

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

*Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff*

School Prospectus
Prosbectws Yr Ysgol

2025 - 2026

"Secure Leadership and whole hearted commitment to creating a school that fulfils its vision"

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

"Well-qualified and experienced staff provide purposeful quality teaching and high-quality pastoral support."

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

"The school ensures that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is inherent in all aspects of school life successfully. The extremely caring and supportive ethos of the school supports pupils' wellbeing and promotes positive attitudes to learning very effectively"

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

"Students describe the distinctive Christian character of the school as 'part of who we are' and say it 'give us a sense of belonging.'"

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

I AM
the
truth
the
life

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Welcome - Croeso

We believe that every pupil deserves the best of everything, and the way we go about creating an outstanding education for them is determined by our Gospel Values. At the heart of what we do is our consistent care and concern for the child - every child. We are big enough to succeed, but small enough to be able to care for each and every one of our pupils - individually.

Staff, Governors, Parents and Pupils share a strong commitment to working together for the common good of all, and for society generally. The outward-looking compassion of our pupils in their phenomenal charitable fund-raising activities year-on-year is testament to this. Over a 5 year period our pupils managed to raise over £45,000.

We also know that for children and young people to succeed – really succeed - they need to feel safe, and to be happy. We take great care to ensure that our school environment is vibrant, purposeful, comfortable and secure. Everything about St. Joseph's is centred on ensuring the best deal possible for our pupils, across their personal and faith development as well as in their academic achievements. You will find here a community in which staff–pupil and pupil-pupil relationships are second to none.

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School is an oversubscribed and successful 11-16 shared church school. The message of Christ is absolutely fundamental to all that we do and is central to all that we believe. Prayer, faith and worship are essential elements of all school life, and pupils, staff and parents are expected to be supportive of these elements at all times. Thankfully, we enjoy this support year on year.

I hope that you enjoy reading our Prospectus, and that it is both useful and informative. Our best ambassadors are our pupils, and we hope you will enjoy meeting them when you visit us. Thank you for your interest in our school: I look forward to welcoming you.

Mr C. Wilkinson
Head teacher

Our Mission Statement

St. Joseph's is a shared faith school which strives to guide the whole school community to achieve their full potential, grow in their journey with God, and live a Christian life, which we will do in Christ's love, by the example of St Joseph, the Worker.

Living out our Mission

On a day to day basis, we ask that anyone connected with the school in any way subscribes to the gospel values of caring, tolerance, patience and understanding. We actively and consistently promote the words of Christ when he spoke of the greatest commandment "Love God with all your heart, with all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbour as you would love yourself." We value the active support of parents and carers who acknowledge our Home School Agreement of which the key features are:

- Supporting the Christian values of the school community;
- Ensuring that their child attends school regularly, on time and suitably equipped;
- Supporting the school in ensuring their child complies with its rules;
- Informing the school of any concerns or problems that might affect their child's work or behaviour;
- Giving their child opportunities for home learning and supporting homework from school and ensuring that it is completed in full and on time;
- Supporting the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour;
- Attending parents' evenings and discussions about their child's progress;
- Encouraging their child to be enthusiastic about learning and to enjoy school;
- Encouraging their child to show kindness and consideration to others;
- Talking to their child about their experiences in school and encourage them to do their best;
- Endeavouring in full to support the Catholic and Anglican community and the School Governors in their responsibilities for maintaining the school buildings in good repair.

Each morning begins with a carefully prepared collective act of worship within Form Groups, or a whole Year Group assembly.

Our Form classes are named after the inspirational Christian role models of

- Sheila **Cassidy**
- Sean **Devereux**
- Martin Luther **King**
- Maximilian **Kolbe**
- Oscar **Romero**

We do not issue long lists of school rules to pupils, but we do have very high standards. We give all children copies of the **Pupil Code of Conduct** at the start of each year and it is a synthesis of all that we expect from children. We know it is easily read and understood by all. The code is also displayed in every classroom throughout the school, and printed in the Homework Planners which the children carry with them.

