



St Austin's Catholic Primary School
Riverbank Road
Liverpool
L19 9DH

Website: www.st-austins.co.uk
Email: enquiries@st-austins.co.uk

Starting School

Welcome to
St Austin's Catholic Primary School
Academic Year 2025-26

**"In our school, where everyone is special,
we will love and serve as Jesus taught"**

*"En nuestro colegio todos somos especiales.
Amaremos y serviremos como Jesús nos enseñó"*

St. Austin's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher

Mrs Colette Hickey

Deputy Headteacher Mrs Doyle (also year 4 Class Teacher)

Assistant Headteacher Mrs Kelly (also year 2 Class Teacher)

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Hickey, Mrs Doyle, Mrs Kelly, Miss Waldron

Senior Management Team

Mrs Docherty, Mr Hints, Mrs Hughes, Miss McCallion

Teachers

Mrs O'Shea	Mr Hughes
Miss McCallion	Miss Livingstone
Mr Huddleston	Miss Clarke
Mrs Kelly	Miss M Sadiq (Maternity cover)
Mrs Docherty	Mrs Hughes (SENCO)
Mrs Doyle	Mrs Agger
Mr McRae	Mr Hints
Mr Ayre	Miss R Clair (Maternity leave)
Ms Davies	

Learning Support Staff

Mrs Manning	Mrs Guy
Mrs Baird	Miss O'Shea
Mrs McLoughlin	Mrs Foster
Mrs McCoombe	Miss Barton
Mrs Speed	Mrs Flight
Mrs Daniels	Miss Kelly

Office Staff

School Business Manager	Miss Waldron
Finance Officer	Mrs Doran
Admin Officer	Mrs Melia

You can see a full staffing structure including Breakfast and After School staff on the school website at the following link:

<http://www.st-austins.co.uk/whos-who/>

"I'VE STARTED SCHOOL!"



Wednesday 3rd September
Class start times

School siblings: 8.45am
Class RRM: 9.10am
Class RJH: 9.30am

(This applies to the first day only, all start at 8.45am from 4th September)

AS SOON AS THE CHILDREN HAVE SETTLED

After the first day we encourage parents/carers to remain outside. This not only helps to alleviate the congestion in the classroom but is also an important step in the children's early education - working towards independence.

At home time, would you please wait on the playground outside of the shuttered area at 3.10pm. The children will be dismissed when the bell goes and will only be allowed outside if we see an appointed adult waiting for them. (Please let us know if a friend or relative will be collecting your child by emailing enquiries@st-austins.co.uk or calling the school office)

Last, but not least, if there is anything you wish to discuss no matter how small - please don't hesitate to contact us by emailing enquiries@st-austins.co.uk or informing a member of staff.



GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL



SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS BEFORE WE START:

Talk about school and discuss any problems that arise.

There are some excellent books available which help to prepare young children for school e.g.

"Starting School" (Janet & Allan Ahlberg)

"Going to school" (Usborne First Experience)

"Lucy and Tom go to school" (Picture Puffin)

"When I start school" (Ladybird)

"Talk about My Big School" (Penguin)

Toilet

Is your child able to manage by him/herself?

If not, please practise now.

Dressing

Can your child dress him/herself? If not, please practise now - you can imagine the scene at P.E. time! **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING**



Uniform is: Grey long trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores. White shirt
Maroon wool V-neck jumper/cardigan (plain, no logos)
Maroon/Gold tie (available to buy on the ParentAPP or from the school office)
Grey or maroon socks/tights (no white socks – summer uniform only)
Black plain school shoes

For further information about uniform go to:

<http://www.st-austins.co.uk/school-prospectus-2/>

Welcome to St Austin's Catholic Primary School

The first school in St Austin's Parish was set up in the crypt of St Austin's church as long ago as 1838. There have been many changes in education, and teachers since then but we remain a Catholic school serving Catholic families mainly, but not exclusively, in the former Canonical Parishes of St Austin's and St Bernadette's, part of the recently formed Canonical parish of St Wilfrid's.

I am honoured and privileged to be the Headteacher of a happy, exciting and unique school where dedicated staff work with commitment and passion for all children, and more importantly in partnership with parents/carers. We welcome this partnership in guiding, educating and supporting our children in becoming part of the St Austin's family.

The pastoral care we deliver is a strength of our school where the mission statement "In our school where everyone is special, we will love and serve as Jesus taught" permeates through every aspect of school life allowing each child to develop their gifts and talents alongside their Faith, in a safe and fun environment. Our ethos is totally inclusive where pupils, parents, carers, staff and the parish community feel valued and respected.

