

St Ambrose Catholic Primary School

School Prospectus and Information



School Year 2020-2021

St Ambrose Catholic Primary School
Alderfield Drive
Liverpool
L24 7SF

☎ 0151 425 2306

🌐 www.stambroseprimary.co.uk



Welcome

A warm welcome to families new and returning, from all in our community at St Ambrose. We are delighted that you have accepted or are considering a place for your child in our school. We very much look forward to working with you and your child, developing their knowledge and skills, nurturing their talents and helping them discover new talents throughout their journey with us.

We will do this through the vision born out in our Mission Statement: 'Follow the example of Jesus'. This encompasses all we are as a school, our belief that every child is special and unique, in God's likeness. This ethos produces a caring, calm but energetic atmosphere where children love learning and thrive academically, physically and spiritually.

At St Ambrose we welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with our families. We like hearing your ideas and views on how we are doing, and use these, both complimentary and critical, to develop and improve. We look forward to this partnership with your family, especially the exciting journey your child will take with us in the future.

Mr M White
Executive Headteacher

School Prayer:

'Bless our school, that by working together and playing together we may learn to love one another and ***follow the example of Jesus.***'



Mission Statement

'Follow the example of Jesus'

To do this we will:

- * Show respect by being friendly to everyone, looking after everything that God has created and treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves. (Christ centred)
- * Provide a high quality education which enables everyone to reach their full potential within a caring and supportive environment. (Education)
- * Celebrate the school's place in the community and the wider world. (Community)

Objectives:

(Christ Centred)

- * Provide quality collective worship and enriching liturgical celebrations.
- * Enable our children to acquire an excellent religious education, through a well taught and resourced Come and See programme.
- * Encourage all to develop their understanding of and relationship with God, while at the same time respecting that others choose to express their faith in different ways.
- * Be positive role models, who treat each other with respect and are willing to forgive and be forgiven.

(Education)

- * As teachers, to be both inspirational and creative so that every child's achievements are recognised and celebrated and that they are encouraged to become independent learners.
- * To provide a safe and happy learning environment so that every child feels valued and secure within our school family.
- * To encourage regular communication with parents by creating a positive and caring support network for the extended school family.

(Community)

- * To join with the parish and local community to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.
- * To enhance the curriculum by uniting as one all of the generations in the community and fostering mutual respect.
- * To provide opportunities for the children to visit places of interest and experience a range of different cultural events in order for them to gain a better appreciation of the world around them and to 'fire' their own aspirations.
- * To participate in charitable activities and be able to empathise with the needs of others.



The school is a Roman Catholic Aided Primary School for boys and girls, with a Nursery.

Admissions

The governors have agreed criteria for admission into the school for all children including those with special educational needs.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Governing Body will apply the following over-subscription criteria:

1. Baptised Catholic children who are in the care of the Local Authority, (looked after children).
2. Baptised Catholic children living in the designated Parish of St Ambrose, (proof of Baptism is required).
3. Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or a sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.
4. Baptised Catholic children living in other Catholic parishes.
5. Children who are in the care of the Local Authority, (looked after children), other than Catholic.
6. Children who are other than Catholic who have a brother or a sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.
7. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in form of Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
8. Children of other faiths, an appropriate Minister of Religion would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
9. Children whose parents express a preference for a place at the school.

In the event of any over-subscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above then the admissions committee will offer places first to children living nearest to the school measured in a straight line distance from the front door of the house/flat to the main front door of the school as measured by the Local Authority.

The school's standard admission number is 30.

Parents who are considering sending their children to the school may visit the school at any time, but are requested to seek an appointment with the Headteacher to arrange a mutually convenient time. Pre-school admission meetings are arranged with parents, the Headteacher and Foundation Stage Teachers to discuss starting school, to dispel any worries parents may have and to answer any questions. Attending our Nursery setting does not guarantee a place in Reception at St Ambrose Catholic Primary School and the appropriate application should still be completed via the Local Authority.



The Governors have agreed to continue the practice of admitting all Reception children in one intake, in September each year.

Our aim from the start is to enable children to experience a secure and happy environment in which they will develop their physical, social, spiritual and intellectual potential.

If your child is refused admission to the school and you wish to appeal against the decision you should write to:

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Schools Commission
LACE
Croxteth Drive
Liverpool
L17 1AA

Telephone 0151 522 1071

School Hours

Reception, KS1 & KS2

8.45 am – Children enter school

8.55 am – 12 noon – Lessons
(Break at 10.45 am – 11.00 am)

Lunch – 12.00 – 12.55 pm

12.55 pm – 3.15 pm – Lessons

Nursery

8.45 am – 11.45 am (Mornings)

12.30 pm – 3.30 pm (Afternoon)

No Nursery or infant children are allowed to leave school without a responsible adult and they should be collected on time at the end of each session.

