

# St Louis Catholic Academy

## Prospectus



An inclusive Catholic school, welcoming of all children

## A welcome from the Head of School

Welcome to St Louis Catholic Academy. At St Louis we learn to love and love to learn through everything we do. Our children and teaching team are always busy developing their skills and responding to challenges. Our school shares the Catholic Faith through everything that we do and we work to show our love for God through our actions and words.

We are the parish school of Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda in Newmarket and the school is very much part of parish life. Our Parish Priest, Father Christopher, is a regular visitor to our school. We enjoy a rich daily prayer life and welcome families to join us wherever possible.

St Louis takes children from the age of three to eleven. Children join us in our Nursery in the September after their third birthday. Our learning is challenging, enjoyable and exciting for all our children and we develop the curriculum to be stimulating and responsive to individual needs. Our staff are focused on ensuring that the children thrive in their care. We believe that developing the speaking and listening skills of our early-learners whilst exploring our world provides the firm foundations to progress into Foundation years and beyond. Children use outdoor space for learning many times during the day and often return home muddy.

We believe that we should prepare children for all aspects of life and forming good relationships with others is central to this. As a Catholic school, we teach the Gospel values that shape how children become considerate and caring of one another. If you visit our school, you will find children who are self-confident, respectful towards one another and the many adults who support their learning. We teach and model teamwork and collaboration in all that we do and we aim for school leaders to be thoughtful, generous and independent learners as they transition to secondary school.

Our parents are a very important part of our school community. We believe that children learn best when parents and teachers work in partnership. Parents are welcome to discuss their child(ren's) learning at any time and we love being able to welcome our family and community into our school.

We have a wonderful Friends of St Louis Group (FOSL) who contribute to the ongoing improvement of our school. Parental support at St Louis is valuable to us and the children benefit in so many ways as a result.

Our nursery has wrap around care and can accommodate your child during your working day. We are an inclusive Catholic school, welcoming of all children.

If you would like to find out more about our wonderful school, you will be warmly welcomed.

Mrs Sue Blakeley  
Head of School



## Our Values

At St Louis we place children at the centre and Christ at the heart of all that we do. Our mission is to provide a school where children love to learn and learn to love whilst following our Gospel values.

These Gospel values form a focus for us in our classrooms and are:

Hope, trust, friendship, community, co-operation, respect, reverence, tolerance, forgiveness, perseverance, courage, hope, justice, compassion, truthfulness, wisdom, generosity, peace, happiness, responsibility, thankfulness, service, humility and unity.

We focus on two values each half term and develop a deeper understanding of them as we move through the school.

## Rights of the Child

Our Governors have committed to promoting The Rights of the Child: The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status.

The Convention must be seen as a whole: all the rights are linked and no right is more important than another. The right to relax and play (Article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (Article 13) have equal importance as the right to be safe from violence (Article 19) and the right to education (Article 28).



## Skills Builder

We are using the Skills Builder Framework to measure and build essential skills at every stage of school life. Our aim is that children leave our school with these skills and are confident learners ready to move on to their next stage of learning.





# A Day in the Life of Foundation



In our Foundation classes we teach children through play and playful experiences. We always provide a learning environment that is highly engaging and reflects the children's interests and curiosities. Children explore rich and varied activities and resources directly linked to their next steps as they work towards achieving their Early Learning Goals.

Our Foundation staff follow an inquiry based learning approach. This style of teaching focuses on rigorous assessment of pupils and knowledge of their next steps. It involves adults playing alongside pupils and bringing the learning objectives to them, as they play or work; developing storylines, ideas and creating challenges that enhance a particular skill, for example writing.

We have wonderful indoor and outdoor learning areas for children to explore and learn in. All of us in the Foundation Stage team are passionate about educating children in their early years. We truly believe that children learn many skills through play and we love joining in when they want us to and stepping back and enjoying watching them develop personally, socially, physically and communicating with their friends when their play is independent. Much of our time is given to child



initiated sessions and we follow the children's interests with immediate effect. So one day we may be researching dinosaurs and the next planting in the Prayer Garden!





# Learning in Foundation

In amongst all of the fun we have, there are important and age appropriate adult led teaching sessions which take place in individual classes so the children can learn in smaller groups. We teach phonics, mathematics and RE during these lessons. We understand that some children will require interventions in small groups or individually to provide additional support to grasp particular concepts. However, we do not believe that it is productive to remove them from play to achieve this. We are creative in identifying times when they can work with us without feeling like they are missing out. Tidying up time is a good example! In the words of Elaine Bennett (an advocate of learning through play in the early years), 'So you pull me from my

play to learn maths with you at a table

with brightly coloured bits of plastic. Whilst I sit there learning with you all I can think about is getting back to my play where I was measuring, using shapes, making patterns, counting, solving problems and thinking ... until I got pulled away to learn maths with you'.