Our Pupil Code of Conduct

- St. Joseph's is a Christian School and all pupils are expected to follow the example of Jesus by showing respect at all times for teachers, pupils and property.
- In lessons pupils must show a willingness to learn and allow others to do the same.
- Being on time for school and lessons is essential and all pupils are required to bring in the proper equipment and to wear full school uniform.
- Around the school all pupils must show a respect for the environment and the facilities provided for them.
- In the time spent at St. Joseph's pupils should always do their best to achieve the highest standards.

Standards Cards

Here at St Joseph's we strive to ensure and maintain excellent standards in all that we do. We are extremely proud of the smart appearance of our uniform, the pupils' organisational skills and our respect for the school environment.

Each pupil is provided with a standards card as a daily reminder of these high expectations and to support the pupils in their learning journey.

"Most pupils show care and concern for others making valuable contributions to the community through local and national charities."

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

Partners

We value most highly the thriving partnership we have with families and parishes in supporting children's learning and well-being. We place a premium on quality communications, sending parents a newsletter every week, outlining important events and diary markers. We also have available a text messaging service to inform parents of important events at short notice. We have found text messaging invaluable in keeping parents informed about a variety of things including periods of inclement weather, school transport and information relating to Parents' Evenings and other items where there is a genuine need to inform parents as quickly as possible.

Chaplaincy

The key aim of the Chaplaincy team is to nourish and foster the human and spiritual potential of the whole school community, by working in partnership with everyone, so that through our school motto, 'I am the way, the truth and the life' (John 14:6) God's presence may be realised in our midst, and witnessed to in the wider world.

The responsibilities of the Chaplaincy team are:

- Fostering a spirit of prayer and reflection for staff and pupils
- Developing a programme of liturgical worship
- Nurturing the sacramental life of the school community
- Ensuring that the school environment reflects the faith dimension of the school
- Enabling children to develop a social conscience through charity work.

The School Day

School sessions are as follows:-

Morning Session (9.00am-12.25pm)

9.00am-9.10am	Registration
9.10am-10.10am	Lesson 1
10.10am-10.25am	Break
10.25am-11.25am	Lesson 2
11.25am-12.25pm	Lesson 3

12.25pm-1.20pm Lunch

Afternoon Session (1.20pm-3.30pm)

1.20pm-1.30pm Registration

1.30pm-2.30pm Lesson 4

2.30pm-3.30pm Lesson 5

Security

Security at the school is a priority and the following measures are taken to ensure pupil and staff safety during the school day.

- The rear gates of the school are locked once pupils have entered. Entry to the school after this time is via a key pad / intercom entry system. The bus lane gates are also locked.
- CCTV cameras operate both inside and outside the school.
- Staff wear individual ID badges, and pupils know these are adults with whom they will be very safe.
- Visitors are required to report to reception on Sontley Road and are issued with Visitor badges on arrival.
- Pupils are supervised for the 10 minutes before and after school and throughout their break and lunch times.

Out of Lessons

The school restaurant operates a Breakfast Service available from 8.30am and there is a rich and varied range of supervised after school clubs and activities on most days. Information about these clubs can be found at Appendix 1.

The Welsh Sports Council 5x60 programme complements the existing sport and physical education provision within the school. It offers a range of activities to all children regardless of ability. A key principle is that the pupils choose the activities themselves and also have the opportunity to lead activities.

Each lunchtime, and after-school Monday to Thursday, we run our Study+ sessions – this is an opportunity for pupils to stay in school and complete homework/further study, supervised by staff until 4.30pm.

"Over the last three years, attendance has been strong, and is well above that in similar schools."

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

Attendance and Punctuality

St Joseph's places significant emphasis on attendance. For this academic year, the school continues to aim for our target of 96.5% attendance, as we are ambitious for excellence. **You will see that the school has an excellent attendance record, and we work very hard to maintain it.** We have lots of ways of rewarding excellent attendance, and our pupils tell us they like this recognition and encouragement.