If you think you may be late collecting your child for any reason, or another person is to collect them please telephone the school beforehand.

The children will be accepted into the school for 'Settling in Time', no more than fifteen minutes before school (i.e. 8.45am) and we shall be responsible for them for no more than ten minutes (3.25pm) at the end of school, unless there is a pre-arranged activity. If you are ever running late to pick up your child please telephone the school office.



It is important to note that school staff are not on duty after this designated time and may not be available to care for your child. In the event that we are unable to contact a family member, external agencies will be called to advise on the care for your child.

Assemblies & Collective Worship

Children's spiritual awareness is developed not only through the ethos of our school but also through our Religious Education curriculum, Collective Worship and assemblies. We follow the RE programme 'Come and See' recommended by Liverpool Archdiocese. Collective Worship is a daily feature of our school life. This is celebrated in the classrooms with the added enrichment of whole school assemblies each week.

Our worship is of a Catholic nature where stories, hymns, drama, poetry and prayers help children to consider spiritual and moral issues, and to explore their own beliefs. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from this act of worship and in such an event, the Headteacher will be responsible for providing an alternative.

Each class holds a collective worship each term to which family members are invited.

Behaviour in school

At St Ambrose we aim to create the conditions in which teaching and learning can proceed effectively and efficiently. All children are encouraged to act as Christians and respect all members of our school community and their property. Good behaviour is rewarded through effective praise, rewards and recognition of good work through certificates and stickers. Failure to achieve the appropriate standard is usually dealt with in one of the following ways: verbal reprimand, the suspension of privileges or in school 'pay back' time. When a child's behaviour gives serious cause for concern, it is the practice that their parents are contacted in order that a mutually satisfactory agreement may be reached. Further information on school behaviour policy and procedures can be found on our website.

Parents and staff are encouraged to communicate well with one another for the benefit of the children. Teachers can be approached at the class door at the end of the school day, by telephone or a face to face meeting can be scheduled before, during or at the end of the day.

Sickness, Medicals and Medicine

During the visit to the school for the purpose of enrolment, parents are given the opportunity to disclose any health problems relative to their child. It is important that the Headteacher and class teacher are fully aware of these when a child starts school. Minor injuries in school are treated by teachers or the Learning Support Assistants. During the lunch hour, Supervisory Assistants deal with minor injuries and report all serious accidents to the Leadership team.

When a child has to be sent home or requires hospital treatment, parents are contacted. For this purpose a contact telephone number is necessary. Our own assigned school nurse visits the school for health checks and can be available for private consultations by appointment. Hearing and sight are tested.

We will only administer prescribed medication in school. Parents must sign our permission form which contains the child's name, class, name of medication, dosage and the name of the doctor who prescribed it, together with the doctor's address and telephone number. If a child is asthmatic and requires an inhaler, these will be kept in the classrooms for immediate access. Children should know how to use their own inhaler.



Safeguarding

In this school safeguarding and child protection are absolute priorities. We follow Liverpool Authority guidelines and training in this area.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs J Ward (Children's Mentor) and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr M White. They are assisted by Mrs T Moorcroft, Deputy Headteacher.

If you have any child protection concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Road Safety and Parking

Parking around the school buildings can prove difficult and hazardous. Parents are asked to park away from the school and spend an extra minute or two walking the rest of the way. Please keep all children under strict control to avoid the possibility of an accident. When parking near school, please ensure that you do not block the driveways of residents. To help alleviate this problem, if any parents feel they can manage to bring their children to school and pick them up without using cars, it would be much appreciated.

This is often a point of conflict between members of our school and wider community and all drivers are asked to be mindful of the safety of all pedestrians, other road users and local residents when parking. Parking enforcement may levy a penalty notice to drivers who park unsafely.

School Meals

From September 2014 children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a school meal daily, free of charge. All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will receive a compulsory school meal.

Our catering company, Food For Thought is owned by a cooperative of 20 schools and provides a cooked dinner, with a choice of main courses and a dessert, or sandwiches and salad if requested, each day. From September, children in Years 3-6 who require a school meal continue to be charged at **£1.80 per day - i.e. £9 per week.**

The money should be brought to school as a lump sum on **MONDAY MORNINGS** or on the first day of the week as appropriate. If a child is absent, the requisite amount will be credited and carried forward to the following week. All payments should be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class. Any cheques for school meals should be made out to "**Food For Thought.**" Accommodation for meals is provided in the dining room. Alternatively, your child may bring a packed lunch, once in Key Stage 2.

If you wish to change your Key Stage 2 child from a packed to school lunch or vice versa, please give at least 1 week's written notice to the school office.

Pupil Premium

Parents who meet the threshold earnings for 'Free School Meals' attract further funding for their child throughout their school life under current legislation. This funding can be used by schools to ensure that children in receipt have access to the same opportunities as other children and therefore learn as well as others. In our school we use some of this funding to ensure staffing levels, subsidies for trips, ICT equipment and other opportunities. If you need more information about this please contact your local 'one stop shop'.



