

St. Winefride's

Catholic Voluntary Academy



A warm welcome to St Winefride's. We are proud to have been educating children of Shepshed and surrounding areas for over one hundred years. We are a forward looking and innovative school with high expectations for all our pupils. Although we are a Catholic school, we warmly welcome all children and families from other faiths and no faith.

In September 2018 the school became part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust which comprises 22 schools across Leicestershire and Leicester City.

In January 2019 we opened our Pre-school, Little Winnie's.

During our OFSTED inspection in February 2020 the inspector found that *'Pupils behave well during lessons because lessons are interesting. All staff are ambitious for the pupils and want them to thrive as individuals.'*



Our History

St Winefride's was founded by the Rosminian Fathers of the Institute of Charity in 1846 in the two houses now jointly known as The Cottage, which stand opposite the public library in the Hall Croft, Shepshed. St Winefride's moved in 1861 to a new site now occupied by No.27, Church Street, Shepshed. The school remained there until the transfer to the present site in 1896. There have been many alterations and additions over the years including a new hall, Reception class, ICT suite and kitchen.

The school's vision of 'we pray, we live, we pray, we learn' is central to the ethos at St Winefride's. Pupils are polite, respectful and well mannered.

OFSTED report February 2020

Our mission statement

We pray, we live, we play, we learn

We are a Catholic school for all children where we try to live our lives following the example of Jesus, nurturing each child's unique gifts and talents. We value the importance of partnerships between ourselves, our parents, the parish families and our wider community to support and develop the education of our children. We aim to reflect God's love in all that we do.

Parents and carers who are not Catholic are most welcome to apply to the school; we just ask that you respect our ethos and its value to the whole school community.





Care and support

We believe that education is about the whole child and that means that pupils need to feel valued and safe. In June 2018 our work around well-being was recognised by the Leicestershire County Council when we were awarded the Gold *Beyond Bullying* Award and in 2019 we achieved the Carnegie Centre of Excellence Mental Health in Schools Award.

Pupils enjoy coming to school because they have fun. They feel safe and well cared for.

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We teach the children about personal safety including how to keep safe online. If your child is unhappy with anything at school, we will work together with you. It is important to us that school and home work in partnership for the benefit of each child. Our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) works with individual children, to support their emotional well-being.

All staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection procedures. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Murphy with Deputy DSLs: Mrs Boyd, Mr Moreton and Mrs Donaldson.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Our school policy is to include pupils with a wide range of needs. These may be physical disabilities, as well as those requiring learning support or help with emotional or behavioural difficulties. Our Special Needs Coordinator (Senco) who works with schools in our Trust is Mr Saxton and based at school is Miss



Waldram, our Inclusion Manager. Both meet regularly with parents to discuss how we are meeting the needs of individual pupils.

Pupils with SEND achieve well, because of the expertise of the school staff.

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Behaviour

We expect high standards of behaviour from all children and have a clear behaviour policy which is easily understood by everyone. We expect all children to show respect for others and for the school environment.

There is a system of rewards that is valued by the pupils and teachers and parents are warmly invited to our celebration assembly on a Friday when we acknowledge achievement and our positive character 'muscles' such as resilience, empathy and creativity.

Pupils are keen to have responsibilities. They are proud to be members of the eco team, the school council and the chaplaincy team. They make a real difference to their school and local community.

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Uniform

There is a strict uniform policy which encourages pupils to take a pride in their appearance. Neatness of appearance is expected of all pupils. It is expected that school uniform will be worn by all pupils.

The items of school uniform are as follows:

White shirt or blouse with a school tie (ties are available from the school office)

Grey trousers or skirt

School cardigan or jumper with school logo

Blue/white summer dress (optional)



PE

Shorts (tracksuit bottoms or leggings may be worn in colder weather)



White T-shirt (logo optional)
Plimsols (Trainers may be worn in KS2)

The school has a number of suppliers – please see our website for further details.

The Curriculum

For more information on our curriculum please see our Curriculum Statement and visit our website for our Curriculum Plan.

Pupils enjoy a rich curriculum. Leaders firmly believe that it is important that pupils experience a broad education that will give them the skills they need to succeed in the future.

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Religious Education

We use the *Come and See* scheme of work to structure the teaching and learning in RE. The year is divided into nine topics which the children study as well as learning about other faiths. Please see the website for more detailed information. In addition to RE, there are many opportunities for collective worship, as a whole school such as mass or celebration assemblies or in the key stage and class liturgies. Often these are prepared and presented by the children themselves and are part of the rich and varied faith experiences offered by the school. In our Diocesan Canonical Inspection in June 2017 we were judged to be Outstanding.



Early Years

Little Winnie's Pre-School

Our Pre-School opened in January 2019 and operates in term time only giving children from three years old a fantastic start to their school life. Parents can choose a flexible package of sessions to suit their circumstances and Early Years Funding is available. For more information and how to apply, please read our pre-school policy.

