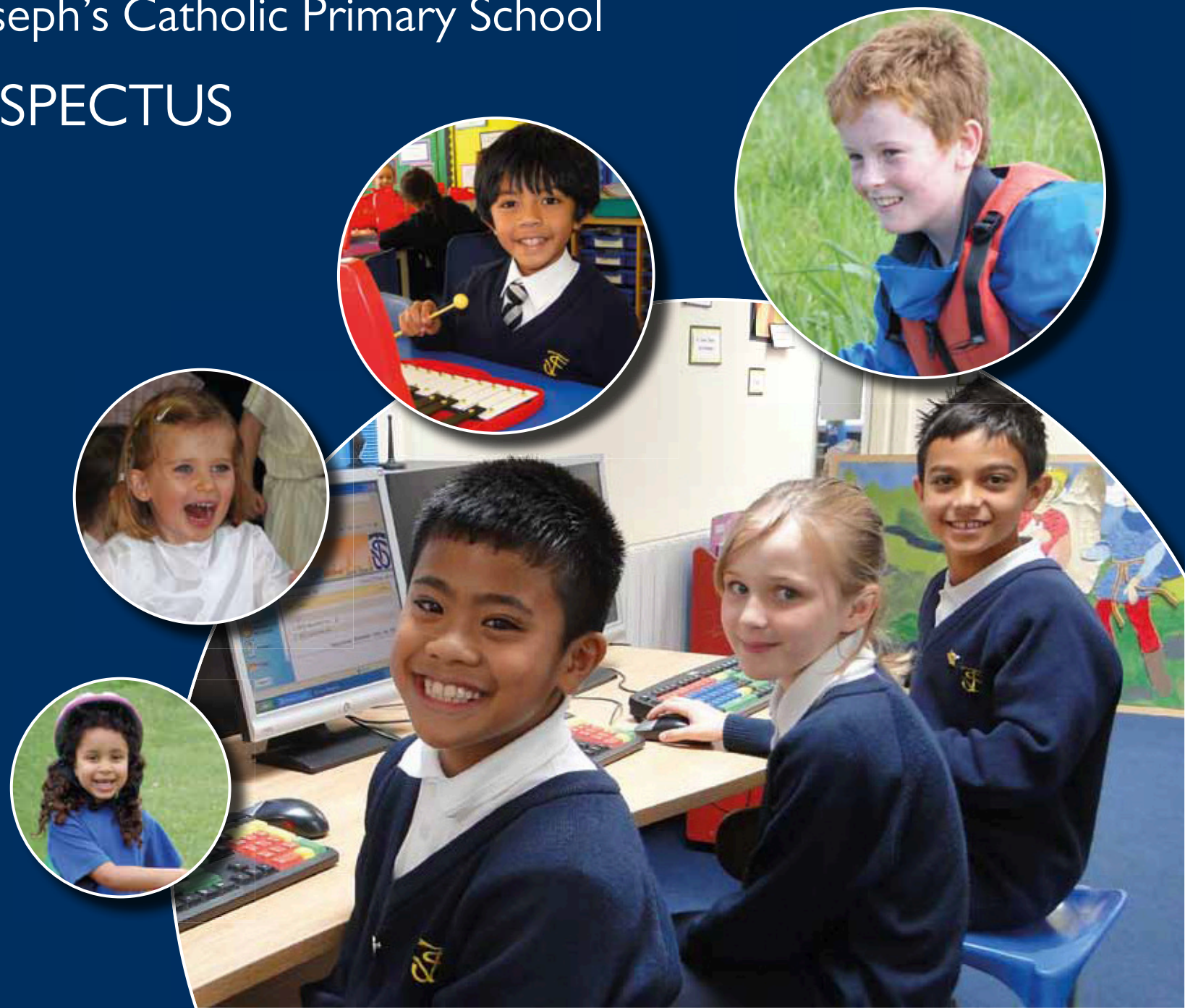




St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

PROSPECTUS





“Thanks again for your time and can I just add that the children at your school were an absolute pleasure to meet today.”

Visiting parent

When a child arrives at St. Joseph's they start out on their journey with us, one where the whole community works together to guide them towards discovery of their own unique set of God-given talents.