Our Foundation children all enjoy some time in our Forest School and do PE as part of the curriculum, led by a specialist PE Teacher.

A key part of Foundation Stage is developing positive relationships with families and this is one of the most rewarding aspects of our work.





## Our School



Our pupils are aged 4-11 and the majority live in the area surrounding the school although, as the demographic changes, we are pleased to be able to offer spaces to children from further and further afield. 45 children join us each year into our two Foundation classes, and from KS1 upwards a structure of three mixed age classes per year follows throughout the school, giving us 315

pupils in total. We also have a 38 place nursery on site.

## The School Day

School starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm, with a morning break. The morning is split into three parts and it is usual for Reading, Writing and Maths sessions to be taught at this time. Lunch is at 11.45am — 12.45pm for Foundation Year and at staggered times for Years 1 to 6. In the afternoons pupils learn through themes and topics, as well as having short bursts of mental arithmetic, handwriting and phonics.

School Meals are provided free by the Government for Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils (Years 1&2). We are a Healthy School and work closely with our parent panel and nutritionist to develop our healthy menu. Alternatively, pupils may bring in a packed lunch.





## Curriculum

We plan really exciting learning opportunities for all pupils. At St Louis our curriculum drivers are underpinned by our Catholic faith. We believe our pupils should be made aware of the many opportunities that exist for them in the modern world and aspire to fulfil their dreams through hard work whilst recognising that we are all part of a global family which brings with it both rights and responsibilities. Our curriculum demonstrates that pupils, regardless of background, gender or disability have a role to play and a story to tell which is worth hearing.

Where possible the curriculum is presented through first-hand experiences and practical activities with links between subjects being made. This cross-curricular approach to learning allows the children to make connections in their understanding and enables them to transfer and practice skills. Some areas of learning are, however, taught directly where strong links cannot be made.

## Subjects taught in school

RE

PSHCE and RSE

English - Reading, Writing, Phonics

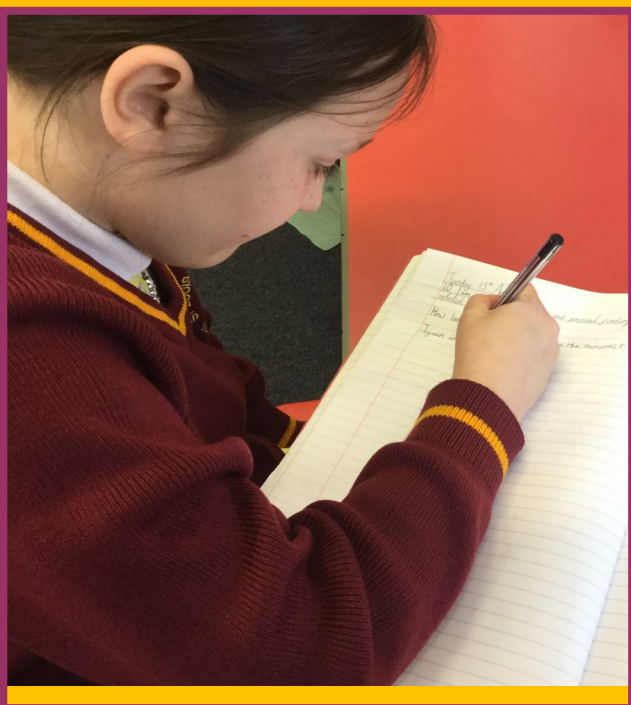
STEM - Maths, Science, ICT, Technology

Humanities - History, Geography, RE

Arts - Music, Art, Design

Modern Foreign Language - French

Physical - PE, Health and Wellbeing



## PSHCE and RSE

Catholic schools, like all other schools in England, are required to produce a written policy following the guidance issued by the Department for Education on Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education. Catholic schools are also required to deliver RSE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. This approach is compatible with the guidance issued by the DfE.

RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It should be carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

What does outstanding RSE in Catholic school look like?



In order for Catholic RSE to be fully effective it needs to:

Be faithful to the Church's vision of human wholeness whilst recognising the contemporary context in which we live today;

Involve parents as they are primary educators of their child;

Provide a positive view of human sexuality and dignity of the human person;

Equip young people with the ability to make practical judgments about the right thing to do in particular circumstances;

Explore and promote virtues which are essential to promoting respect and dignity;

Be delivered in an age appropriate way which reflects the development of the child;

Be part of the cross-curricular work in both primary and secondary schools;

Be sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil and recognise the mix of pupils with different sexual orientations, genders and family backgrounds in each class;

Be taken seriously by governors and teachers as an integrated part of the broad and balanced curriculum that Catholic schools offer;

Be delivered by competent professionals who understand the Church's teaching.

