



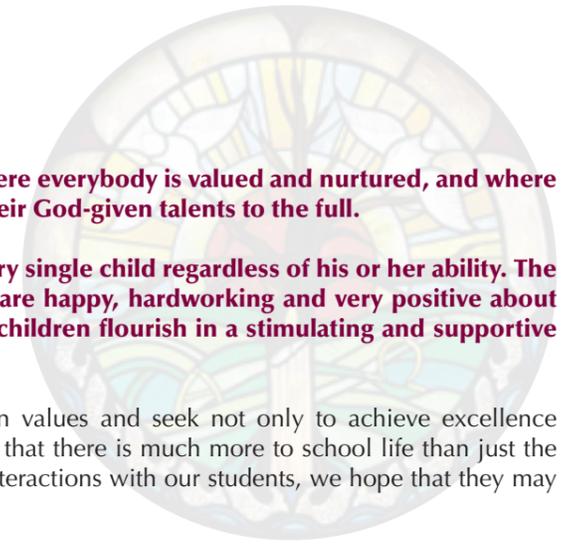
St John Payne Catholic School



"I am extremely supportive of the school's eagerness to ensure all the children are developed as a whole person and not just academically throughout their school life. I am very pleased my children attend St. John Payne School." Parent quoted in Ofsted Report



Welcome



We aim to create an inclusive community where everybody is valued and nurtured, and where each person is encouraged to make use of their God-given talents to the full.

We are committed to the achievement of every single child regardless of his or her ability. The students, as you will see when you visit us, are happy, hardworking and very positive about the school. Ours is a friendly school where children flourish in a stimulating and supportive learning environment.

At St John Payne School we promote Christian values and seek not only to achieve excellence intellectually but also spiritually. It is our belief that there is much more to school life than just the rigour of examinations and through our daily interactions with our students, we hope that they may become caring, compassionate human beings.

The staff, who are well qualified, enthusiastic and passionate about education, are also a particular strength of the school. They work very hard to ensure all lessons are engaging, challenging and enjoyable. We are also blessed with excellent Governors who, along with the rest of us work to ensure that our students get a great education.

We believe we have a great school.

**Antony Schular
Headteacher**



Our Vision

To work as a three way partnership with the home, the school and church to support the spiritual, moral, social physical and academic education of the whole child.

To help each student to realise his or her full potential through an appropriate curriculum and adapting our teaching style to embrace individual needs.

To meet each student's personal and social needs to promote the acquisition of moral values.

To create an environment in which students are happy, feel valued as individuals and learn to co-operate with one another.

To foster a community where life is lived according to Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

To provide opportunities for students and staff to experience, express, celebrate and live out our faith.

In all that we do, our aim is to truly care for those with whom we work by doing as Jesus has instructed us; "Love one another as I have loved you."



Why are our students keen to embrace their learning?

Learning opportunities here are broad and varied, exciting and engaging, stimulating and challenging. A walk down the corridor will see a variety of activities taking place inside the classroom. We believe that there is not one type of learner, nor that one type of lesson is best. We endeavour to build on our knowledge of each individual and set them work that stretches them to not only meet, but exceed those targets set of them.

We enjoy continued and sustained success and are consistently among the top performing schools at both GCSE and A level. We see academic success as important, together with the achievement of a genuine inquisitive outlook and an interest in the world and the people around us.

Individual, paired or group work is used to actively engage students in their learning. Those skills much required throughout future careers, of teamwork, planning, communication and cooperation are given real situations in which to be developed.

Our students benefit from the dedication, expertise and creativity of their teachers, who are committed to the ideals of our school and who display a life long passion for learning.

*“Students are interested in, and contribute well to, their own learning because they are well motivated.”
Ofsted Report*



What learning opportunities are available beyond the classroom?

Our school values learning and the development of the whole person. Aware that learning cannot be confined within the walls of a classroom, or even the school, we are forever keen to embrace opportunities that exist further afield.

