school has towards promoting
a healthy lifestyle for all children
physically, mentally and emotionally.

COMPUTING

Children have access to a variety of IT equipment. This includes PCs, laptops, iPads and data loggers. We have interactive 'Clever Touch' boards in each class. Our teaching programme includes word processing, data handling, research and control technology skills. Online safety is given a high priority and there is an online safety week each year in addition to the work that the children undertake on this important area of learning that happens throughout the year. We are constantly updating our equipment (hardware and software), so that the children have every opportunity to develop their skills.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Children are given the opportunity to plan, design and make models using a variety of materials and a selection of tools and equipment. Safety and correct use of tools are emphasised at all times.

GEOGRAPHY and HISTORY

The area in which we live has a rich heritage of culture. Our approach in school to History and Geography reflects this. The children are taught to develop a knowledge and awareness of local, national and global issues, past and present. Wherever possible, we make use of our local environment and the surrounding area. Forest School and Beach School are important parts of our outdoor curriculum.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French is taught at Key Stage 2 (from Year 3 upwards by a specialist teacher).



ART

Art is both a form of communication and a means of expressing feelings. Creative activity is fundamental to the growth of the child. We provide a rich environment so that the children can explore and experiment with as many materials as possible. The teachers are aware that it is important to allow children to create and express themselves through art and to study the works of famous artists, while teaching them to acquire the techniques and skills needed to produce interesting and creative work of which they can be proud.

Children are encouraged at all times to take pride in their work. Teachers respect this and display work to its best advantage throughout the school and we have achieved Arts-Mark Gold Award.

There is an annual art week celebrating the life & paintings of Marianne North a prolific English Victorian biologist and artist. The school is situated in what used to be her garden.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND PERFORMING ARTS

We aim to give the children a wide variety of musical experiences. We employ a specialist music teacher who works for 1 day each week, providing each class with a lesson that includes singing, percussion and performing skills.

Children are also offered instrumental tuition through the East Sussex Music Service. Peripatetic staff can give lessons in violin, keyboard, guitar, saxophone, cello or vocals from Year 2 upwards. All of the children in Years 4 and 5 learn to play the ukulele. We also have a very popular school choir.



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

Each child is an individual and some children require extra help and support if they have learning or social difficulties.

All our staff understand that high quality teaching is the most effective way to support children with SEND and therefore inclusion is our highest priority. Our Teaching Assistants work well with the class teachers to ensure the best possible provision for the children.

We believe working in partnership with parents, children and governors is the best way to support children with any additional needs.

As well as providing our own intervention programmes with pupils, we can access a range of external expertise and advice, including Key Workers, Educational Mental Health Practitioners, Speech and Language Therapists and many more.



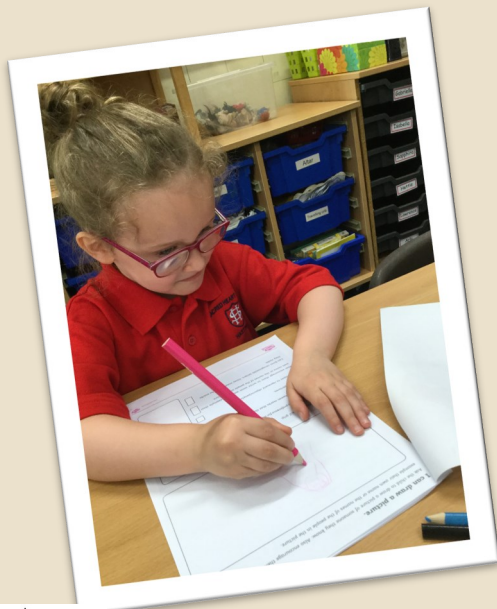
SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR

We recognise that, for personal growth, children need opportunities to exercise responsibility and develop self-reliance and self-control. In school, we have a clear framework for encouraging good behaviour and rules to ensure the health and safety of all our children.

We use a positive approach by praising good behaviour, encouraging good effort, achievement, care of others and the environment.

Parents are contacted if rules are consistently broken and we expect their cooperation with the school in dealing with the problem.

Our behaviour policy is available to download from the school website.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parents coming into school to help on a voluntary basis.

There are many different ways to help. If you are interested, please contact the School Office.

Please note that all volunteers must complete an online DBS application (police check) and provide 2 references.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Whilst always extending an open invitation to parents, we arrange two formal Parents' Evenings during each school year. The first of these takes place in the Autumn and has the purpose of establishing teacher/parent links and discussing possible problems and methods of approach. The second takes place in the Spring and is to give teachers and parents the opportunity to discuss their child's progress.

A school report is sent home towards the end of the summer term.

PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL (PTFA)

We have an enthusiastic and active PTFA. We are so grateful for all the time and energy they spend on the school.

Their calendar in any one year has such events as Firework Night, Summer Fair, Disco, Quizzes, etc.

The money raised from these events goes towards buying equipment for the school.



MORNING AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISIONS

We offer support to families both before and after school, by hosting our in-house Breakfast and After School clubs, run by Sacred Heart School staff. You **MUST** book via the School Gateway App.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club runs from 7.50 - 8.45am each morning in the Learning Lab and costs £3 a session. Children receive a selection of fresh fruit, cereal and toast.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

After School Club runs to 5pm in the Learning Lab and costs £4.00 per hour. A range of activities are on offer every day including games, art and puzzles.

We offer a range of extra curricular after school clubs:

- Netball
- Choir
- Dance
- Pass and Move
- SAMA Karate
- Zumba



SCHOOL UNIFORM

WINTER

Red polo t-shirt (Sacred Heart School logo – optional)

Navy sweatshirt with Sacred Heart School Logo

Navy, knee length tunic/skirt or grey, formal trousers.

Navy/white/grey/black plain socks or red/navy tights

Sensible Black shoes (No boots) – Toes & Heels covered.
Heel no higher than 1”/3cm

SUMMER

Red polo t-shirt (Sacred Heart School logo – optional)

Navy sweatshirt/cardigan with Sacred Heart School logo

Grey, formal trousers/shorts/culottes or Blue striped/
checked dress

White/grey/black plain socks

Sensible Black shoes (No boots or open-toed shoes)



P.E. KIT

Plain red T-shirt (Sacred Heart School logo – optional)

Navy jogging bottoms (Winter)

Navy shorts (Summer)

Trainers. Please note that Infants, (EYFS and KS1) should have Velcro fastening trainers until they can tie up their own laces.

Most items of clothing are available from local supermarkets. Sweatshirts with the school logo and other items of uniform are available from SuperStitch. 01424 852225 (www.superstitch86.co.uk).

We also have second-hand items which are priced at £2.00, which goes into the School Funds.

Please enquire at the school office.

Please contact us if you have any questions at:
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Voluntary Aided)
Old London Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN35 5NA

Tel: 01424 429494 / 01424 717725

Email: office@sacred-heart.e-sussex.sch.uk



Much more information, including the latest newsletter, can be found on our website:
<https://www.sacredheartastings.co.uk/>