The support of parents and carers in matters of attendance is crucial. We request that parents / carers ensure that pupils attend school regularly. There are 175 non-school days per year for holidays, shopping and appointments. Holidays should not be taken in term time. If this is unavoidable, parents need to apply to the Headteacher in advance to ask permission to withdraw their children from school. These will be recorded as unauthorised absences.

Curriculum and Organisation

"The school provides a curriculum that meets the needs of pupils of all abilities successfully."

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

Curriculum for Wales Year 7

The subjects which will be studied in Year 7 are:

Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, French **or** German, Welsh, History, Geography, Information Technology, PE, Art, Music, Technology (incorporating Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials) and Personal and Social Education. Please note that pupils will be allocated to study French or German by the school, and will follow that language pathway for the following 3 years, until the end of Year 9.

All pupils will follow the National Curriculum programmes of study in these subjects.

Organisation

Currently in Year 7 most subjects are taught in mixed ability Form Groups except Maths, Geography and History which are set according to ability. Technology is taught in smaller mixed ability groups.

Curriculum for Wales Year 8

The subjects which will be studied in Year 8 are:-

Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, French or German, Welsh, History, Geography, Information Technology, PE, Art, Music, Drama, Technology, (incorporating Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials and Product Design) and Personal and Social Education.

All pupils follow the National Curriculum programmes of study in these subjects.

Organisation

Currently in Year 8 most subjects are taught in mixed ability Form Groups, whilst English, Mathematics, Science, Geography and History are set according to ability. Technology is taught in smaller mixed ability groups.

Curriculum for Year 9 (Key Stage 3)

All pupils follow a core curriculum comprising Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, French or German, Welsh, Technology (incorporating Food, Textiles, Product Design, Systems and Control and Graphics), Information Technology, History, Geography, PE, Art, Music, Drama and Personal and Social Education.

Organisation

All pupils follow the National Curriculum programme of study. Currently in Year 9 all subjects are now set according to ability except: Religious Education, Technology,

Modern Languages, Art, Music, Drama, Information Technology, Skills and Physical Education.

Curriculum Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4)

The core subjects which are studied in Year 10 are:

Religious Education, Welsh, English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, Personal and Social Education. Pupils may then choose up to three other subjects from the following options: French, German, Information Technology, Design Technology, Food Technology, History, Geography, Art, Drama, Music, Health and Social Care and Physical Education. Pupils are also given the opportunity to choose vocational courses from a range of subjects offered as a thriving network of collaborative courses across Wrexham. These courses are delivered by other centres. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 also undertake the Skills Challenge Certificate.

All pupils follow the National Curriculum programme of study in the relevant prescribed subjects. Detailed information relating to the curriculum in Year 10 is given to pupils and parents at meetings in the preceding year.

Consultation between Heads of Department, Form Teachers, Heads of Year and liaison with parents ensures that the individual needs of each child are carefully considered.

"Over the last three years performance at key stage 4 has improved. In 2019, performance was strong with pupils performing above expectations in most indicators."

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

Organisation

In Years 10 and 11 core subject groups are setted according to ability, whilst others may be setted or mixed ability, dependant on the numbers choosing that subject. All pupils follow a course in Personal and Social Education and the Skills Challenge Certificate. This is provided by Form Teachers, Heads of Year and outside agencies, and is timetabled as one hour per fortnight in Year 11.

Homework

We rely crucially on parental cooperation with regard to homework and cannot emphasise highly enough your influence on pupils' success by showing consistent support and encouragement. Pupils are issued with a homework timetable at the beginning of the school year which details when they will have homework for each subject. This is then inserted into their planner. Parents are requested to check the Planner on a regular and at least weekly basis to ensure that their children are completing the homework. Subject teachers will write comments on the planner if homework has not been received. Parents are asked to sign the planner weekly and if they have any concerns write them in the space provided. This will be picked up by the form tutor who will then contact the subject teacher.

