

# St James's

Church of England

# Primary School





## Welcome

On behalf of our school family, may I offer you a warm welcome to St James's C of E Primary School. We pride ourselves on our school's vision and values that are embedded throughout our curriculum and daily school life.

Our caring ethos enables us to create a supportive atmosphere where all children can experience success. Highly committed staff use their expertise to plan and deliver an exciting curriculum. Educational visits and visitors enhance our curriculum and provide all of our pupils with memorable experiences.

We are a two form entry school. We work very hard to ensure that we know all of our pupils and their families and that we meet the needs of our community. OFSTED February 2018, commented that we are "a large school with a small school ethos".

St James's is a happy, Voluntary Aided school with a distinctive Christian ethos. We value the support from the governing body and PTFA. Close relationships with St James's church, the Diocese, our local community and strong global links mean that we can work in partnership to provide pupils with the best possible education.

I am incredibly proud to be the head teacher of St James's C of E Primary School and welcome the opportunity to show visitors around our school. If you would like to arrange a tour of the school, please contact the school office.

Mrs L Mason. Head teacher



## School Vision

**Faith:** “So God created man in His own image” (Genesis 1:26-27)

At St James’s C.E. Primary School, we believe that every child is made in the image of God; inherently valuable and unique among God’s creations. We are an inclusive and welcoming family who celebrate each other’s achievements. Our Christian Values are at the heart of all that we do; nurturing a sense of belonging and shared identity.

**Friendship:** “Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” (Luke 5:10)

It is our vision that all of our pupils will have courage and belief in themselves, to follow their dreams. We will ensure that all children know, experience and understand the love of Jesus Christ; supporting children on their journey of learning, faith and spirituality. Through our established, local and global links, children learn to be responsible and respected citizens.

**Fulfilment:** “Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid.” (Matthew 14:27)

In a safe and nurturing environment, we support each child to reach their full, God given potential. High aspirations are set so that every child has every opportunity to fulfil their dreams. We will endeavour to instil a love of learning in our pupils, preparing them for the next phase of their lives and enable them to prosper.

## School Core Values

*Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Honesty, Friendship, Courage and Forgiveness*

## School Aims

With our Christian distinctiveness at the heart of all we do, we aim to provide the highest quality education for all. We strive to equip each child with the skills and values they require to fulfil their God given potential.



## Our Curriculum statement

At St James's C.E. Primary School, we are committed to providing all our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum. Through high quality teaching and well-planned learning activities, children of all abilities will experience success, challenge and enjoyment across all subjects. Through our curriculum and school values, we aim to ensure that all pupils leave us with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes that they need to succeed in life. Close community and global links in our curriculum, support children to understand their place in a wider society.

We will endeavour to instil a love of learning and enjoyment in reading, in our pupils. While recognising the utmost importance of children gaining fundamental skills in English and Maths, we equally value the importance of ensuring opportunities to develop personal interests and specialisms in all subjects. Our curriculum reflects the pride that we have in our local area and the rich industrial heritage that we are surrounded by. Through a wide variety of educational visits and visitors to school, we aim to provide our pupils with real life experiences to support and enhance learning. Residential experiences in EYFS, Year 4 and Year 6 also enrich our curriculum.

Our extensive outdoor area is a valuable resource for the school curriculum. Forest school, the story telling area and a large playing field provide vital opportunities for outdoor learning. By providing extra-curricular activities, we hope to support our pupils to develop new interest and foster positive habits for a healthy life in the future.

To find out more about our curriculum visit the learning Tab on our school website





## Early Years and Foundation Stage

Children can join St James's Playgroup from age two and Pre-school the term after they turn three. Our highly trained and experienced staff help them to quickly settle in and enjoy the inside and outside learning opportunities on offer.

Pupils begin Reception in the September before their fifth birthday. Staff continue to track pupils' development closely and provide opportunities for them to achieve their next steps across the curriculum.



Pupils learn through play and adult-led activities and their progress is documented in their electronic Learning Journeys—Tapestry. We also encourage parents to contribute to these with learning that has taken place at home.

In the Foundation Stage pupils are also able to learn within our on-site Forest School. In these sessions children are able to go on bug hunts, do mud painting, make shelters and even experience sitting around a campfire

St James's Playgroup, Pre-school and Reception provide exciting and stimulating learning environments, in which pupils can explore, investigate and create. In the Early years and Foundation Stage we aim to develop a love of learning and the skills of independence and enquiry, equipping the pupils fully for the future.

## Personalised support



At St James's we are quick to identify when the normal support within a lesson isn't sufficient for a particular child. Using our extensive in-house knowledge and skills, and in addition through buying in the services of learning and behaviour experts we are able to develop an individual programme of support. We then work closely with parents to monitor a child's progress and offer guidance on how they can be further supported at home.



## Values Education

Our values education underpins everything we do here at St James's – through the curriculum, around school and beyond into local communities and those further a field. Parents, pupils, teachers and governors worked together to choose our eight core values which are regularly explored in worship and in our daily lives. These are: Responsibility, Respect, Friendship, Honesty, Kindness, Forgiveness, Courage and Perseverance, however many other Christian values are discussed and modelled on a day-to-day basis. At St James's we aim to provide a caring environment in which children can grow both academically and spiritually. We hope to help our pupils become happy, confident learners who are fully equipped in every way for the future.



