

The Association For PE (AfPE) - Award with Distinction

Over the last 5 years, St. Joseph's have been awarded a number of accolades due to our continued commitment to health, fitness and sport. These achievements include 1 Silver and 4 Gold awards from Wirral School Games, and being nominated twice by the Merseyside Sport's Partnership for 'Primary school of the year for sport'.

However we have recently been awarded our most prestigious award to date. The Association For PE (AfPE) visited our school for an inspection and have awarded us the AfPE quality mark for sport with distinction. It was also noted in our feedback that there was no areas for improvement.

Feedback included that "Achievement in P.E. has steadily improved over the last 5 years" and as a result "P.E. Teaching is often outstanding."

They commented that "The curriculum and extra curriculum programmes are challenging, stimulating and engage all children which gives them the opportunity to achieve their best." meaning that "All children, whatever their age, gender and level of performance, are engaged, enjoy their physical activity and make outstanding progress with their knowledge, skills and understanding." The report also highlighted the leadership of the subject including that "the Head teacher and Governors have ensured that Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity are at the heart of the school and realise the massive impact it has had on whole school improvement." and that "PE subject leadership at St. Joseph's is outstanding and inspirational."

The report highlighted 5 strengths. The first was the style that PE is taught. All PE lessons in school have a fitness element, which always allows time for high intensity work in every lesson. This leads to a higher level of children who can exceed expectations when being assessed on skill. Children are constantly encouraged to work at an intensity where they feel tired but are able to continue. This structure allows children to develop their fitness at a pace that feels appropriate to them, without losing motivation. As a result of this, pupils make substantial and sustained attainment across the school making expected or exceeding progress using a variety of physical skills. Over the last 3 years, 95% of children in KS1 and KS2 made expected of higher progress in meeting national expectations.

The second area was that PE is offered for all ages. We have a firm belief that structured P.E. should start as early as possible, in order for children to obtain the wide variety of benefits associated with it. Foundation stage have structured PE lessons which directly link into the Early Learning Goals (ELG). This includes the 2 year olds, F1 and F2. Assessment links directly into Foundation Stage Assessment. Children leaving foundation stage have exceeded National Expectations for physical ELGs consistently since 2016.

Thirdly was our inclusion of active learning throughout the curriculum. Active learning is now a key part of daily learning at St. Joseph's with every maths lesson across school having an active element. Lower Key Stage 2 have had a focus in Literacy through Outdoor Learning and KS1 do Forest School Style Outdoor Learning.

Foundation Stage use active learning daily through continuous provision. All of these programmes and initiatives have shown evidence of improved levels of enjoyment in all subjects that have used active learning. It had also improved the daily physical activity time for children.

The fourth area was our commitment to extra-curricular activity and competition. We provide a wide range of stimulating extra-curricular sports opportunities for all our pupils. This includes innovative and alternative activities such as volleyball, karate, trampolining and dance. To ensure opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities are inclusive, all activities offered at the school are free of charge, with a significant amount of investment from the sports premium going towards providing these opportunities. This has led from an increase in participation rates of 13% in 2014 to 98% consistently in 2017, 2018 and 2019. In addition to intra-school clubs and events, 100% of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 represented the school at inter-school sport festivals. 100% of the children in Y3 and 6 have also represented the school at Level 2 competitions. We are an active participant in the Wirral School Games and over the last 3 years St. Joseph's have entered over 100 competitions and festivals, as well as hosting and running our own competitions for the Wallasey Faith Partnership. Whilst inclusion is at the heart of St. Joseph's competitive ethos they have also had success reaching finals in football and athletics and volleyball, representing Wirral for hockey at the Level 3 Merseyside Youth Games. Miss Corcoran, Wirral Sport Games Organiser states, "*The school, PE coordinator and pupils are outstanding advocates of the School Games programme and we are proud of all they have achieved so far*".

Our final, and perhaps biggest success has been our change of approach to swimming. Swimming data at St. Joseph's has been an issue for several years, with not enough children reaching the required standard. Due to how close we are to the River Mersey this was a real cause for concern. Since November 2018, we have made a significant investment in increasing pool time for Year 5 children, to increase the number of children achieving the National Curriculum swimming standards. Children now swim on a weekly basis for the whole academic year, with an emphasis on reinforcing ability weekly. Children reaching the required National Curriculum standard rocketed from 28% in 2018 to 78% in 2019, with 100% of children being able to swim 10m or more unaided. This project will be continued, leading to a long term legacy in swimming over the next few years.

We are delighted with the feedback from AfPE and will continue to push for improvements and success in PE. We are currently the only Primary School in Wirral to hold this quality mark and it wouldn't have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment from our children who take part every week.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



“Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be”

Headteacher Mrs K Vernon

School Office 20th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a lovely week in school once again; the children are all settled and working incredibly hard in their new classes. We are very proud of their attitudes and how smart they look in their school uniform.

Mass of Welcome for our Reception Children

We will be having a special Mass of Welcome for all our children in Reception to formally welcome them to the parish family of St Joseph's. This mass will take place on **Wednesday 2nd October at 9.30 in Church**. We would love all parents and families of our Reception children to join us if they are able, as well as any other parents who can join us on the day. I'm sure it will be a really memorable occasion for our children and their families.



AFPE Quality Mark

We are absolutely delighted to have received the AFPE Award with distinction in recognition of our outstanding provision for Sport. We are currently the only primary school on Wirral to have achieved

this award this year. A huge thank you to all our staff, but especially to Mr McGovern and Mrs Fielding for all they do to ensure our children have the best possible opportunities for PE. See overleaf for further details about this outstanding achievement.

INSET Day

A reminder that there will be a school INSET (Training) day on **Monday 4th November** and school will be closed to pupils on this day. You will previously have received details of this date when the term dates were sent out at the end of the year. All schools allocate 5 INSET days throughout the year to provide staff with training to ensure that provision for your children is enhanced and improved.

Holidays in term time

A reminder that in line with national and local guidance schools are unable to authorise holidays in term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any requests for holidays must be made in writing to the headteacher and fixed penalty fines are applied for any holidays that are not authorised. As these fines apply to each parent and each child they can be very costly. A copy of the school's Attendance Policy is available on the school website.

Special Educational Needs and Mental Health Conference

Flyers for this event which is run by the ADHD Foundation are available in the school reception if any parents or carers would like to attend. The conference takes place at the ACC Exhibition Centre in Liverpool on Saturday 5th October.

Dates for your diary

23rd October - Parents Evening

Family Masses in Church (Sunday mass 11.00)

6th October – Year 4

10th November - Year 6

1st December – Year 5

18th December – KS2 Carol Concert

Every blessing
Mrs Vernon

Golden Assembly 20th September 2019

Mrs Walker	McKenzie Heathcote
Miss Howard	Lincoln Hughes
Miss J Turner	Milena Gwizdala
Mrs Osiac	Faith Hughes
Miss Last	George Dickson Georgia Clinton
Miss Finnigan	Lennon Oldrid-Lowe
Miss Davies	Bobby Charlesworth
Miss Allen	Aimee Griffiths
Mr Broughton	Amelia Kasprzyk
Mrs Morgan	Lycan Jackson