



Prospectus

ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST MONICA'S CLOSE, APPLETON, WARRINGTON, WA4 3AW

01925 267609 / STMONICASPRIMARY.CO.UK



Welcome from the Head Teacher

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School is a happy school. We are a Catholic community with our mission firmly based on the teaching of Jesus. We offer a friendly environment and a school ethos where respect and caring is modelled in the way we live together like a family.

We have high standards of behaviour, teaching and learning. It is our vision for every child to be happy, caring and responsible; to develop a lifelong passion for learning, to achieve their potential and to be prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Our school vision statement encapsulates our school mission: 'Loving to learn, learning to love like Jesus.' All members of the community take seriously our commitment to fulfill our Mission in the way we live and work at St. Monica's. We hope you find this prospectus informative and that you find the information you are looking for. If you would like to visit our school, please do not hesitate to contact us: you would be very welcome.

Mrs. Pearson
Head Teacher

Organisation of Admissions

Admissions to the school are controlled by Warrington Borough Council who can be contacted at <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions>. You need to apply online and by completing the school's own Application Form, which you can get from the school office by emailing stmonicas_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk. Should there be more applicants than places available we have a list of over-subscription admissions criteria which you can find in our Admissions Policy on the website.

General Information

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School welcomes children between the ages of four and eleven. The school has a highly regarded onsite Pre School and wrap around care between the hours of 7.45 am and 6 pm.

Features include a range of modern IT devices; stunning grounds in which our forest school activities take place; bright, welcoming classrooms; indoor and outdoor sports facilities and, most importantly, a professional, dedicated and committed staff.

Our school is active within the community and keenly engages with local schools in sporting competitions, music workshops and art events. We make full use of the proximity of Warrington Youth Orchestra to extend our able musicians, and we play a full part in the life of the parish. Children of all faiths and backgrounds receive a warm welcome from St. Monica's.





Vision & Values

Our Vision lies at the heart of all we do: '*Loving to learn, learning to love like Jesus.*' The children wrote the Mission Prayer, which encapsulates how we want the children to grow as happy, active and successful people:

Share and love one another.

Together work to be like Jesus.

Make people smile.

Only teamwork can make dreams happen.

Never stop trying.

Include everyone in all we do.

Care for others around the world.

Aim to be the best we can be.



Pastoral Care

Children are taught in a happy, safe and caring environment. The school safeguarding team are pro-active in offering support to any children and families who are experiencing difficulties. Our staff are well trained to keep the children safe and thriving, and there is always someone who can lend an ear if you just need someone to talk to. If you have any concerns about a children at risk of harm, the designated teacher for child protection is the Head Teacher, and you can ring the Safeguarding Team at the Local Authority on 01925 443322.

There is a strong policy on Anti Bullying practice. Reported incidents are always taken seriously, and all the children involved are closely supported to learn from the situation and develop their social and emotional skills in the light of it. The school maintains close monitoring and offers ongoing support to children to overcome these distressing situations.

The Curriculum

Share and love one another.

We teach the children to respect each other and to behave with consideration. We aim for an atmosphere in which the children feel safe and valued. Discussions and team games start by establishing the ground rules for respecting each other's contributions.

Together work to be like Jesus.

The Catholic social teaching agenda, with its emphasis on justice and peace, guides our curriculum choices. Wherever relevant we relate what we teach to the influence of Gospel values. We encourage the children to imitate the resilience of Jesus in their learning behaviour.

Make people smile.

A school "where teachers love to teach and children love learning" (Ofsted 2020). We aim to encourage children so that they become self-motivated and derive joy from their work. Teachers endeavour to convey enthusiasm about the subjects they teach. There is an emphasis on effort for the satisfaction of self-improvement. Moments of awe and wonder are sought and celebrated.

Only teamwork can make dreams happen.

Our curriculum focuses on skills of collaborative living and provides opportunities to practice those skills in context. In sport, group work and play, we promote respect, patience and empathy. (There are even children with a practical expression of these values on their Behaviour Plans.)



Never stop trying.

In the way we work, we develop resilience, determination, self-confidence and an understanding of the need for hard work and practice. We do this by placing an emphasis on enquiring, questioning and solving problems.

Include everyone in all we do.