When the same child leaves St. Joseph's, we want them to be excited about their learning; thinking, enquiring young people with a thirst for knowledge and equipped with the skills to find out more about their world. We want them to have developed an understanding of what it means to be an active member of a worshipping community and to hold a sense of service to the wider community.

Our school is a successful, over-subscribed two form primary school, serving the families of the worshipping Catholic community of St. Joseph's Church in Epsom. As our Mission Statement says, we are a 'community of learners', working collaboratively towards a greater understanding of our unique talents. We demand high standards of our children in how they work, learn and play, and in return we strive to give them the very best of what we can offer.

We hope this prospectus gives you a glimpse of how we work together, children and staff, to create and maintain a sense of community, of security and of collaboration; of how we put spirituality at the centre of what we do every day and how we encourage thinking, success and celebration.

The following pages will give you an idea of the values and skills we encourage in each other on a daily basis.

St. Joseph's is a happy, thriving community where everyone puts their heart and soul into what they do. It is an exciting, energising place to learn; it is a rewarding place to work and we hope that when you come to visit us, you will sense what a wonderful school it is.

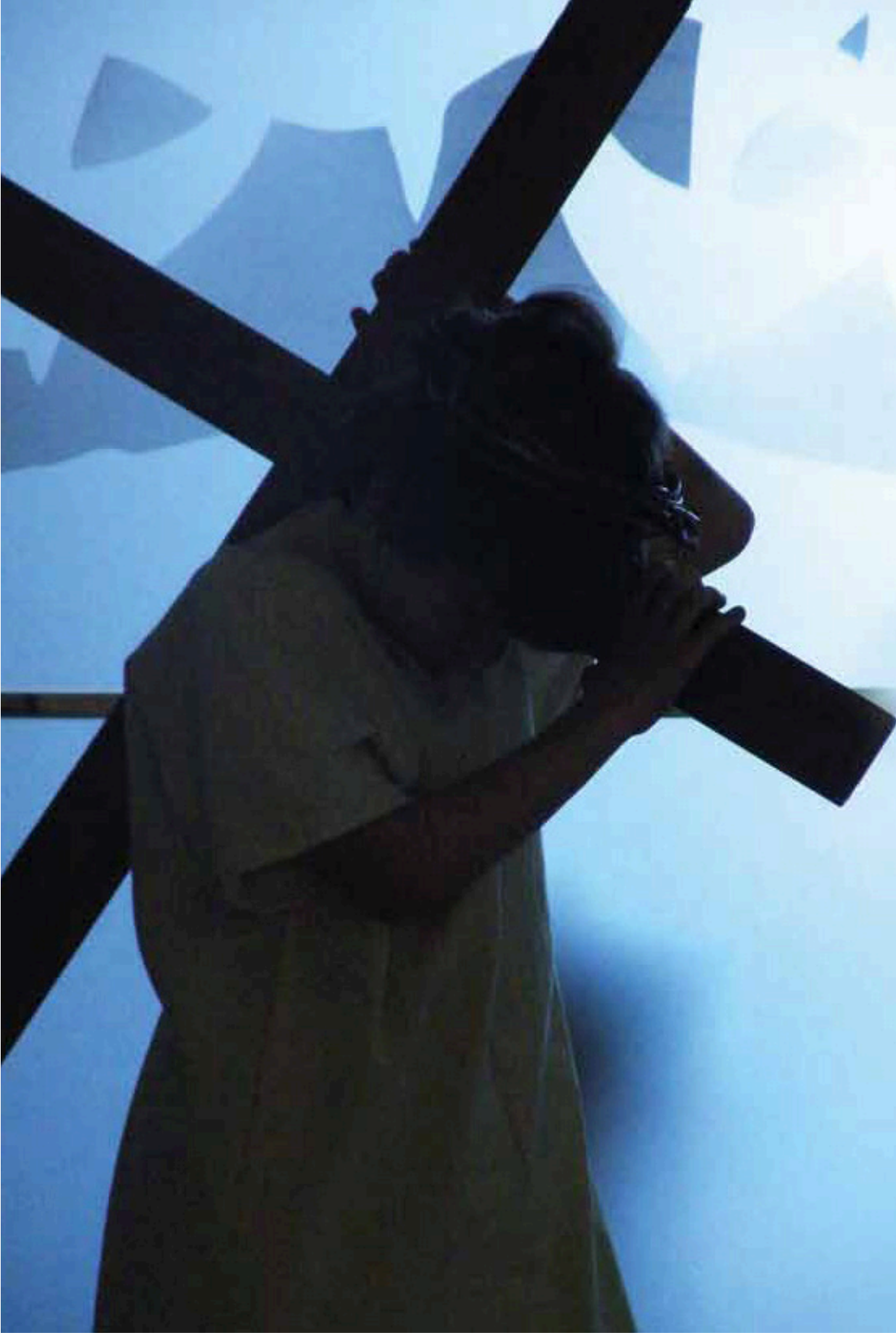
We look forward to meeting you.

