



St Joseph's In The Park

Independent Preparatory School

Inspiring children to shine





When only the best will do for your child

I am delighted that you have shown an interest in St Joseph's In The Park. As a father I understand that choosing a school for your child is a very important decision.

St Joseph's is a supportive, family community which fosters a strong sense of belonging. Being a child here is a unique experience; everyone is treated as an individual. We pride ourselves on our child-centred approach to education. We believe that learning should be fostered in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect, and within an environment where fear of failure is banished and reinforced by positive learning experiences.

We prepare pupils for their follow on school entrance examinations. Our children achieve great success and many are awarded scholarships in all areas of the curriculum. The children leave school full of self-confidence, having developed the courage to discover themselves and most importantly, to be the best they can.

Art, drama, music and sports are nurtured so that every child has the opportunity to shine and develop new talents. The excellent pastoral care from our dedicated team of staff means your child will feel happy, secure, well cared for and part of the St Joseph's family.

There is so much to tell you about our school but the best way to learn more about our many attributes is to come and see for yourself. I look forward to welcoming you to see why St Joseph's In The Park is such a wonderful place for your child to grow.



- Excellent in All areas – ISI Inspection
- Accredited Forest school
- Small class sizes
- Co-educational – ages 2-11
- Non-selective
- Single form entry

Douglas Brown
Headmaster



A forest school

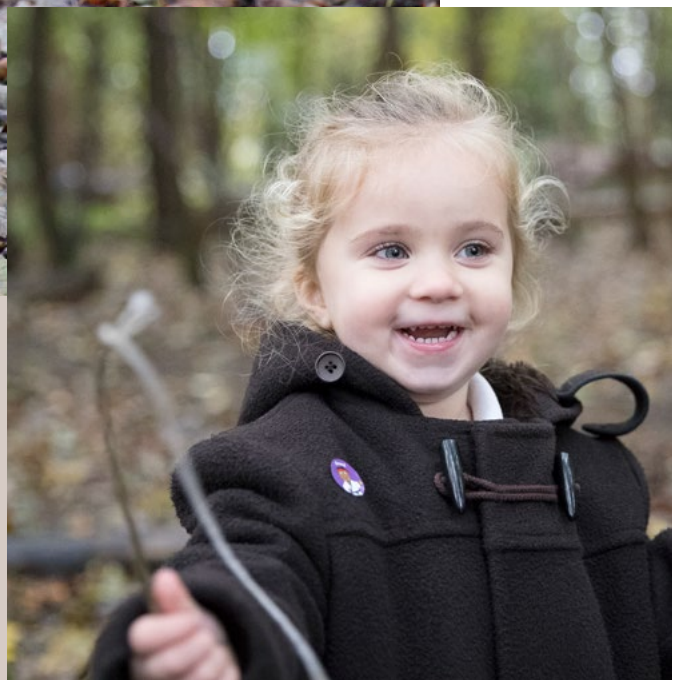
■ We are an established independent school with a distinct 'family' ethos, offering a vibrant education to boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 11.

■ St Joseph's In The Park sits within the beautiful grounds of Hertingfordbury Park, surrounded by fields and woodlands. It is conveniently situated on the edge of the market town of Hertford and within easy reach of road and rail networks in and out of London.

■ Every parent seeks an environment where their child can discover, explore, develop and be happy, knowing they are supported by staff who genuinely know and care for each child as an individual. St Joseph's In The Park is such a place.

St Joseph's In The Park is an accredited Forest school. The woodland and fields in our extensive grounds give your child access to regular opportunities for outdoor activities. The outdoors bestows a wonderful extension to the everyday learning environment, whatever the weather!

We may be watching wildlife from within the bird hide, scrambling over logs, gathering sticks and leaves for literacy projects, visiting our hens, going on a bear hunt, looking for Easter eggs or building dens, but in every adventure there is the additional opportunity to be brave, independent, excited, persevering, creative or curious.





Nursery

AGES 2 – 4

■ Our nursery is a place where your child will develop and learn caring relationships beyond those of their family and home. Children follow an individual development plan tailored to their specific needs, ability and learning capacity. St Joseph's In The Park allows children to have a carefree, happy time, full of laughter, fun, friendships and the freedom to learn and explore in a nurturing and stimulating environment.

■ We encourage parents to become involved in their child's learning and organise special 'stay and play' sessions so you can see just what we get up to when you're not here! You can come and watch our annual Pedal Push, Sports Day, Country Dancing and Friday Assemblies which showcase the amazing talents of our children.





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Pre-Prep

AGES 4 – 7

■ At this age, children are naturally curious; interest and eagerness levels are high. It is important that sound academic foundations and skills are built upon and extended.