Children make a positive start in Reception. They receive a high level of care. This helps them to settle quickly and feel secure.

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While they are at pre-school, children enjoy learning alongside the Reception class and receive high quality teaching in reading, writing and number skills as well as ample opportunities for exploration, creativity and play.

Reception

The Reception class is the first class in the school and is important as it is the foundation for all future learning. The curriculum has seven areas of learning divided into prime and specific areas.

Prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical Development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design



We use a combination of direct teaching in small groups or as a whole class as well as individual help and support all within a rich play-based curriculum. The environment both inside and out provides opportunities for exploration and development of skills. Learning to read is vital during this year and the teaching of phonics is an important part of this process as is listening to stories and learning rhymes.

Key Stage One

After the EYFS, the pupils start in Key Stage One which is made up of year one and year two. In year one, the children start the year building on the play and exploration opportunities they had in EYFS in an exciting and varied curriculum. Through the year they build their resilience and learning skills until in the summer they are ready for year two. At the end of year one, the pupils take the Phonics test which assesses how well children can use their phonic skills to decode words.

Teachers help children to learn phonics as soon as they start school. This ensures that they gain the understanding of sounds and the words they need to read fluently. Adults check the progress that pupils make through the well-planned phonics programme.

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The curriculum continues to be topic based which encourages pupils to develop their skills through activities which integrate reading and writing and maths to promote confident and happy learners. At the end of year two, the children are assessed by the teacher. These are the Key Stage One SATS and this involves some formal testing but is based on the knowledge the teacher has about each individual child.

Key Stage Two

Children continue to build on their skills and knowledge acquired in EYFS and KS1. The curriculum is broad and varied and is taught through topics which change each half term. Take a look at the class pages of our website for more detailed information.



Trips, visitors and Wow Days punctuate the school term to give pupils real life experiences. Recent trips have included London, to visit the Houses of Parliament, the residential trip to the Diocesan Youth Centre in Derbyshire, Young Voices in Birmingham, Cadbury

In key stage 2, pupils read together to develop their reading comprehension. Pupils say that teachers read to them in a dramatic style which adds to the thrill and excitement of the story.

Class stories are carefully selected and are often linked to learning in other subjects, such as history or geography.

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World, Aerozone, Anker Wood, Warning Zone and Conkers. We have theatre companies and artists visiting us to enhance the learning in the classroom.

Swimming - children in year three go swimming at De Lisle College, however there are opportunities for pupils in other years to continue to go swimming if they have not reached the expected standards.

Computing and technology

All children are taught the computing curriculum and we have a range of technologies for pupils to access from PCs in the IT suite to ipads, laptops and our exciting Virtual Reality equipment. Each classroom is equipped with the latest smartboards to make lessons interactive and accessible.



Music

Children in year three all learn the recorder and in year four they currently all learn a wind instrument which parents can choose to continue in years five and six.



There are visiting teachers teaching individual or group instrumental lessons. We have a thriving choir which sings at school and community events.

Sport

There is a strong emphasis on fitness at St Winefride's with the day starting with 15 minutes of exercise for all children. Our sports coach, Mr Cooke, leads games and sport at break and lunchtime as well as after school clubs. We take part in competitive events against other local schools and sports festivals.



Extra-Curricular Activities

There is a wide range of Extra-Curricular activities from which to choose. These run at different times throughout the year and have included:

Ceramics Football Multi-Sports Cricket Sewing Poetry Chess
Basketball Science Bible group Netball

The School Day

We run a breakfast club from 8am and after-school provision which runs until 5.45pm each school day.

The school day starts at 8.55am, however to avoid children having to wait in the playground, the doors are open at 8.45am.

Break time is at 10.35am in Key Stage One and 10.40am for Key Stage Two. Lunchtime is at 11.55am in Key Stage One and 12.00pm Key Stage Two. The day ends at 3.20pm in KS1 and 3.30pm in KS2.

We ask parents to collect their children promptly at the end of the day please.

Our after school club runs every day from 3.20pm until 5.45pm. Pupils can have a snack and enjoy sport and craft activities or can have a quiet space to do their homework.



School Governors

The role of the governing body is to oversee the work of the school to ensure the highest standards of care and education. Foundation governors are appointed by the Bishop to preserve the Catholic nature and ethos of the school. All governors are volunteers and play a vital role in the life of St Winefride's.

Friends and Supporters of St. Winefride's

We are lucky to have a number of organisations and charities who have helped and supported the school. Primarily it is our parents who have not only given their time but also have worked to raise money to enhance the provision at the school. The newly established PTFA welcomes all parents to join them in supporting the pupils.



If you would like to visit the school, please phone to make an appointment and we will be more than happy to show you around our lovely school.

For much more information;

See our website www.winefrides-rc.leics.sch.uk

Ring us on 01509 503353

Visit us at Britannia Street, Shepshed, LE12 9AE

Follow us on Twitter @Saintwinnies.