Theresa Kenefick, Headteacher



**We are a Catholic community of learners
striving for excellence in all our efforts**





A message from our Parish Priest

St. Joseph's parish and school family are one and I am delighted to welcome you. Together we are here to help you in your task of educating your child in our Catholic faith. Parents are always the first teachers of their child's faith and our school and parish will work with you in this endeavour. May your time with us be happy and fruitful.

With God's blessing,

Canon William Davern
St. Joseph's Catholic Church





Spiritual growth

St. Joseph's is a praying, worshipping community where we support one another on our spiritual journeys towards a closer relationship with God.

We create times, places and spaces where, alone and together, we may celebrate our Faith, reflect on our mission and serve together. With our Prayer Garden in our meadow, our Way of the Cross within the grounds and our Parish Church adjacent, we are truly able to live our prayer life to the full.

Celebrating the spiritual...

- Come together as a community for our Passion Play, May Procession and Advent Service
- Celebrate the annual Good Shepherd Mass at Worth Abbey with Bishop Kieran
- Donate to a variety of global and local charities

Each day the children pray,

“Dear Lord, please help us to work hard, to play well and to make other people happy, Amen.”



Academic challenge

Enthusiasm is the hallmark of learning at St. Joseph's. We take pride in each child as they grow in motivation to enjoy and achieve their very best and reach their absolute potential.

