



ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



2026 - 2027

A photograph of three school children, two girls and one boy, walking along a paved path outdoors. They are all smiling and looking towards each other. They are wearing white short-sleeved shirts, blue and yellow striped ties, and dark pleated skirts or shorts. They are also wearing dark knee-high socks and black shoes. The background shows lush green trees and a clear sky.

WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

For almost two centuries, Catholic education has been at the heart of our local community. With roots stretching back to the nineteenth century, St Philomena's Catholic Primary School is immensely proud of the rich heritage and enduring traditions that have shaped our school, whilst remaining firmly committed to providing a forward thinking education for every child entrusted to our care.

Nestled amongst beautiful green spaces, our school offers a tranquil setting in which children thrive both spiritually and academically. Our pupils, staff and families are united by a shared commitment to our Catholic values and to the pursuit of excellence, creating the distinctive sense of community that lies at the heart of our school.

At St Philomena's, we believe that childhood should be cherished and that every pupil should experience learning in a joyful and inspiring environment. Our children are happy, confident and curious, developing a genuine enthusiasm for learning as they grow in knowledge, understanding and self-belief.

It is a privilege to lead St Philomena's, and I hope this prospectus gives you a glimpse into the outstanding school community we are so proud of.

With every blessing,

Mrs Anderson



— VISION AND VALUES —

Our vision, to **share the love of God, every day in everything we learn, do and say**, is at the heart of our school community. Inspired by the example of St Philomena, we are committed to nurturing every child spiritually, academically and personally, enabling them to develop their God given gifts and talents in a caring, Christ centred environment where they are known, valued and supported.

Our mission and values guide everything we do. **With Christ at the centre, we strive for excellence, act with respect and serve our community.** Through these values, we inspire our children to use their gifts with confidence, show kindness and compassion towards others, and become responsible, faith filled young people who are ready to make a positive contribution to their school, parish and the wider world.



CATHOLIC MISSION

Faith is woven into every aspect of life at St Philomena's. Prayer, worship and Gospel values shape each school day, helping our children grow in faith, compassion and service. We celebrate Mass with our parish, enjoy strong links with Our Lady of the Cray Church, and provide regular opportunities for pupils to lead prayer and worship. Our Catholic identity is reflected throughout the school, where every child is encouraged to deepen their relationship with God.

Our Catholic mission is lived through action. Catholic Social Teaching is embedded across the curriculum, inspiring pupils to care for others, work for justice and be responsible stewards of God's creation. Children support charities such as CAFOD, respond to local community appeals, and take part in fundraising and acts of service throughout the year. Through these experiences, they develop empathy, responsibility and a genuine commitment to serving others.

Every child is encouraged to recognise and develop their God-given gifts and talents. Through our Chaplaincy Team, leadership opportunities and faith celebrations, pupils grow in confidence and learn to live out the Gospel in their daily lives. As a result, they become confident, resilient young people who lead by example and make a meaningful contribution to their communities.

A young boy with brown hair, wearing a white shirt and a blue and yellow striped tie, is looking through the eyepiece of a white and black microscope. He is focused on his work, with his hands adjusting the microscope's stage. The background is blurred, showing a classroom setting.

OUR CURRICULUM

At St Philomena's, we have high aspirations for every child. We believe that an excellent education should inspire curiosity, develop confidence and equip pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the next stage of their education and beyond.

Our ambitious curriculum is carefully planned and coherently sequenced to ensure that knowledge and skills build progressively over time. It is designed to challenge, engage and inspire every learner, enabling pupils to make meaningful connections across subjects while developing independence, resilience and a lifelong love of learning. Through high quality teaching, purposeful learning experiences and effective assessment, we ensure that every child is supported to strive for excellence.

Our curriculum reflects the expectations of the National Curriculum while meeting the needs of our pupils and our community. We place equal value on developing strong core knowledge alongside critical thinking, creativity and effective communication, preparing children to become confident, articulate and successful learners.

With high expectations for all, we nurture confident learners by providing the support and challenge every child needs to achieve their full potential.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

At St Philomena's, education extends far beyond the classroom. Our exceptional extra-curricular and enrichment programme provides every pupil with access to an outstanding range of high-quality opportunities. From sport, the arts and outdoor learning to civic engagement, faith, wellbeing and life skills, there is something to inspire every child's interests, talents and aspirations.

High-quality wraparound care further enhances our extra-curricular provision, offering a safe, nurturing and engaging environment that supports pupils and families before and after the school day.

Our rich programme of educational visits and workshops brings learning to life, broadens horizons and develops cultural capital.

From Science Week, Art Week, Faith Festival and Numbers Day to residential visits and whole-school celebration events, pupils enjoy a rich variety of experiences that enhance learning, spark curiosity and create lasting memories.

Together, these experiences cultivate confident, resilient and articulate young people who demonstrate character, compassion and a genuine love of learning.



SPORT

Sport is an important and valued part of life at St Philomena's. We believe that participation in sport develops confidence, resilience, teamwork and a strong sense of sporting integrity, while promoting physical wellbeing and a positive attitude towards challenge.

Pupils are encouraged to enjoy a wide range of sporting opportunities, regardless of age or ability. Through regular lessons, clubs, fixtures and competitions, children develop their skills, discover new interests and experience the pride of representing their school.

Our sporting programme includes football, netball, basketball, athletics, cross country, gymnastics, tennis, swimming and lacrosse, with opportunities to compete both individually and as part of a team. Inter-house competitions provide further opportunities to develop additional sports, camaraderie, demonstrate commitment and celebrate achievement.