■ Caring and professional teachers are quick to recognise your child's strengths and support their learning so that they continue being well-rounded, happy individuals. Children are taught not only by their class teacher but also by subject specialised teachers e.g. Science, Music, Art and French.

■ You too can be a part of your child's learning development and we are always keen to encourage parents to come into school and read with children. You are also warmly invited to attend our special Friday Assemblies and the annual Christmas Play which is performed by all of the Nursery and Pre-Prep children.



Prep
AGES 7 – 11

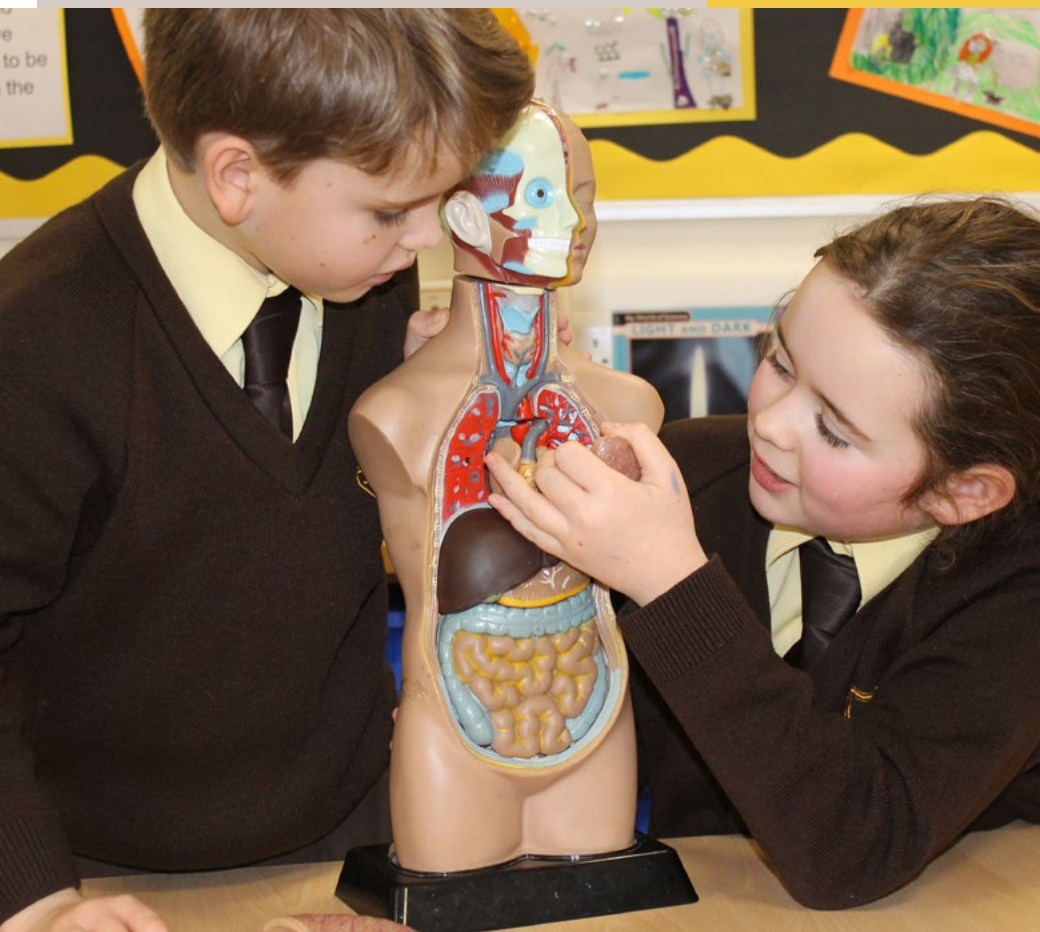


- By Year 3, learning and experiences are firmly embedded and extended. Children grow both socially and emotionally.
- Every class has a form teacher who is the focus of the academic and pastoral care for each pupil. Our teachers meet regularly to discuss the progress and wellbeing of each pupil in order to offer additional support when necessary.
- As well as academic subjects, our curriculum offers a vast number of opportunities for pupils to take part in trips and visits which are designed to add breadth to learning, motivate, kindle their curiosity and help them grow as individuals.
- We offer all pupils from Years 2 to 6 the opportunity to attend Speech and Drama sessions. Held weekly, these are designed to encourage the children to build on their self-confidence, enjoy exploring their individual creative skills, develop their communication skills and learn to work effectively as part of a team.
- At this point of transition, pupils in Year 3 look forward to becoming house team members. All Prep pupils attend weekly House meetings to promote togetherness, inspire achievement and strive for success in healthy inter-house competitions and sports matches.