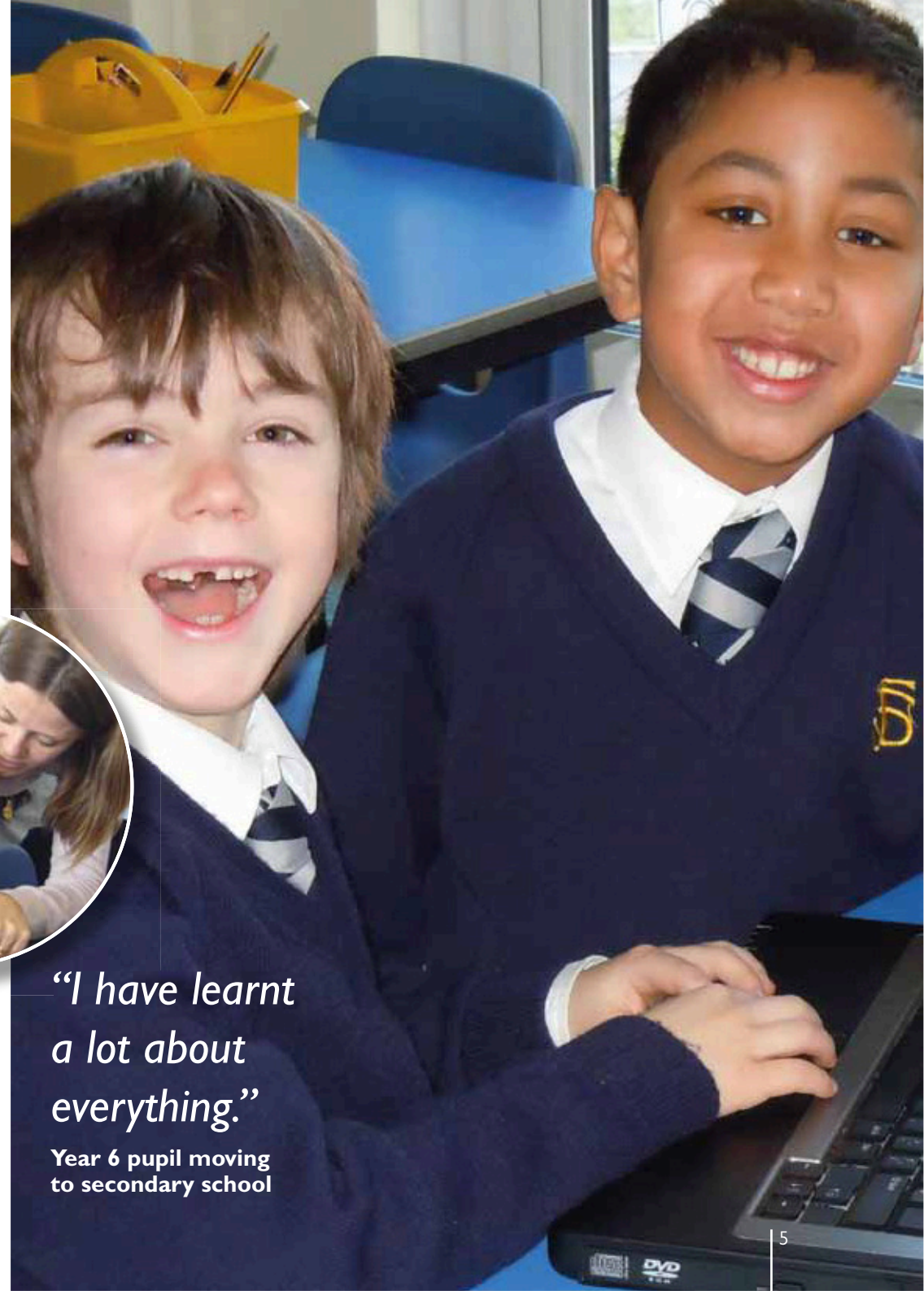
By fostering a 'can do' attitude and a 'have a go' approach to all learning, the staff design an education of the highest quality. The staff care about the children; they support yet challenge; they praise and encourage. We enjoy great success academically in all areas. Our school is nationally accredited for excellence in IT; all children are confident in an increasingly technologically rich society. Whether your child is gifted or talented or experiences additional needs with their learning, we support each one equally.

Celebrating learning...

- Our Virtual Learning Environment allows children to work at home on school projects
- Exciting topic work encourages thinking and research: Evacuation in WW2, Did Mallory Conquer Everest?
- A focus on scientific experiment and mathematical investigation
- Extra lessons for children learning English as an additional language
- Spanish is taught as a second language



We value equality of relationship and seek to recognise God in each other



"I have learnt a lot about everything."

Year 6 pupil moving to secondary school

*“Our meadow is full of nature with a beehive,
stag beetle and mini beast homes and a huge pond.”*

Year 4 pupil



Valuing our world

Blessed with fabulous grounds, woodland, pond, meadow and allotments, we are led daily to wonder in awe at the beautiful world God created for us.


Relating learning to the wider world and leading children to understand their impact on the environment, is something we take seriously at St. Joseph's. As an Eco-school, our children learn from a very early age about their role in caring for the planet. As a Fair Trade school, the children come to a greater awareness of global fairness and equality.

Celebrating the environment...

- Our gardening club grows vegetables
- All children pond dip in our conservation area
- Encourage green travel with the 'Golden Boot Challenge' and 'Midsummer Cycle to School'
- Recycle, re-use, reduce, repair



We respect our environment and recognise our individual responsibility for it



“We have wonderful teachers and they make learning so much fun and special. I think St. Joseph’s is the best school ever.”

Year 6 pupil

Physical challenge

Participating, enjoying and succeeding in sport and competition, both in school and in the wider community, allows children to acquire lifelong physical skills, understand teamwork and keep fit and healthy.