In our teaching we ask the children to look at others through a lens of fairness, equality, justice and the sort of tolerance that is born of knowledge and fellow feeling. We work to combat stereotypes: in the way we speak to children and in the way we teach them to look at others.

Care for others around the world.

We want our children to develop knowledge and respect for other cultures, religions and peoples and for a sense of their responsibilities to flow from that knowledge and respect.

Aim to be the best we can be.

We define achieving their best as helping children to build a body of knowledge and learning how to think critically and creatively about it. To that end we use: self-assessment sheets, knowledge organisers, repeated low stakes testing and finding ways of applying the knowledge they are acquiring. A book per child per subject area is our way of ensuring we focus on what value each child is getting from every subject they study.





Enrichment

The school continually seeks to develop enrichment in all areas of the curriculum. In Computing, the children undertake the UK Bebras Challenge on Computational Thinking. In Art and DT a dedicated week every other year sees an artist in residence. In Music, every child learns an instrument and there is a choir, recorder group and a string ensemble - the school has been awarded Music Ambassador School status. In PE and School Sport we ensure that all children have opportunities throughout their time with us to represent the school in competitions, and to take part in a range of exciting sporting activities – all of which resulted in us being awarded a School Games Gold Award. The children in Key Stage 2 perform strongly every year in the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge, and Year 6 have been prize winners in the White Rose Maths ‘Barvemember’ challenge. Our young budding writers are keen to challenge themselves and recently one of our children was a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 500 words story writing competition. We enjoy British Science Week at St. Monica’s, especially when we can use the opportunity to get out into our beautiful grounds to work in the environment.

Catholic Life

The school is a welcoming environment for children of all faiths and backgrounds. Our Mission is based on the Gospel and is inclusive in valuing all our children. We teach the Religious Education syllabus 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' enhanced with activities to promote creative learning that develops the children's higher order thinking skills.

Collective Worship is held daily and is an opportunity to come together as a community and reflect on our lives in the context of our stewardship of the Earth and our fellowship with all people. The children plan and lead the Collective Worship in their own classes regularly and often amaze their teachers with their deep and thought provoking ideas, full of awe and wonder.

Our approach to learning about other faiths is through relationships and shared activities with members of those faiths. Our link to North Cheshire Jewish Primary School ensures the children develop respect and a knowledge of how faith shapes the lives of their peers.

Relationships & Health Education

Our Catholic ethos commits us to the education of the whole child: spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural and emotional; and Relationships and Health Education is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves to deliver the compulsory requirements of the National Curriculum within a moral, emotional and spiritual context recognising the Catholic Church's teaching on family values.

The curriculum has been written to equip our children to live life to the full in the richly diverse world they find themselves.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

SEND is led across the school by our very experienced SEND Champion who is passionate about inclusion for all. At St. Monica's no child is invisible. The school is fully accessible for any people who have a disability. We have many resources and strategies in place that help children with SEND make significant progress. Perhaps most importantly, we are welcoming and positive about the progress all our children will make as part of our family.

More Able Children

All children are encouraged to develop the characteristics of effective learners: resilience, persistence, imagination, reflection and self-motivation. This is an ideal atmosphere for more able learners to thrive. We believe that the role of the school is to provide a wide range of challenging learning opportunities which will enable each individual, including those with exceptional abilities, to develop their full potential.

We have regular meetings where we assess the progress our children are making and use these times to ensure that those identified as more able are receiving appropriate challenges and opportunities to exceed. A series of workshops, run in conjunction with local schools, ensures that our very able children have opportunities to work with other high attaining children and to be inspired to develop their skills and knowledge.



Extra Curricular Activities

We have a morning and after-school club, called Wasps (Warrington After School Provision) which runs daily during term time. To find details for this provision, please visit our school website or phone school on 01925 267609. There is a wide and varying range of after school and lunchtime clubs which are led by staff and visiting specialists and are available to all our children.

Our cross country, cricket and rugby clubs are very popular. Clubs differ termly and include options such as: gardening, drama, films, computing, yoga, mindfulness, choir, strings, Worship group and Mini Vinnies.