We use Ten:Ten Life to the Full resources to support our teaching at St Louis.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary/>

Parents receive a login to access our Life to the Full PSHCE programme to allow us to educate our children in partnership with their families.



## RE



Religious Education at St Louis is the cornerstone upon which our school philosophy and aims are founded and we work to reflect our Mission Statement in all our actions and attitudes in our teaching and in our relationships with each other.

We are a Catholic school which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and Catholic

doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27).

Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected."

Curriculum Directory for Catholic School, 2015 CES

At the core of our Religious Education Curriculum are the beliefs and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church and we aim to lay a foundation of understanding and belief that will remain with our children throughout their lives. We use the Diocesan Syllabus which combines units from the RE Schemes "Come and See" and 'The Way, The Truth and The Life', Religious programmes which are the nationally recommended schemes for use in Catholic schools. This includes the teaching of other World Faiths which helps our children to develop an understanding of and a respect for the beliefs of others in our multi-faith society. Our teaching has a cross-curricular emphasis, celebrating our learning in RE through Humanities, PHSCE, Art, Drama, Dance and Music

Planning for this term can be seen in the RE Newsletter.

Prayer is an important part of our school life. In addition to our daily prayers at the beginning and end of the day, children have the opportunity to initiate, compose and share their own prayers, responding to events in their lives and those of our wider local and global community.

### The Catholic Life of the School

Father Christopher, our Parish Priest is an important member of our school Community. He celebrates our Liturgies throughout the year, supports our families and staff and guides us in our professional development in the teaching of RE.



## Writing

Pupils in our school take a great deal of pride in their writing and presentation. We teach writing using themed Power of Reading texts <https://clpe.org.uk/powerofreading> and it is often linked to and taught in depth over three terms each year. This allows children to immerse themselves in themes and allows them to deepen their understanding of writing and see writing excellence to model their own work upon. We work closely with Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds to bring stories to life through drama, playwriting and stage performance. Year 5 and 6 participate in an annual Autumn Shakespeare Festival and school-wide, we invest in seeing and developing writing ideas from live professional performance.

## Phonics

Our pupils are taught to read and write using a range of strategies. Phonics is taught using a multi-sensory approach that involves stories, songs and movement.





## Maths

Maths at St Louis is taught through a mastery approach that challenges pupils to explore mathematical concepts in an exciting, hands-on and collaborative way. Regular practical application of these skills in other subjects is a key part of our curriculum. We use White Rose Maths and integrate problem solving skills across the school. Our children use Times Tables Rockstars to develop times tables fluency <https://ttrockstars.com/>. We invest in practical apparatus to develop our mathematical skills from Foundation to year 6.



## Science

Our pupils enjoy investigating their surroundings and the world around them, using experiments and drawing their own conclusions. We use our outdoor environment, garden and Forest Schools areas to enhance this and other areas of the curriculum. We involve families and local partners in celebrating the importance of science and children are encouraged to develop questioning skills. We bring live science shows into school and celebrate the best of British Science Week.



## Computing

At St Louis we understand the important role that digital media has to play in children's lives, and society in general. We teach pupils to become safe, creative, confident and responsible users of the different types of digital media and computing. We integrate computing skills across the curriculum and children have access to Purple Mash in school and at home <https://2simple.com/purple-mash/>



## Humanities: Geography and History

Studying History helps pupils to acquire a range of historical knowledge and understanding, both of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Pupils use and compare evidence from a range of sources in their studies and are able to appreciate why different interpretations of the past exist.

Our Geography curriculum develops pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. Pupils investigate a range of places, both in Britain and abroad, to help develop their knowledge and understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes.

## Modern Foreign Language: French

French is taught in Key Stage 2 and prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world. French lessons are active and fun and encourage pupils to practice speaking, listening and writing in a different language. They are taught by a qualified French teacher on a weekly basis.



## Arts

Our Art curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to develop their skills, using a range of media and materials. Pupils learn the skills of drawing, painting, printing, collage, textiles, 3D work and digital art, and are given the chance to explore and evaluate different creative ideas and styles used by famous artists.



We have talented artists employed within school and we often collaborate across school to develop art, for example our Story of Creation pebble path at our Rayes Lane entrance.