We ask that parents try to provide a suitable place for their child to complete homework. A quiet area away from distractions makes study so much easier and helps a child's concentration. In this way, important study habits are formed which pupils can rely on through their A level and University days. Study+ remains the perfect in-school venue for completing homework.

Religious Education

Gospel values provide pupils with a deep understanding of empathy. The pupils are fully aware that Christianity is a multi-cultural global faith. The school fully embraces diversity, all learners are valued, cared for and the highest regard is given to their wellbeing, a pupil explained '(staff) go out of their way to show they believe in you.'

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

Religious Education is a central part of the curriculum of the school. The active support of families for our distinctive Christian Ethos is fundamental to the success of our thriving community. In law, parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in any school. Understandably, this has never been requested at St Joseph's and we therefore do not make any alternative provision.

We are a faith based school and we expect parents to be supportive of our Mission Statement, which includes full participation in Religious Education by every child. The academic and personal outcomes for pupils in our school in relation to Religious Education are outstanding.

Use of the Welsh Language

"Most pupils speak with fluency and coherence. They enjoy engaging discussion thoughtfully, sharing their views with confidence. A minority express their views particularly eloquently."

Most recent Inspection Report 2020

Whilst we are an English medium school, we are proud of our Welsh heritage and culture and the use of the Welsh Language is given high priority. The medium of instruction at the school is English, but Welsh is taught and spoken as a second language and pupils receive timetabled lessons throughout Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, most children follow a full GCSE examination course in Welsh, and a very small minority are disappplied. Our track record is phenomenal.

There is a comprehensive programme of "Curriculum Cymreig", where pupils learn about Wales and Welshness and the Heritage and Culture of Wales, with all departments contributing fully. Staff and pupils are encouraged to speak incidental Welsh wherever possible and Bilingualism / Dwyiethrwydd is being developed and used in all subject areas. We have no facilities to enable continuity for pupils instructed through the medium of Welsh when transferring from primary school; or entering this school in an out of year admission.

Each year, groups of children in Years 8 and 9 are given the opportunity to take part in residential trips to Glan Llyn and these prove very popular indeed.

Physical Education

Physical Education is valued as an important part of the curriculum for pupils of all abilities. At Key Stage 3 the PE programme is taught in both single sex and mixed groups and includes badminton, health-related exercise, football, netball, gymnastics, orienteering, athletics, tennis, rounders and cross country. At Key Stage 4 the programme is extended to include table tennis, volleyball and basketball and the major aim of the work is to prepare for, and encourage participation in, leisure activities when pupils leave school. We also offer a full course in GCSE PE and a Sports Leaders Award enabling pupils to gain coaching experience with our feeder primary school children.

Extra Curricular Activities

We encourage pupils of all abilities to take part in extra curricular activities, and have an outstanding track record in Music and PE. A significantly high proportion of St Joseph pupils go on to participate in the highest levels in County and North Wales teams and events.

The extra curricular activities on offer include;

Athletics	Badminton	Cross country
Choir	Cricket	Orchestra
Fitness	Football	Sports ability club
Jiu-jitsu	Netball	Table tennis
Rounders	Rugby	
Street dance	Tennis	
Volleyball	Basketball	

Skills Challenge Certificate

This is an exciting 2 year course for all pupils at KS4. The **Skills Challenge Certificate** has been redesigned to consolidate and develop the following **essential** and **employability skills: Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Literacy**, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Planning and Organisation, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness.

The Skills Challenge Certificate is a **GCSE qualification** in its own right and includes the following 4 elements:

1. Enterprise and Employability Challenge
2. Global Citizenship Challenge
3. Community Challenge
4. An Individual Project

Finally, pupils engage in informative and thought provoking sessions about their country – Wales. All pupils leave St Joseph's having acquired a sense of what it means to be a citizen of Wales and the World.