Keeping Healthy and Lunchtimes

All children are encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle through healthy eating, enjoyable exercise and taking care of everyone's emotional well-being. Our school kitchen staff provide the children with a well-balanced meal at lunchtime – and occasionally this is using produce grown by the children in our school gardening club. There is a choice of options and our school menus can be viewed on the website.

We are a 'Smoke-Free' school and comply with the Smoke-Free legislation to ensure everyone is protected from exposure to second hand smoke.



Medicines

If a child needs medication during the school day, this must be brought to the school office by the parent. Medicines can be given if they have been prescribed by a doctor, are in the original bottle, and are clearly labelled with the child's name. Parents are asked to complete an Administration of Medicine Form to ensure the correct dose is given and a record made that can be shared between school and home.

Attendance and Punctuality

The school must be notified if a child is going to be off ill. The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time and so parents are encouraged to check the term dates on the school website before booking any holidays. Any application for leave must be for exceptional circumstances, and via the school's Application for Leave Form available from the website or school office.

Parents' efforts with punctuality are very much appreciated. A few minutes late in the morning can result in children missing basic skills practices, and cause a disrupted start to the school day for the child and the class.

Pupil Leadership

There are lots of opportunities for pupils to develop their leadership potential at St. Monica's. There is an active and effective School Council which meets every half term to consider issues relating to behaviour and facilities. Our Sports Crew lead inter school sports competitions. The Worship Group supports younger children to lead Collective Worship for their classes. Buddies are chosen to provide an older mentor for the youngest children. Junior Safety Officers represent the school at a conference at a local High School and run competitions for the rest of the school.

School Uniform

Winter

Revered collar blue blouse or blue shirt and school tie (KS2)

Revered collar blue blouse or blue polo shirt (KS1)

Navy cardigan or jumper

Kilted skirt or navy pinafore or grey trousers

White, grey, navy or black socks or tights

Black school shoes of a sensible style

Summer Option

Blue gingham dress or grey shorts and blue polo shirt

Navy cardigan or jumper

Black school shoes of a sensible style

White, grey, navy or black socks or tights

PE Kit

All sportswear must be plain and free of logos, apart from the St. Monica's logo where applicable

White t shirt

Black shorts

Navy or black sweatshirt and jogging pants.

Black plimsolls

Trainers

Hair should be neat with long hair tied back using blue or white ribbons and / or clips. Hair braids should be in school colours of blue or white. Make up and nail varnish are not permitted. Hair gel should be used sparingly if necessary. For more information see [our website](#).



Friends of St. Monica's (FOSM)

When your child joins our school, you automatically become a member of our Parent Teacher group FOSM. Parents meet regularly to organise fund raising and social activities such as discos, film nights and fayres. Should you have any new ideas or be willing to give up some of your time to help out, you will be welcomed with open arms.

Payments

Where we ask for payments for trips, meals, workshops and events, parents are asked to pay online using the Parent Pay app. Our school office is cashless. Details of how to use this method of payment are given to parents when their child starts at school.

Behaviour

At St. Monica's we are proud of the numerous inspections that have found the children's behaviour to be exemplary. We believe that good behaviour stems from:

- Positive relationships between children and adults.
- Clear routines and expectations.
- Calm, positive, supportive adults.
- Restorative practices when things go wrong.
- Great communication between home and school.
- Praise and celebration of children who do the right thing.
- Explicit teaching of the rules and routines.

Your child can expect to be recognised for their good efforts with Head Teacher's certificates, texts home, having their picture on the class Recognition Board and being invited to the Top Table for lunch.

When things are not going well for a child, we look at the whole picture of their lives to understand their behaviour. We offer support with clear boundaries and a behaviour plan signed up to by home and school.

Information and Communication

We like to hear from our parents, and to let you know about all that is going on in school. This is achieved through:

- Regular weekly newsletters.
- Our school website and app.
- Our social media: Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Parents' evenings twice a year.
- Written school reports.
- Questionnaires and consultation with parents.
- A warm welcome should you want to email or phone to share a concern.

Comments and Complaints

We aim to do the best for all our pupils. Any comments you have will be helpful to us to ensure that we continuously develop our provision and standards. If you have a problem or something that concerns you, we want to hear about it. If it relates to your child's progress, go first to their class teacher. You can of course then contact the Head Teacher on stmonicas_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk to arrange a meeting.



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU TO OUR SCHOOL**



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