## MUSIC

Music lessons in our school are highly engaging and enjoyable. Pupils listen to, review and evaluate music, as well as being able to learn to sing, create and compose their own music. All year 2 children and Key Stage 2 pupils receive whole class tuition to learn to play a musical



instrument. Over their time in school they learn ukulele, recorder and keyboard. We have an excellent school choir, which has performed at Snape Maltings.



## Physical: PE, Health and Wellbeing

At St Louis we ensure the children receive a high-quality and varied programme which



develops their physical awareness and ability, whilst we promote the importance of self-development and confidence. We are very proud of our Foundation outdoor learning area that was designed to challenge and develop our youngest pupils. From year 1 up, all children participate in the Daily Mile <https://thedailymile.co.uk/> and we belong to the Forest Heath Sports Partnership which coordinates inter school sports events. We are also proud to hold a healthy school award and our aim is to support children and young people to grow healthily, safely and responsibly. We use the Healthy Schools toolkit to measure our increasing success against principles of the English National Healthy School Programme. We have a team of trained mental health first aiders in school and we recognise the importance of positive wellbeing on effective learning in school.

Our children and staff benefit from high quality coaching for participation in a wide range of individual and team sports and we encourage all children to try out new sports on a regular basis.

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 receive a term of swimming tuition each academic year.



## Forest School

We make good use of our lovely grounds and have recently developed a Forest Schools area that our pupils greatly enjoy using. Forest Schools activities promote health and wellbeing and enable pupils to explore and learn to take risks safely in natural surroundings. All year 2 and 3 children attend Forest School for half a day every 2 weeks. We are continuing to develop our wider school site to enhance our Forest School site. Abbeycroft Outdoor deliver the Forest School teaching alongside our own staff.



## Extra Curricular Activities

We plan a number of enrichment activities linked to our themed teaching. We plan three enrichment days for every year group at the start of each term, linked to launch the theme. We go on visits as well as having speakers into school teaching a wide range of subjects to our pupils. These have included history days. Pupils in Year 4 and 6 have opportunities to go on longer, overnight visits away. We pride ourselves in providing pupils with opportunities to engage and compete in a range of sports, both in and out of school hours. Sport is given a high status at St Louis and we enjoy celebrating our pupils' achievements, no matter when or where they take place. We participate in leagues and tournaments throughout the year in many different places, against other schools in the Suffolk area.

We are working towards Artsmark Silver award and partnering with Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds. This enables all children to experience live theatre and participate in drama workshops both in school and at the theatre venue.

We also invite artists and local creatives into school to enrich our curriculum.



**We're working  
towards Artsmark**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Acorns Nursery

Acorns Nursery is housed in its own spacious area with a separate entrance and outdoor space. Many of the children go on to join the school Foundation Year (please refer to the St Louis Admissions' Policy: <https://www.stlouisacademy.co.uk/admissions>).

Children are supported by highly trained and experienced staff to develop their language and



communication, physical and social skills. They have access to well resourced free-choice provision both inside and outdoors and enjoy time in our Forest School as part of their learning. The team is led by a qualified teacher.

As the children progress they spend time in smaller teaching groups for specific areas of learning such as phonics and mathematics. We have high aspirations for children's learning and record their progress through planned observations and learning journeys which are shared with parents. Our staff and parents expect good attendance and behaviour and children are positively rewarded throughout the day.

We welcome most children to our Nursery in the September before their 4th birthday, however, we are always happy to accept new children at any time during the year if we have space. We offer 30 hours provision during school term times for eligible children and a lunchtime club, for a small charge, to enable children to stay for the whole day. Fee paying sessions are available subject to availability. In addition, we offer an extended day through



access to the paid services of the Treetops Wraparound childcare provision which runs before and after the school day. If you would like more information on this, please contact the School Office.



## Behaviour

At St Louis we have the highest expectation of positive behaviour and good manners throughout the school. Our Behaviour Policy is founded upon the importance of developing excellent relationships between pupils and staff.

Bullying is rare at St Louis, but is taken seriously and our policy is that it is dealt with immediately. Our children learn to value good behaviour and to support their peers to make good choices. We have Bronze, Silver and Gold Behaviour awards to earn as part of our motivational approach that focuses on praising positively.



## Special Education Needs & Disability

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and we work hard to meet the needs of all pupils and their families. We have an excellent inclusion leader who ensures that pupils experiencing any kind of difficulty are well supported. Special educational needs and disabilities are embraced and valued so that, through excellent support, pupils can achieve their potential. We work closely with parents and external agencies, as appropriate, to ensure all pupils achieve their best. The Special Education Needs and Disability Lead in our school is Karen Bryan.