We nurture physical self confidence, encouraging our children to do their very best, whatever their ability. Our on-site pool ensures that all children learn to swim from an early age. Winning local competitions is always a great achievement and when our teams succeed, which they regularly do in football, cricket, netball and rugby, we celebrate with great enthusiasm. Opportunity for individuals to shine is encouraged through biathlon, cross country and athletics competitions.



Celebrating health and fitness...

- Sports days, Fitness Fridays
- A Year 6 Residential Activities Trip to Bude
- A Year 5 Outdoor Learning Trip to Sayer's Croft
- From Reception, children are voted Fitness Friends
- Extra curricular sport including golf, aikido, basketball, tennis
- Bikeability training

Developing self confidence

Equipping children with the skills to express their views confidently and clearly is a highly valued part of the work we do.

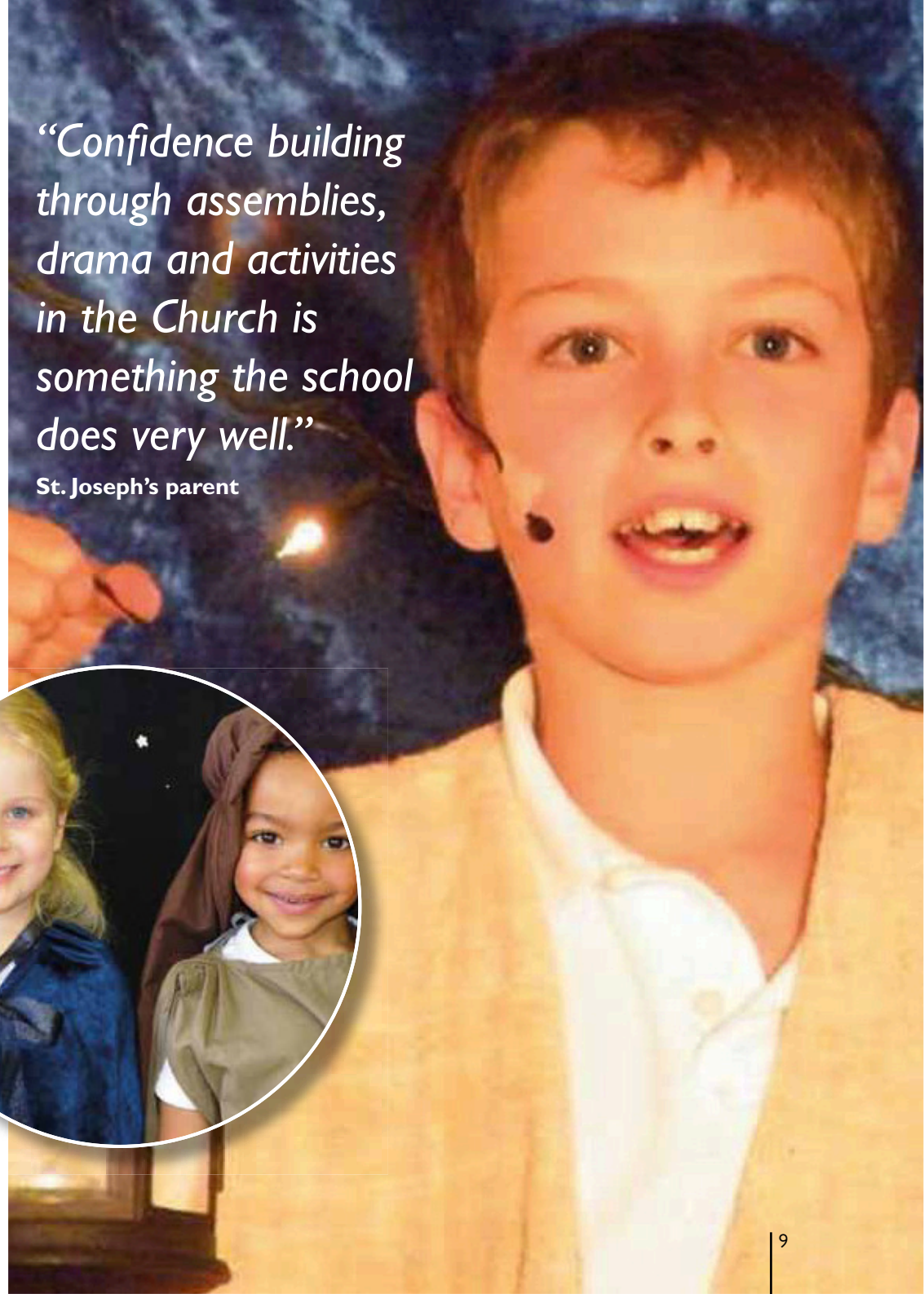
Our children are polite and considerate, they listen to each other's views and each and every one is encouraged to speak their mind confidently and proudly. They understand that they have a role to play in community life and that their contribution is as equal and valid as others.