- By Year 6, pupils are ready to assume individual, defined roles of responsibility, which are intended to both develop them as young people and be of benefit to the wider school and local community.
- We pride ourselves in preparing pupils for follow on school entrance examinations in English, Maths, verbal and non-verbal reasoning and for interviews. By the end of Year 6, the pupils are confident, independent learners and are ready to face the new challenges of senior school.



We have an excellent track record of helping pupils gain entry to prestigious and sought-after follow on schools.



Wellbeing

- Our staff are aware that the emotional wellbeing of every child is essential for maximum learning and progress in the classroom.
- St Joseph's In The Park places great importance on pastoral care and, as part of our commitment to lifelong learning, actively seeks to help children deal with the stress and anxieties of modern day childhood.
- Maintaining a healthy body, eating well, drinking water and exercising are of course included in our curriculum but we also support children through:
 - Mindfulness sessions
 - Regular exercise sessions
- An environmentally friendly, Mongolian yurt is positioned at the edge of our woodland. The space within is wonderful in encouraging reflective thought, relaxation and a sense of calm.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

- The need for skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics has never been greater so it is our responsibility as educators to stimulate curiosity, actively encourage pupils and help them to achieve in these areas.
- All pupils take part in the CREST Star Investigators scheme run by the British Science Association (BAS) for 5-11 years which encourages them to solve science, technology, engineering, and maths challenges through practical investigation. Pupils work to achieve their Star, Superstar and Megastar awards.
- Our school offers a fantastic outdoor setting where pupils can learn about the seasons, habitats and also take part in Forest School activities.
- Pupils benefit from visits by STEM Ambassadors and to renowned companies and organisations.

- Our pupils enjoy workshops and school challenges and have recently taken part in the Haileybury Science Challenge, National Knex Challenge and Regional Jaguar Primary School Challenge.
- Our Year 6 class visit the bioengineering laboratories of Queen Mary University of London. The pupils take part in hands-on investigative activities and meet scientists working in cutting-edge research at the Institute of Bioengineering.
- As well as hosting our own STEM programmes, our pupils regularly attend workshops run by Glaxo Educational Outreach and visit Science festivals.



Sports

- Sport is a key part of life at St Joseph's In The Park. We want our children to enjoy a range of sports and be inspired by healthy lifestyle choices.
- We urge all pupils to take part and give all children an opportunity to play in competitive matches, regardless of their ability.
- There are opportunities to represent the school in matches and tournaments, captain your team and play in House matches.
- Pupils are coached by specialist teachers and, in the case of football and rugby, by a professional coach.
- We are constantly seeking to improve our range of sporting activities and to make the most of our exceptional facilities and grounds, including a football/rugby pitch, netball courts, swimming pool and the use of Hertingfordbury cricket grounds.

Art, Music and Drama

- Art and Design at St Joseph's In The Park gives pupils an opportunity to work with a variety of materials and techniques, ranging from 2D weaving, painting and drawing, pastel, collage, computer-aided design and 3D model making, landscape and recycled sculpture, mosaic and traditional clay modelling.
- We aim for high standards in our performing arts but what our pupils gain from taking part is far more valuable. Through music, drama and dance they experience teamwork, a sense of achievement and an immense joy and freedom of being given the opportunity to express themselves.
- Children at St Joseph's In The Park start treading the boards from a very early age. Even our 3 year olds get to sing and dance in front of an audience during plays, nativities and assemblies.
- Performance is a celebration of what St Joseph's In The Park pupils are: confident, courageous, talented, funny and most of all, joyful.

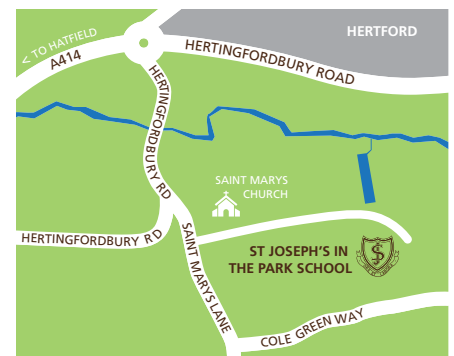
Destination Schools

- St Joseph's In The Park prepares pupils for the next stage of education. Each class is a springboard to the broader course requirements of the following year. The success in gaining places for our Year 6 pupils in their secondary school of choice and excellent scholarship track record are testament to our high standards.
- On average 32% of pupils applying to independent schools are awarded scholarships; an exceptional result for a non-selective, single form entry school.
- Our pupils are ready and confident for the next chapter in their academic life.



Inspiring children to shine

St Joseph's In The Park is a much sought-after preparatory school and places are, therefore, limited. Early application is encouraged. So, if only the best will do for your child, please contact our Admissions team now on 01992 513810.



St Joseph's In The Park

Independent Preparatory School

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