Careers Education

Careers Education provision is an important component of the general education of all pupils, preparing them to make informed career choices at the time of transition from secondary schooling to post-16 education, training or direct employment. We seek to present such provision within the framework of our equal opportunities programme and in the context of our Mission Statement.

Provision for Careers Education is a rolling programme delivered in conjunction with Careers Wales in Years 7 through to 11. Pupils receive regular contact with the school's appointed Careers Advisor and enjoy a variety of experiences ranging from mock interviews, software programmes and face to face meetings. The school also has a dedicated Careers Coordinator who works alongside Careers Wales. Individual guidance is an essential part of the programme.

Pupils participate in a range of enterprise activities, including dedicated thematic workshop days.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSE)

All pupils in each year participate in a stimulating, varied and cohesive course in PSE delivered in Form Tutor sessions. In addition every pupil is involved in a Health Education Programme, appropriate to their age, which is delivered on a designated Health Day by our team with some input from health professionals.

Elements of PSE also form an integral part of each subject area. These National Curriculum themes comprise:-

- Health Education
- Personal Development
- Environmental Education
- Political Understanding
- Economic / Industrial Understanding and Careers Education
- Emotional, Spiritual and Physical Development

Sex Education is taught in the context of a total personal relationship developing through friendship, courtship and marriage in accordance with our Christian nature. This forms an integral part of the Religious Education, PSE and Science courses throughout the school.

School Uniform

The school has a fantastic reputation locally in respect of uniform and appearance. We require all pupils to adopt a smart approach - no fashion, skinny or lycra items. A full list of the School Uniform can be found in the Uniform and Appearance Policy. Certain items are only available from RAM Leisure i.e. jumper, tie and skirt are bespoke to the school.

Mobile Phones, iPods, Cameras and all other Electronic Devices

Our Duty of Care and our concern for the Health, Safety and Well-Being of pupils (including protecting them from theft of, or damage to, their personal property, and protecting them from text and cyber-bullying) mean that our position on Mobile Phones and electronic devices is very clear. So, in accordance with Examination Board guidelines, **Mobile Phones are strictly banned in school.**

If your child needs to contact you during the school day, one of the office telephones is always made available. In extreme circumstances - provided a written note is received from parents, well in advance of a special set of circumstances - permission is usually granted for a pupil to carry a mobile phone with them to/from school, but the 'phone is deposited at Reception immediately upon arrival to school. Each case will be judged on its own merits. The school successfully manages this requirement so that children in very special circumstances have their needs addressed on an individual basis.

Parents tell us that they appreciate the school's strong line on this as it allows the classroom to be a place of teaching and learning and not one with high levels of distraction and the school yard, to be places free from squabbles, disputes, jealousy over material goods, pressure and disagreements over personal possessions. This is another area of policy that we feel sets us aside from other schools in Wrexham. All portable electronic devices such as iPods, MP3 players, cameras etc. are also banned, for the same reasons.

Complaints

If parents find it necessary to register a complaint to school a number of options are available. For most matters the Form Tutor or Head of Year should be contacted either by letter or telephone. Pastoral Leaders of Learning can normally be contacted at the start of day i.e. 8.55am – 9.10am. In extreme cases, the Headteacher can be contacted via their PA. Complaints to the Governing Body should be made to the Chair of Governors via the Clerk to the Governors at the school address. The Governors would expect the school / Headteacher to have been contacted first in every case.

Term Dates - 2026- 2027 (Provisional dates)

TERM	SCHOOL OPENS	SCHOOL CLOSES
Autumn Term	1 st September 2026	23 rd October 2026
	2 nd November 2026	18 th December 2026
Spring Term	4 th January 2027	5 th February 2027
	15 th February 2027	19 th March 2027
Summer Term	5 th April 2027	28 th May 2027
	7 th June 2027	20 th July 2027

Admissions

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School is a voluntary aided school and as such is responsible for its own admissions. The school works closely with Wrexham Local Authority to ensure compatibility and common understanding, but manages for itself the admissions whenever pupils are offered places at the school. However, there is a priority offered for Looked After Children (*see page 19) who are baptised Catholic or Anglican, and then for all other Looked After Children.

