



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Diocese of Clifton

## Faith, Hope, Love

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**Head Teacher: Mrs Wendy D'Arcy**

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have noticed that during the course of the last couple of years especially, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is the local school of choice-we are very proud of the high standards that we achieve, as well as the well-rounded young people who leave us at the end of Y6, moving onto the next phase in their education.

The School continues to go from strength to strength having grown from 93 pupils on roll in my first year of headship in 2011 to currently 165. As an advocate for Catholic education, my ambition has always been to grow the school back into a single form entry primary school as it has been historically. Each school has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) and during my time at St Joseph's this has always been 29 per year group. This means that when a request for a place is made, the school is legally obliged to offer a place unless that year group is up to PAN. Parent/carers are able to appeal and as an aside, in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 classes cannot be any larger than 30.

However, the growth of the school has required careful management in terms of class organisation, financial management (as very often there is a delay in funding for additional pupils) and accommodation so that there is no impact on the vital wrap around care provided by OOSC and Pre-School. I am currently working with the diocese to look at how I can manage the site effectively with the least impact on all that we currently offer.

The ambition and continued drive is to be the school of choice, where teaching is outstanding. High expectations in all areas of the school, are instilled and valued, centred on the foundations of the Catholic teachings. The education and development of each child is paramount. This means that whether there are 10 children or 30 children in a class-every child does matter. Each child is discussed in detail four times per year at pupil progress meetings that are led by myself, Mrs Howells and Miss Jones. Each member of staff is held to account for the progress that every individual child makes and where necessary, additional support or challenge is put in place. Staff are observed on a regular basis, either formally or through learning walks and each week, myself and Mrs Howells complete some form of monitoring of standards. It is a privilege to work alongside highly competent and professional

staff who whole-heartedly strive for excellence each day-something that very often is taken for granted.

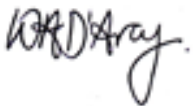
As a school we continue to improve and reflect upon our practice but equally, we support many other local schools through the outreach work that we do at leadership and classroom level-I feel very strongly that we are an outward looking school where 'only the best is good enough.'

The opportunities to support local schools and the Ofsted Inspection work I undertake is key to my development to ensure that I can deliver the best to the School. The governors are keen to support all of the team to develop as professionals so that the school and the children continue on this journey of excellence.

During the course of the rest of this academic year, the focus for driving improvement is based on developing a clear philosophy for the school curriculum which encompasses all subject areas as well extra-curricular provision. I would like for your contribution in developing this vision, as well as the staff and children so pleased do engage with this process.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support and should you have any concerns then please do share them with the school-if I do not know what your concerns are, then I cannot address them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy D'Arcy'.

Wendy D'Arcy  
Headteacher