A typical school year might see students experience a diverse range of cultures and climates, including visits to Iceland, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Spain, Germany, Poland and France; as well as locations within UK, with field trips to Derbyshire and Wales, visits to museums and art galleries, retreats to Aylesford and Canvey Island and sporting fixtures and athletics meetings the whole length and breadth of the country.

Further enrichments to the curriculum include debating and public speaking, in which our students achieve great success. If a child has

an interest in drama, singing or music, many opportunities to use these talents exist within the school. The dance squad, choir, orchestra, bands and actors are all active throughout the year with their performances being very popular and well appreciated.

Our commitment to a range of charity initiatives sees students live out their faith in the service of others. Each year several thousand pounds is raised by our students for local, national and international charities. Just as significant is the time generously given by our students in supporting others as mentors, buddies or coaches; be they younger students in our own school or students attending Columbus School and College.

“Teachers provide memorable experiences that bring learning alive.” Ofsted Report





How does our care ensure that your child will be ready for life in the world that lies ahead?

Our pastoral care is of a nurturing and guiding nature. We recognise the importance of good pastoral care to academic success and to personal and spiritual wellbeing. This informs all that we do. Even though all our teachers will be experts in their subject area and may therefore teach each child for just part of the week, they take a real interest in the wellbeing of the whole child as an individual.



Our pastoral system enables our school to respond to the needs of each person, with good communication between teachers, the child and home being given high priority. Upon joining our community students are allocated a tutor group in which they remain throughout their time with us. Our highly regarded transition arrangements ensure that friendships are quickly made. Through our tutor group activities students are encouraged to bond with their peers. Ours is a welcoming school.

The Year System is supported by six Houses, each relating to a Religious Order. This allows a further sense of community whilst engendering a degree of healthy competition between the members of each of the houses in areas ranging from football and netball tournaments, to inter house debating.

Embracing all of this is a commitment to offering students opportunities to come towards greater knowledge of themselves and of God's love of each of us as individuals.



What does being a Catholic School mean to us?

"Students value, appreciate and benefit enormously from the Catholic life and ethos of the school and, in a wide variety of ways, make an impressive contribution to it." Diocesan Report

Our Catholic identity permeates all aspects of our life as a school. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum, with all students studying the subject to GCSE level, but education in the faith is a wider phenomenon than achievement in an academic subject. In their time at St John Payne School a student will know what it is to live out their faith and will be able to be part of a wider community that does so.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for prayer, reflection, spiritual retreat and renewal, charitable work and celebration of the Eucharist. We welcome one of the parish priests from our deanery each Friday lunchtime when Mass is celebrated in our Chapel for each Form in turn. On one day each term we arrange Masses to allow everyone in the school to be able to attend and receive the Blessed sacrament.

As well as the celebration of our faith, all those who know the school will recognise the importance with which we view each person. It is our belief that we should love one another, putting the needs of others beyond those of ourselves. Our students know that they are cared for and our students care about others. They will take these core values with them wherever they go.



What makes our Sixth Form so successful?

Sixth Form students follow programmes that give them the required subject skills and knowledge to perform at the highest levels. Teachers have high expectations, setting aspirational targets for each student and, through close monitoring and high quality, expert teaching, the students are well prepared to meet or exceed these. Students leave our Sixth Form to take up places at the top universities including those of Oxbridge or Russell Group, with often more than the minimum grades required of them.

In addition to academic excellence, the Sixth Form is well regarded for its sense of community. Our students say that they have really enjoyed their time in the Sixth Form. It is a welcoming and friendly place to study with much support from both teachers and fellow students. Students are able to join our Sixth Form from neighbouring schools if places on courses are available. Several of our senior students take on additional leadership roles in our school within the School Council, Chaplaincy Team or in the House System. They do so much to give the whole school its tremendous feeling of community and demonstrate excellent role models for the younger students. The leadership training they receive and the experiences available to them give our Sixth Formers an excellent foundation for future responsibilities in their chosen careers.

“Learning and progress in the sixth form lessons is outstanding because of the high quality of teaching.” Ofsted Report





St John Payne Catholic School

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