

St. James the Great Catholic Primary School Peckham



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply?

Application is online through your local authority and you can name schools on your application across London; they do not have to be in the borough in which you live. As a Catholic School you will need to complete an additional Supplementary Form which is available on the school website or from the school office. Once you have a place in the school you do not need to reapply each year.

2. Can my child go to a Catholic school if we are not Catholic?

We welcome all families who wish to be part of our school. Whilst we give priority to practising Catholics in our admission criteria, but we welcome families who are not practising or who have other faiths but wish for their child to be part of a Catholic School with a Catholic ethos.

3. Does the school run First Holy Communion Classes?

The school works closely with the parish who run the classes each year. The school is supportive of the programme and celebrates the event.

4. Does St. James the Great offer wrap around care? What are the times/prices? Is there availability and how does the booking system work?

We have a Breakfast Club run on-site by staff members. Breakfast club starts at 7:45am and costs £2.50 a session. Places need to be booked in advance per half term.

5. What are the uniform requirements?

The uniform for St. James the Great is traditional and smart. We have a royal blue, with gold trim jumper and a tie. Boys wear navy trousers and girls wear a school plaid skirt. Older children, from Year 3, are expected to wear a blazer. All pupils wear black school shoes, trainers are not allowed. A school PE kit is worn for PE lessons.

6. What are the lunchtime arrangements, do you have to pay?

School dinners are cooked on-site as we have our own kitchen and the children eat lunch in the school hall. The children have a balanced menu and every day they have choices for their main meal and dessert. There is always salad available and water to drink. Currently all children receive a free school meal provided by both Southwark and Government funding.

7. How does the school communicate with parents and involve them in the life of the school?

There is a weekly newsletter which keeps parents up to date with the life of the school; families receive a paper copy weekly. Past newsletters are on the school website so do look at some of these as they give you a good flavour of the school. Parent Evenings are held termly and there are parent workshops throughout the year to support home - school learning.

School Leaders stand at the School gate at the start and end of every day to welcome any children and to answer any questions you may have.

8. What is the size of the class and how many classes per year group?

Each class has a maximum of 30 children. There is a Nursery Class and one class for each year group from Reception through to Year 6.

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9. What is offered in terms of sports?

The school benefits from working with a Sports Coach who teaches Games and Gymnastics. There are a range of sporting activities includes team sports, as well as individual participation in athletics activities. The school employs a specialist Dance Teacher.

We are proud of the wide range of sporting opportunities on offer for all children. In the recent past this has included regular session at the Greenwich Golf range, as well as safe scootering and safe cycling programmes. Older children enjoy a series of sailing lessons at Millwall Dock (working towards Level 1 Sailing Award) and a residential trip to The Isle of Wight to experience sailing and other water sports. There is also a residential where the children experience a variety of Outward Bound type activities in Lower KS2.

These opportunities not only develop children's sporting abilities and widen their experiences beyond what is normally offered in a Primary School, they allow the children to develop a positive attitude towards trying new things, resilience and team work.

10. What is offered in terms of language?

At St. James the Great Mandarin is taught weekly by a specialist teacher, which includes spoken language as well as cultural understanding.

11. How is music taught?

Music is taught by a specialist teacher from the Southwark Music Service. Additionally those children in years 5 & 6, benefit from a group weekly brass musical instrument lesson. If a child shows talent and promise there is the opportunity to receive further support through the Mayors Fund for extra lessons and ensemble playing experience.

12. What experiences does the school offer children:

13. We believe that learning outside the classroom is key to supporting children to fulfil their potential; it also makes for a meaningful and exciting learning journey for all children. Peckham is particularly well served by public transport links which means that the children can travel across London. Trips regularly include Museums, Art Galleries, Theatres, Parks and a host of other venues.

14. How does the school support more or less able children?

As a small and inclusive one-form-entry school the progress and potential of every child is tracked. Each child is supported to reach their potential. On a day to day basis, work is differentiated and additional staff give support and challenge where needed. Children may find particular areas of the curriculum a challenge and there are a host of interventions and support programmes which our experienced teachers will put in place. Challenge for pupils who are more able is planned as part of lessons and there are opportunities for children to excel in all areas from writing and maths to music, art and sport.

Our results at the end of KS2 as children move to secondary school show how successful we are in this.

15. What is offered in terms of extra-curricular activities and after school clubs:

In the summer term, the schools offers a range of after school activities which children can take part in. This includes sporting and games activities, art and creative sessions.

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16. How long has the Headteacher been at St. James the Great and what is the vision for the school?

Staffing is stable at St. James the Great and we are proud of our hard working and dedicated staff team; teachers and support staff. The school is part of a Federation with St. John's in Rotherhithe and there is one board of governors. An Executive Headteacher leads both schools and each school has a Head of School. The Head of School at St James the Great is Denis O' Regan and he has been here for over twenty years.

The Vision for St James the Great is that all children will do their best for God, for each other and for themselves. All children deserve to reach their full potential.