Sports Ambassadors play an active role in school life, planning and leading games and activities during recreational time and promoting positive play across the school.

At St Philomena's, we want every child to experience the enjoyment and benefits of sport, developing determination, cooperation and confidence through participation, competition and teamwork.





THE ARTS

At St Philomena's, the arts hold a valued place within our broad and ambitious curriculum. Pupils are supported to develop artistic understanding, technical proficiency and creative discipline alongside an appreciation of culture and design.

In Art, pupils explore drawing, painting, sculpture, print, collage and textiles, studying artists and designers while developing their own ideas through ambitious, hands-on projects. Design Technology develops craftsmanship through designing, making and testing across mechanisms, structures, electronics, nutrition, textiles and digital technologies.

Drama is woven throughout school life with every class performing each term, alongside Nativities, Easter performances and our Talent Show. Pupils develop expression, interpretation, oracy and confidence in presenting before an audience.

Creative communication is central, with pupils developing skills in journalism, storytelling, graphic design and publication. Through creating school publications, children learn to combine visual and written elements and communicate ideas with clarity, purpose and imagination.

Music is celebrated throughout the school, with pupils developing confidence and skill through theory, instrumental learning, composition and performance.

Through this rich provision, pupils gain the knowledge, skills and experiences to engage with the arts with confidence, discernment and ambition.



PERFORMANCE

Music and performance are an important part of school life, giving pupils the opportunity to develop confidence, creativity and a love of performing. Our musical offer includes tuition in piano, violin, ukulele, recorder and percussion, alongside opportunities to perform in our school orchestra and Rocksteady band. Pupils of all abilities are encouraged to develop their skills, explore their musical interests and experience the joy of making music together.

Throughout the year, pupils perform in a range of settings, including school concerts, professional concert halls, community events, churches and cathedrals. Our choir perform in a variety of venues, including the O2 arena. These opportunities enable pupils to perform to high standards, develop musical discipline and experience the privilege of sharing their talents with diverse audiences within significant cultural and sacred settings.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

At St Philomena's, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our outdoor environment provides pupils with opportunities to explore, discover and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Our permanent orienteering course creates meaningful links across the curriculum. Through navigation, problem solving and collaboration, pupils develop geographical understanding, mathematical thinking, resilience and confidence in approaching new challenges.

Through forest education, children develop practical skills, creativity and a strong connection with the natural environment. Cultivating our school garden nurtures respect for creation, sustainability and responsibility, with pupils growing food and preparing dishes from what they have produced.

Through Bikeability and Scootability training, pupils develop confidence, independence and awareness, gaining essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom.

Together, these experiences nurture the whole child, helping pupils grow in confidence and care for God's creation.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

At St Philomena's, every child is encouraged to develop a strong sense of belonging. From the moment pupils join us, they become members of one of our four Houses: Canterbury, Faversham, Aylesford and Walsingham, places with deep connections Catholic history.

Our House system is an important part of school life, bringing children of all ages together to build friendships, develop teamwork and celebrate one another's achievements. Through inter-house competitions, shared experiences and opportunities to support others, pupils develop confidence, leadership skills and a strong sense of pride in belonging to St Philomena's.

Our pupil leadership programme provides children with meaningful opportunities to take responsibility, represent their peers and make a positive contribution to the life of the school. Rooted in our Catholic mission, we teach children that true leadership is not about position or privilege, but about kindness, humility and serving others. From prefects, House Captains, Sports Captains, Wellbeing Leaders, Subject Ambassadors and School Council representatives, pupils are encouraged to use their voices, develop confidence and become positive role models.

Through these opportunities, children play a vital role in serving our community, while living out our values of excellence, respect and service.





WIDER COMMUNITY

We believe that strong relationships between children, staff, families, our parish and the wider community are fundamental to success and wellbeing. We work in close partnership with families to ensure every pupil is supported to succeed both academically and personally. Families play an active role in school life through Masses, celebrations and community events, fostering a strong sense of belonging.

Our partnership with the parish and wider community provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to contribute through charitable initiatives, volunteering and acts of service, developing compassion, social responsibility and an understanding of their role as active, respectful citizens who make a positive difference to others.



UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Our uniform is an important part of St Philomena's heritage and identity. In keeping with our tradition,

boys wear shorts and girls wear skirts throughout the year.

Long socks provide additional warmth during the winter months. More than simply a dress code, our uniform fosters a sense of belonging, pride and community. It is a distinctive feature of our school tradition, and our pupils wear their uniform with pride as part of the St Philomena's family.



ADMISSIONS

St Philomena's Catholic Primary School is a one-form entry school for boys and girls aged 4–11, with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 pupils in each year group.

Admission to Reception is made through your home Local Authority using the Common Application Form (CAF). Applications for children wishing to join the school in other year groups should also be made through the Local Authority, with places allocated in accordance with the school's published admissions criteria.

As a Catholic school within the Diocese of Southwark and St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust, our admissions arrangements are determined in accordance with the Diocese of Southwark Admissions Policy. Priority is given to baptised Catholic children, while applications from families of other faiths and those with no faith who support the Catholic ethos of the school are also welcomed.

We warmly encourage prospective parents and carers to visit the school, meet our staff and pupils, and experience the caring, nurturing environment that makes St Philomena's such a special place to learn.

Full details of our admissions arrangements, oversubscription criteria, application deadlines and appeals process can be found in our Admissions Policy on our website.



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