



**St Joseph's RC Primary School**

**School Motto: 'Put your heart into all that you do'**

**Values: Faith Achievement Learning Love**

# **Celebrating and Worshipping**

***“What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate that is permeated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love”***

# St Augustine's RC High School

St Augustine's High School educates young people to the highest possible standards in many ways - academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.

Naturally, of prime importance are our high expectations and the academic achievement of our young people. But we are about more than that.

The Religious Education Curriculum develops our young people's knowledge of the Church and its teaching. It explores Moral questions and gives them a grounding which they will take with them when they leave school and take their place in Society. Pupils are encouraged to live out their faith and pupils have the opportunity to consider what their faith means to them.

There is a Pastoral Group which, among other things, helps organise the celebration of the liturgy as well as marking in a special way the church seasons of Advent and Lent.

In our school, we see an increased awareness of the global dimension of the world and of the needs of people in developing countries. We actively support the work of SCIAF during Lent. Our Advent focus is on the needs of our local community and at that time we support our local food banks.

The school also involves itself in a number of fund raising activities which support local charities. This year we have introduced the Fr Duffy Memorial Fund which will provide funding for a sick person to take part in the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Pupils are well versed in education for citizenship and take on responsibilities through their involvement in the student councils and membership of other groups. Senior pupils are encouraged through our Buddy Scheme to care and look out for younger pupils, helping their transition.

In Scotland the introduction of the CARITAS AWARD for senior school pupils is providing an opportunity for young people to respond to the Gospel by showing love and faith in practical ways and by becoming active members of local parishes and faith communities. This year we have 65 pupils who are working towards their award.

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# St Joseph's RC Primary School

School Motto: *'Put Your Heart Into All That You Do'*

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St Joseph's RC Primary School is the Roman Catholic School serving an area from Carrickknowe and Forrester Park in the north, to Clovenstone in the south and Balgreen in the east. We have an excellent working partnership with St. Augustine's RC High School and the Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh and often work alongside other local religious organisations and other major world faiths in the Midlothian and Edinburgh areas. Our school values:

Love, Learning, Achievement and our Faith.

We are proud of our Catholic education and our inclusive approach to learning. Every child and family member is challenged to live out our school motto: *Ex Animo Operamini* – put your heart into all that you do!

St. Joseph's RC Primary School has a reputation in the local and wider community for an excellent ethos, where all children and families are included, where religion, culture and diversity are celebrated. We are an Eco Schools' Scotland Green flag holder, working towards becoming a Right's Respecting School, we promote Fairtrade and last year our Primary 7s were the first children of St. Joseph's to receive the Pope Francis Faith Award from the Scottish Catholic Education Service. We are also the first and only primary school in Edinburgh to achieve the SportScotland Gold Award and the first to be awarded it twice!

Throughout your first experience of our school, prior to enrolment, see if St. Joseph's is an environment whereby your child will thrive in their primary school years. A school community that will present them with the opportunity to become a successful learner, a confident individual, an effective contributor and a responsible citizen. A school community whereby your child will be prepared fully for the challenges of secondary education at St. Augustine's RC High School and beyond and providing the necessary skills for learning, life and work!

We have an outstanding teaching and support staff team working to provide the best possible learning experiences for the pupils of St Joseph's. Presently, we have a 2year old class and a Nursery class, 12 primary classes with 14 class teachers, a Support for Learning Teacher, Miss Hay; Principal Teachers, Mrs Loescher and Mr Wilson; Acting Principal Teacher, Mrs Tunesi, and the Head Teacher, Mr Currie. The children are also supported by two early years' officers, early years practitioners, playground supervisors, pupil support assistants, a pupil support officer, Business Manager, office administrator and a team from Amey, including service support officer, catering and cleaning staff. Each member of staff has a role to play in our team to offer the children the highest quality learning experience in a safe and secure environment.

We value the role parents/carers play in their child's learning and development and work closely with them. This year we have worked with parents/carers to increase the opportunities they have to engage in their child's learning experience and improve partnership working thus enhancing further the excellent ethos of our school. We continue to support our children and families through their Sacramental preparation at P3 and P4 as well as through their individual faith journey and our P1-7 programme, 'This is Our Faith'. The world needs the message of the Gospel as much as the Gospel needs the world. Our Catholic faith is at its very best when it engages with the world! At St. Joseph's, we live and breathe our school values and we put our heart into all that we do!

# Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland



The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

**All Catholic schools in Scotland**, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

**All staff appointed to a Catholic school** are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.