## Staying Safe

We take e-safety very seriously and we want to help you and your family stay safe online. The online world is integral to how children stay in touch with their friends, and access to the internet is now available like never before. However, there are inherent risks associated with new technologies and it is essential for young people and their parents/carers to understand how to reduce these risks. We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the E-Safety 360 Degree Safe award for our standards within school.

## Well-being

At St James's we recognise that each child is unique and we aim to support them in reaching their full potential as an individual. We believe that maintaining positive well-being is an essential part of achieving success. We are very proud to have been awarded the Wellbeing for Schools Award in November 2019. Please take time to read the report, and other information, in the Wellbeing tab on our school website.



## Worship

Pupils take part in worship every day at St James's either as a whole school or within their Key Stages. This is a special part of our day where children and adults can stop, reflect and worship whatever their faith. Pupils across school take leading roles in assemblies and some plan their own acts of worship. In addition, all children can write prayers, hymns and themes using our suggestion box. We are regularly joined by special visitors, parents, governors and members of the clergy.

Our close relationship with St James Church allows us to have a Eucharist Service in school each term. A member of the clergy, staff and pupils lead the service together for the whole school community including governors, parents and the church congregation. In the Summer Term, the service takes place outside in our beautiful school grounds. We also lead a Sunday service once at term at church which is a lovely way for the school community to further strengthen our relationship with the church congregation.

## Pupil Voice

We are very proud of our strong pupil voice at St James's. Each class has a School Councillor, Eco Warrior and Worship Committee representative who pass on ideas, comments and questions during meetings and feedback to their classes afterwards. In Years 5 and 6 pupils also have the opportunity to be House Captains, Librarians, Peer Supporters, Young PCSOs and Sports Ambassadors. Our pupil voice groups ensure all pupils have a say in what goes on at St James's and help make important decisions.





## Parent Partnership

At St James's we value the importance of developing strong relationships with parents and working alongside them to enhance their child's education. We run Parent workshops to share ways in which your child can be supported at home; invite parents to contribute ideas at parent forums and through questionnaires and hold termly parents evenings. In addition parents are invited to events such as assemblies and performances and to take part in activities with their child, for example in 'Stay and Play' sessions. We have a thriving PTFA who organise a wide range of events such as Chocolate bingo, jumble sales and children's discos to raise funds for the school.



## St James's additional groups and out of hours childcare

### Parents & Toddlers

Parents and Toddlers runs on Friday only (9am to 10.30am) An adult must stay with the child during this session.

### Before and After School Club

St. James's also boasts a wonderful range of out of hours care and activities. Every morning from 7.45 we run a breakfast club and every evening from the end of school until 5.30, there is an after school club.

### Holiday Club

The St James's holiday club runs during some school holidays during the year.



# Quotes

## Children

"The teachers are fun, the children are friendly. I like coming to school."

"We have supportive people like teachers and adults in the class and a good reward system. Pupils are well behaved and people are very happy here."

"If you get something wrong in your work the teachers help you and go through it until you understand."

"I'm really proud of St James's!"

"I like belonging somewhere where people are kind and happy."

## Parents

"St James's has a very welcoming feel to it. Reception class teachers and TA's are particularly caring and nurturing to nervous new starters. Staff as a whole are very supportive of children's individual needs and regularly invite parents in to celebrate their children's achievements."

"I always describe St James's to anyone I meet as a 'Happy School'."

"It is friendly and inclusive and gives the children good opportunities to express themselves."

"I believe it has strong values, good discipline and a good relationship with the community."

"The staff at St James's have made my child feel that she can succeed at anything."

"Since she has started at St James's her confidence has grown so much. We only wish that she could have been at this school from the beginning of her education."

"My son has loved coming to school and has really shown us how determined he can be to succeed knowing that people believe in him."



# Quotes

## Governors

“Our vision is that every child will be given the support and encouragement that will enable them to reach their full potential. To adequately prepare, as independent learners, to prosper from the next stage of their education and to demonstrate in their everyday lives the core values of the school.”

### Ofsted 2018

“St James’s C of E Primary is a large school with a small school ethos. Leaders and staff get to know pupils as individuals.”

“Pupils have a deep understanding of kindness, responsibility, honesty, respect, perseverance and friendship.”

“Pupils’ personal development is extremely well catered for through an array of enrichment opportunities. Pupils thrive on the responsibilities that they are given.”

### SIAMS Church School Inspectors 2019

“St James’s is founded on very strong relationships and a deeply-rooted sense of community.”

“Collective worship is a considerable strength of St James’s and is highly inclusive. It builds a strong sense of community. This is another example of how the vision is lived out in all aspects of school life. Worship allows all to participate with integrity, regardless of their faith.”

Through excellent teaching of the school’s Christian values, pupils learn the importance of respecting all people and celebrating difference and diversity. This is underpinned by what pupils call the ‘key value’ of forgiveness. As a result, behaviour is of a high standard and children learn to live in harmony with those with whom they may not agree.

### Wellbeing Award for schools 2019

“The school offers a supportive and nurturing environment to the children, staff, parents and the whole school community.”

“The children thrive in this school with so many positive wellbeing practices “

“Emotional literacy, attitudes and values have been developed to promote and protect emotional wellbeing and are used extensively by adults and children day to day.”



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**St James's CE Primary School  
Kingsway  
Wollaston  
Stourbridge  
DY8 4RU**

**Tel: 01384 818810  
Email: [info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk)**

**[www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk)**