The key to our success is openness and honesty across all levels. Positive relationships between pupils, teachers and parents/carers benefit your child's academic, spiritual, moral, personal and social development. Parents/Carers play a critical role in their child's learning and we hope you will become fully involved.

We believe by all working together for a common purpose our children will achieve their full potential in everything they do. We are extremely proud of our children and their achievements whilst at St Austin's and thank you for entrusting us to develop your child to be the very best that they can be; happy, confident and positive role models and global citizens of the future.

Colette Hickey
Headteacher

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Early Years Foundation Stage - Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) offers a broad and balanced curriculum for 3 – 5 year olds. It is divided into **seven areas of learning**, each area having an 'Early Learning Goal' which determine what most children are expected to achieve by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). At St. Austin's we use a combination of teacher assessment and the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Profile to plan and monitor appropriate learning experiences for each individual child. You will be invited to discuss your child's progress and adjustment to school within the first term.

Religion

The children are brought up in a caring, Christian atmosphere which extends to all parts of the school day. We follow the new Religious Education Directory Programme for Primary Schools approved by the Catholic Education Service. RSHE is taught throughout the school using a Catholic scheme called A Journey In Love. This has been endorsed by the Archdiocese, Governing Body, Parish Priest and consultation with parents. In EYFS the activities are based on the children thinking about themselves so that they know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different we are all special to Him.

Prime Areas

1. Communication and Language

This area focuses on listening and attention to stories and instructions, understanding instructions and answering questions 'how' and 'why' in response to stories or events

2. Physical Development

P.E. is usually done in P.E. kit (White t-shirt, black shorts and black pumps). It involves both movement and skills to develop children's confidence using apparatus. This area also helps with the development of hand/eye co-ordination in readiness for holding and using pencils, scissors and small tools.

3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We place a great deal of emphasis on this particular area because it is at the heart of all other learning. It takes into account the individuality of each child and the need for time and space to develop fully.



REMEMBER....

Your child's education has already begun at home. All parents/carers are their child's first educators.

By reading bedtime stories and nursery rhymes you are establishing the value of reading. You are showing that symbols on a piece of paper give information. You are familiarising your child with the written word. But most important of all, you are proving that reading is fun.

By colouring, painting, cutting-out, playing with building bricks, construction toys, jigsaws, plasticine, dough, etc. you are helping to develop hand/eye co-ordination and muscular control - major factors in learning to write.

By baking, setting the table, shopping, playing board games etc. you are involving your child in practical maths.

Parents often ask "**What about the alphabet?**" If the children ask about the letters they see, tell them about the alphabet - just like any other subject they are interested in. (Please make sure you use the same method as school i.e. phonetic ... more about this later on.)

If your child does not express any curiosity about the alphabet, please don't force it upon them. They will come to it naturally when the time is right.

Brilliant Beginnings - At the beginning of each half-term we will ask the children to bring something from home—this could be a photograph or a drawing—and will be shared on our 'Brilliant Beginnings' display board to begin our new topic.

Homework - Homework consists of weekly sounds and tricky words that have been taught in school which are to be reinforced at home. After October half-term, 2 reading books will be sent home weekly. Please read these with your child and add a comment to their reading diary.

Instagram - We regularly add photographs of our activities to the school Instagram. Please follow us @staustinsschool so you don't miss out!

Should a pattern emerge the EWO will contact families directly. Should your child's attendance drop **below 90%** your child will be recorded as a 'persistent absentee' with the Local Authority.

The EWO also monitors the punctuality of every child, and if a pattern emerges it will be reported to the Headteacher. If you need support regarding attendance and punctuality please contact Mrs Hughes.

Behaviour and house points

The house point system was adopted several years ago to support the school's approach to positive discipline, rewarding children for their achievements and focusing on positive rather than negative aspects of behaviour or work.

All the children are divided into four houses, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John. House points are awarded notably for good work, effort, and attitude and as an incentive or encouragement for positive behaviour. Each class keeps a weekly record of how many points are gained. These points are collected each week and announced as part of our weekly celebration assembly.

In the Foundation Stage children find it easier to remember their houses by the team colours. Green for St. Matthew, orange for St. Mark, yellow for St. Luke and purple for St. John.

Each class teacher also has a *Pupil of the Week* award. This is given at the end of each week for particular achievement and effort. This is not necessarily an academic award. Headteacher awards are given out termly in a special end of term assembly. The motto for behaviour is RRS which the children say.