## Safeguarding

At St Louis we take safeguarding children very seriously. All pupils in our care are protected by robust safeguarding procedures that are in place to ensure that they are kept safe, happy and are able to learn. Safer-recruitment practices are in place and all staff, governors and volunteers working in our school are subject to safeguarding security checks. They also attend regular safeguarding training. Adults know how to report concerns and pupils know who they can talk to if they are worried about themselves or their peers.

Online Safety has a high profile in our school and we place a large emphasis on the importance of teaching pupils how to stay safe when online at home and in school.



The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in our school is Mrs Sue Blakeley. The Alternates are Mrs Karen Bryan and Mrs Clare Clark. Mrs Kathryn Feehan is our Safeguarding Governor.

If you have concerns about a pupil from our school, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately.



### Out of School Club: Treetops Wraparound Care

We have a very popular out of school club that is provided on site and run by our staff. It provides excellent care for our pupils, both before and after the school day. We run from 8am until school begins and again from 3.20pm until up to 6.00pm. We provide a good choice of breakfast options and after school a healthy cooked light tea is served at 4.30pm; the children all enjoy sitting together to enjoy this. All dietary needs are catered for.

This club is open for all years, from Nursery to year 6 inclusive, with the areas used being split between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. We use Parentmail as our online system for all bookings, amendments and payments which allows parents complete control of their child's care around the school day. Please look on our website for further details or contact the School Office.

### Parent Partnership: Friends of St Louis (FOSL)

St Louis is well supported by our parents and we welcome them to come and volunteer in our school in any way that they feel able to. We also have a very active and positive team of parents who make up the Friends of St Louis (FOSL). They plan a range of well-supported events throughout the year to raise funds for our school. By joining FOSL, you can help improve the school for all our children. FOSL have helped to fund our amazing Foundation outdoor learning area and our KS1 classroom book nooks in 2021. Any spare time you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

### Catholic Life: Charitable Giving

As a Catholic school, we raise money for charities throughout the year. Our fundraising is used to help those locally, nationally and internationally. We hold monthly food bank collections for Newmarket Open Door, support the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development—CAFOD, develop links to schools overseas and support charities that the children have elected to work on behalf of.



## What our parents say about us

We carry out an annual parent survey each autumn term to inform future improvements to our school in response to feedback. We act quickly to respond to all concerns and we continually strive to improve our school for the benefit of all our children.

Here are some of the lovely things that families have said about us in the past year:

"The newsletter is brilliant and shows how much the school is doing and what great improvements are being made thank you."

" You are amazing and always really helpful, no matter what is asked."

"My daughter is loving year 6. She always thought maths was hard but she enjoyed fractions this week. She has never been so happy - thank you!"

" I couldn't let this half term go without saying a huge thank you."

" I just wanted to say thank you so much for the home learning that you have been providing in the past few weeks. The tasks have been spot on - challenging enough to engage my child, but not overwhelming. But most important of all, you have just been so fantastic at keeping the sense of class togetherness and continuity going. It's the small things that make such a difference - simple things like doing the register every morning on video- it's great for my daughter to have a chance to see you, and the classroom, and have a chat with you and generally just maintain the sense of being included in the embrace of the Oak class community.

It's also so lovely that they say the prayer together each day for that all-important continuity of their prayer life as well."

"I am very impressed with all the efforts and changes Trina and her team have made to the menus. Far more fruit and vegetable choices, wholemeal and less carbs, local and seasonal products wow !"





## Admissions Information



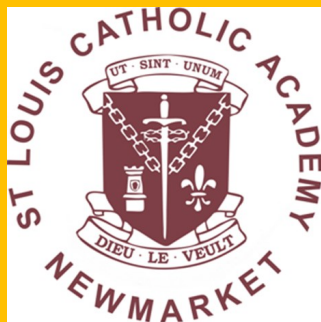
If you are interested in your child joining St Louis, please contact Antoinette Jones on [admin@stlouisacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@stlouisacademy.co.uk) and she can provide you with full information and help make the process as straightforward as possible.

Please be advised, that if you are hoping for your child to join us in Reception, you should apply through the local council in which you live.

You are most welcome to visit the school at anytime, and as often as you would like and if you would like to arrange this, please contact Antoinette Jones on the email address above or call on 01638 662719 to arrange a suitable appointment.

Please see our website for the School's Admissions Policy and details of the Supplementary Information Form which must be completed for all applicants. We are an inclusive Catholic school, welcoming of all children from age 3 upwards.





**St Louis Catholic Academy**  
**Fordham Road**  
**Newmarket CB8 7AA**  
**Website: [www.stlouisacademy.co.uk](http://www.stlouisacademy.co.uk)**  
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**School Office: 01638 662719**

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