Celebrating performance...

- Senior staff greet each child by name at the gate each morning
- Our buddy system embraces and supports new children
- Younger children enjoy 'Show and Tell' and 'Shine Time'
- The school council meets regularly
- Annual Poetry and Shakespeare Recitals Competition
- Children read, sing and serve at Parish masses
- Children's work is published in national writing and poetry competitions
- Poets and authors visit our school

“Confidence building through assemblies, drama and activities in the Church is something the school does very well.”

St. Joseph's parent



Experiencing success

Solving problems and not being deterred by difficulty helps prepare children for the challenges life will bring their way.

We help children to think analytically and 'outside of the box'. Children leaving St. Joseph's think positively about themselves and they set their own high standards and ambitious targets. We encourage them to believe that 'anything is possible' and that they have a major contribution to make to their wider community.

Celebrating success...

- 'Pupil of the Week' awards are highly motivational
- Children's successes are celebrated
- Our house system encourages team spirit and identity
- Prefects and house captains represent the school as excellent role models

"We like the way that older children are encouraged to be kind and supportive to the younger ones. The focus has been on developing the whole child."

A Reception class parent



Culturally rich

A sense of belonging and being valued is important. At St. Joseph's we take every opportunity to demonstrate our pride in our British historical and cultural identity.

Our national accreditation for excellence in the Arts through Artsmark, is testimony to our passion for music, art, drama and dance. Our children's ethnic backgrounds are rich and diverse, from British to Brazilian, from Indian to Italian. This leads to a superb diversity into which our children are immersed and where they learn to recognise and value difference and to respect other peoples' views, beliefs and opinions.

Celebrating our culture...

- Culture Days to celebrate our key dominant cultures, including Irish, African and Filipino
- Workshops including African gumboot dancing and drumming, Irish and Filipino dancing
- Visits to the National Gallery, The Houses of Parliament, Hampton Court and The Globe Theatre
- Evening theatre trips; recently *Mary Poppins*, *Matilda the Musical* and *The Lion King*
- Take part in the annual Epsom and Ewell Music Festival



**We value the unique gifts
given to each individual**



“St. Joseph's has helped my children to develop a real sense of what a community is... and how they contribute to making a positive difference within it.”

St. Joseph's parent





Unique in the eyes of God

The closest reality to God that one will ever experience is oneself.

At St. Joseph's we are committed to encouraging the individuality of each child and the discovery of self. We particularly pride ourselves on finding and drawing out the creative talents of children. Performance and exhibition are commonplace and pupil achievements in drama and dance are substantial. We want our children to be proud of themselves and to gain self confidence from knowing that they have used their talents well.

Celebrating talent...

- Perform wonderful school productions like *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*
- Provide extra lessons for talented artists
- Over sixty of our children attend our Irish Dance Clubs; some have performed and won at national level
- Offer extensive extra-curricular activities for the arts: drama, jazz dance, art
- The choir sings publicly, often for charity and regularly in church
- Participate in the National Gallery 'Take One Picture' competition



**We place prayer and worship
at the centre of everything we do**



*“You are doing a wonderful job at St. Joseph’s.
You have laid down a solid foundation for
our son’s education, life and spiritual journey
in years to come.”*

St. Joseph’s parent



Further information

The following summaries are for guidance only. Further details and relevant policies are available on request from the school. Additional information, such as policy documents and inspection reports may be accessed via the school's website: www.stjosephs-epsom.surrey.sch.uk or by contacting the school.