Parental Involvement

If you would like to help in school on a regular basis please let us know. Parents/carers are always welcome.

SAPTA are always looking for extra volunteers no matter how small, to support events across the school. Please let your class teacher know. This year they raised funds for a new computer suite, Their work is invaluable to our pupils.

Specific Areas

4. Literacy

To interact with others; listen attentively; speak clearly and audibly; explore the meanings of new words etc.

Reading



The children follow a phonic based reading programme Little Wandle. It is an extensive reading scheme which encourages parental participation. Children will develop their comprehension and word reading skills through a range of reading activities.



Phonics

As well as learning the names of the letters emphasis is placed on the phonetic sound each letter makes e.g. "a" as in apple (not apron) "c" as in cat (not cedar). This method is important in spelling.

Writing

The children practise many skills to help strengthen and develop muscular control. They are encouraged to attempt their own writing (lists, cards etc.) from an early age.



5. Mathematics

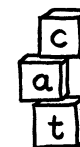
A great deal of emphasis will be placed on practical work, number games and extension activities. Children will use both indoor and outdoor areas to enhance number experience.

6. Understanding the World -

This area focuses on children's developing knowledge and understanding of their environment, through our polytunnel, beehives, and new forest school. Children will learn about other people and cultures and the features of the natural and man made world. It provides the foundation for scientific, technological, historical and geographical learning and work is covered through a topic based approach to learning. We have interactive whiteboards and PCs in the classroom as well as visualisers, an IT suite and access to class iPads.



Waterproof clothing is provided for outdoor activities however, we do ask parents to supply a pair of wellington boots so that children can experience mud and sand.



Expressive Arts and Design

This area of the curriculum encompasses creative activities such as making models, painting, music and drama. The children are encouraged to develop their skills in this area through both group and individual exploration.

Spanish - Our school has been a centre of excellence for Spanish teaching since 2003. In the year 2006 we were awarded the accolade of Colegio Español del año, Spanish primary school of the year, a National award. In October 2013 Ofsted published a case study which acknowledged the good practice in Spanish in our school, one of only two national primary case studies.

PARENT INFORMATION

Stay and Play During the year we have 'Stay and Play' sessions for Parents/Carers to enjoy with their children. These sessions are a good way to find out how EYFS works. We have both indoor and outdoor activities for Parents/Carers and Children to share and explore early years experiences.

Meet & Greet - There will be an after school meeting, early in September, when you will be given the opportunity to visit the Reception classroom to be provided with more information about your child's curriculum and learning. This session will be led by the class teachers.

Reading Meeting - There will be a meeting in the autumn term where you can find out how reading is taught and how you can support your child at home. Parents will also be invited into school to watch a phonics lesson being taught to a group of children.

Open Nights - We also have open sessions each term providing you with an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and discuss your child's progress and look at books.

Bags

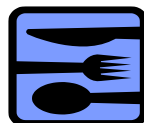
Space is very limited in the classroom and we encourage you to purchase our school bag as large bags cannot be accommodated. We sell small bags ideal for reading books and important letters.

Milk is available if required. Since September 2019 milk will be provided by an external source, not the Local Authority. Parents/carers will request / and make payments direct to the company, not to school.



School Meals

Since September 2014 school meals for all children in early years, year 1 and year 2 have been free of charge. We urge those parents who do receive a qualifying benefit to make a formal application as this will allow school to claim additional funding (pupil premium) for new equipment and resources. You can do this online at <http://liverpool.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals/>



Our school lunch menu is on our website, this can be subject to seasonal changes.

Packed Lunches

We are a healthy school having achieved the Healthy School Award so we request parents/carers provide a balanced meal that the children can manage with little assistance. There will be links on the school website about healthy options.



Healthy snacks—Children are provided with fresh fruit for their mid-morning snack. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office. No flavoured water is allowed.



Health and Safety—Only guide dogs are allowed on school premises. As a school we encourage bikes and scooters, however they must not be used on the school premises. Could we also ask that parents/carers park away from the school site in a safe and considerate manner. This is for your safety as well as our children.

Absence and sickness absence

If your child is absent without notification we have a '**first day response**' that involves a phone call from our school office before 9.30am. The Education Welfare Officer (EWO) visits fortnightly to monitor registers.

Absence school must be informed by phone of an absence.



Sickness absence guidelines - If your child is absent suffering from a vomiting and/or diarrhoea bug, they must not return to school until at least 48 hours after their last episode. This 48 hour rule is issued by the "Health Protection Agency – Guidance on infection control in schools" to help prevent the spread of infections.