In the event of admissions applications exceeding our standard number of 137, the Governors have agreed important criteria which are available on the school website. Go to www.st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk Go to 'School Information', and then click on 'Admissions' and you will find the Admission Policy & Over Subscription Policy

How to apply for a place

When applying for a place at St Joseph's School parents should ensure they complete both of the following steps:

Step 1 – Completion of School Application Process* - to be returned to the school.

- **School Application Form** – to be completed by Parent or Guardian.
- **Supporting Information Form** – to be completed by your Priest / Minister /Religious Leader at your place of worship. If you have no religious affiliation please return the form indicating this.
- **Evidence of Sacraments Received** – Any reference to sacraments received (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation etc must be accompanied by photocopies of official documentation (certificates etc) and the contact details of the parish / establishment involved must also be included. ***In the event of the school being oversubscribed, applications that have the documented evidence of Sacraments received will be ranked higher – this is in line with the over subscription criteria (please refer to the Admission Policy and Over Subscription Policy for details).***

If you have any queries regarding these documents please contact the Admissions Officer at the school.

Step 2 – Completion of Local Authority on line Application Process

- I. The Local Authority operates an **on-line application process** and details of this can be found on the Wrexham County Council website, www.wrexham.gov.uk

The Admission Panel will only consider Applications where both of the above processes have been completed by the published closing date.

First priority is given to applications received by the published closing date which is **Monday 3rd November 2025**. Late applications will be considered using the same published criteria. However, if the school is over-subscribed, any late applications will be considered after those received by the published closing date. Consideration will be given to applications received after this date where an exceptional reason for failing to meet the deadline can be proven beyond reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the Admissions Panel.

All parents in Wrexham are notified of the results of their applications on the same date in accordance with the law. Wrexham County Borough Council has published this date as 2nd March 2026 across Wrexham.

If you have any queries regarding the form please contact the School's Admissions Officer, Mrs A Wharton via: **AdmissionsS5@hwbcymru.net**

Caring for Learners with Additional Needs and Special Educational Needs

Where possible, all of our Special Needs pupils are, with Learning Support Assistants, integrated into mainstream lessons. In some circumstances, pupils may be withdrawn from certain lessons in order to receive specialist help for their particular needs. Resource provision pupils will be taught in small groups for some subjects, but are integrated into their mainstream lessons for the remainder of their subjects. We have an ALNCO, a Resource Provision teacher and an excellent team of Learning Support Assistants.

Looked After Children* are welcomed and there is an Assistant Headteacher who takes specific responsibility for them – Mrs Ellis.

**A 'Looked After Child' is deemed to be one who is 'Looked After' by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act. Wrexham County Borough Council follows regulations set by the Welsh Government to ensure that the interests of these most vulnerable children are protected.*

If children have learning difficulties there is a facility for referral to specialist agencies provided by Wrexham Local Authority, following consultation with parents.

Pupils with physical difficulties have full access to the school and follow a regular timetable apart from other lessons for physiotherapy sessions. We currently have four wheelchair users who are fully integrated, with lifts providing access to all upper classroom

Traveller pupils and those with English as an additional language receive specialist support from the Wrexham Traveller Education Service and English Additional Language services.

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Thank you for your interest in St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School. You have such an important decision ahead of you - whatever that decision is, we hope your child will thrive and succeed at Secondary School.

Contact Details

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School
Sontley Road
Wrexham
LL13 7EN

Tel: 01978 360310

Fax: 01978 360311

Email: mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk

Website: www.stjosephs.wales

Headteacher: Mr C. Wilkinson

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School
is a Voluntary Aided 11-16 High School

example achieve
shared
guide life
Christ
potential
faith fully Anglican
fully Catholic journey
Mission
full
God
St Joseph
live
Christian
whole grow
school
community
love

Our Mission Statement