Admissions

Our school serves the worshipping community of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, giving priority to practising Catholics. We are a successful, oversubscribed school, reflecting the vibrant parish community where practising the Faith is intrinsic to family life. The school's current admissions policy is available on the website or by contacting the school office.

Attendance

Children are expected to attend school everyday, unless unwell and we have a low level of absence. Absences for holidays are not authorised although some authorised absence is permitted for children to

attend funerals, weddings and other religious events. Where attendance is of concern, the school refers all cases to the Educational Welfare Service.

Behaviour

We expect school to be a happy experience for all children and everyone is expected to behave impeccably at all times.

We do not tolerate bullying. There are clear policies in place which are available from the school office.

Collective worship / Religious Education

The school gathers in small groups or as a whole community on a daily basis, when we pray and worship together. In line with the requirements of a Catholic school, at least 10% of our curriculum time is dedicated to Religious Education.

Curriculum

All children have access to a broad, balanced and rich curriculum. For all subjects learning is guided by the National Curriculum. For Religious Education we follow the national 'Here I Am' scheme. We teach Spanish as a second language. We adhere fully to statutory requirements.

Disability

All areas of the school are accessible by wheelchair. As the school undergoes changes as a result of expansion, better facilities are being incorporated.

Education in Personal Relationships (EPR)

EPR provides children with a thorough understanding of personal, social and health related development issues, which our children explore on a regular basis. This includes sex and relationships education, which begins at an early age progressing towards an understanding among our oldest children of the physical and emotional changes which take place as they become adults.

Equality

We recognise that all members of our community are equal but contribute in different unique ways towards the school's success. We are committed to ensuring that every child, parent and member of staff, regardless of role, feels equally valued and respected.

Friends of St. Joseph's

There is a very active and successful Friends of St. Joseph's, which has the dual purpose of arranging social events for the school community and fundraising. They enjoy a great deal of success and contribute hugely in terms of financial support to the school on an annual basis.



Gifted and talented

'Gifted and talented' describes children with an ability to develop to a level significantly ahead of their year group; 'gifted' learners are those who have abilities in one or more academic subjects, such as Maths and English; 'talented' learners are those who have practical skills in areas like sport, music, design or creative and performing arts. If you think your child is gifted or talented, you should discuss their abilities and needs with the relevant teacher.

Governing body

Ofsted wrote of Governors that they were 'exemplary'. The Chair of Governors is Mrs Sally Nestor. Details of other governors and their roles are available on the school website.

Home/school agreement

Prior to admission, all parents and students sign our home/school agreement. This details our shared expectations and is the foundation of the important partnership between home and school.

Looked after children

The term includes all children being looked after by the Local Authority. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) is our designated member of staff; her role includes overseeing provision for any child in this category.

Monitoring progress

Children are assessed on an ongoing basis by their teachers in order to inform each child's next steps in learning. They are formally assessed at the end of Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 against nationally benchmarked tests. Parents enjoy regular contact with teachers throughout the year, with one to one meetings and open sessions when parents may view their child's work. All parents receive an Annual Report in July.

Special Educational Needs

We are proud that our children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) achieve very well. Our SENCo monitors their progress, involving external agencies to support when necessary. We work to ensure that every child with SEN reaches their full potential in school.

Working with families

Parents are the first educators of their children and with the school and parish make up the partnership which ensures that each child enjoys a successful and full development. The Working with Families Information Pack helps parents throughout the year to keep abreast of busy school life. It also outlines expectations that the school holds for attendance, uniform and behaviour and the important and primary role parents enjoy in ensuring that each child adheres to school policy. We believe it is a parent's duty to ensure that their children are well-mannered, well-spoken and understand the rules of how to be polite and co-operative members of our community.

An invitation to you

We encourage parents to visit our school in order to find out more about how we work and the education that we offer. Tours of the school take place throughout the year. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact the school office and speak to one of our administrative team who will be very happy to arrange your visit. We very much look forward to meeting you.



“Excellent provision contributes to pupil’s enormous enthusiasm for school, their sense of responsibility and excellent relationships.”

Ofsted



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