Jewellery (and Valuables)

Jewellery **MUST NOT** be worn in school. Watches may be worn by older children. Chains, rings, bracelets and earrings can easily be lost or cause serious injuries. **Children wearing jewellery will have it taken from them to be held by the staff until it can be safely collected by a parent.** Please understand that there are serious health and safety implications and parents are asked to give their total support on this issue. The school cannot accept responsibility for any property belonging to pupils, which is stolen, lost or damaged whilst on school premises. Private insurance policies should be used to cover such items. Mobile phones may be brought to school but must be handed in to the class teacher for the duration of the school day.

We discourage children from wearing earrings on safety grounds and therefore, children are not allowed to wear any form of earrings.

School Uniform

Bags - children are asked to bring book bags for daily school use. Large rucksack style bags are not allowed.

WINTER

Girls

Grey skirt or Pinafore
White blouse
Green badged v-neck cardigan
School tie (claret)
Grey socks/tights
Black shoes (not trainers)

Boys

Grey trouser
White shirt
Green badged v-neck jumper
School tie (claret)
Grey socks
Black shoes (not trainers)

SUMMER

Girls

Green checked gingham dress
White socks
Black shoes (not trainers)

Boys

White badged polo shirt
Grey trousers/shorts
Black shoes (not trainers)

Hair and Make-up

Long hair must be tied back using simple clips and bands in the school colours. Large bows and ribbons are not permitted. Short hair must be plain in style. No make-up, including nail varnish is permitted.

Small group Tuition

It isn't just those children with a special need who enjoy that bit of extra attention. Pupils love to show any individual, be it their teacher or learning support assistant, how much they have improved their reading or other skills. Often a small group can flourish away from the classroom under the guidance of a caring, knowledgeable adult. Children progress when they are made to feel special. Many children will experience small group tuition at some point in our school. Teachers will inform you if this is to take place.

Home-School Partnership

A successful school like St Ambrose is engaged in a whole range of activities designed to make school attendance something to be enjoyed. To achieve this culture, partnership is essential between home and school. Parents help by hearing children to read; they engage in a successful fund raising and much more. When St Ambrose school teams require support and chauffeuring, parents are readily on hand with a convoy of cars; as the Infants engage in their educational visits, so it is a group of parents who help out by braving



the elements; and when the time arrives for the annual school production, parents are always on hand to assist in whatever way necessary.

Extra-Curricular Activities and School Visits

A wide variety of extracurricular clubs are on offer. Throughout the year, the school organises a whole series of educational visits for the various year groups including an annual residential trip for Year 4 and 5 (Colomendy) and Year 6 to the Isle of Man. We are further developing visits to Speke, Woolton, Liverpool and beyond as part of our commitment to giving our children an experiential education.

'Round the clock' Care

We are able to provide care for children from 8am until 9am Monday to Friday through our Breakfast Club and can signpost families to after school provision if needed.

Outline of Charging Policy

St Ambrose participates in many visits to support the school curriculum. Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution because of the costs involved. If enough money is raised in this way the visit will go ahead. No child will ever be excluded from a trip for non-payment of a contribution. Should parents ever be in a position where they cannot make a payment they should then approach the Headteacher or Deputy Head in confidence. Residential visits are desirable but not compulsory parts of the curriculum. Board and lodging must be paid for by parents unless they are in receipt of income support, when discretionary grants will be available. Travel costs must be covered by voluntary contributions from parents. Children will not be charged for any activity in school unless they are involved in the making of an article that they wish to keep. In these cases the children would be expected to pay for the materials. Children will not be excluded from any activity because they cannot afford it.

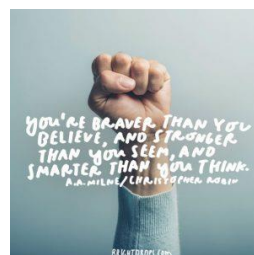
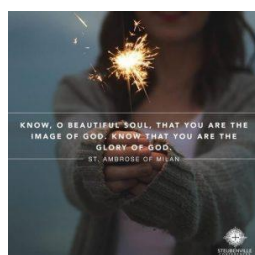
A copy of the full policy can be obtained from the office.

Our Curriculum

At St Ambrose we provide a curriculum through which we live out our Mission to 'Follow the example of Jesus'. Our curriculum is designed to enable every child to thrive through holistic provision that is there to find and nurture every child's gifts and talents whilst building their capacity to tackle challenges both in school and throughout life.

Our engaging curriculum ensures that children develop a passion for learning and a curiosity about our world which enables them to 'be the best they can be'. This takes place both within and beyond the classroom through well planned and constructed curricular and extra-curricular experiences that both engage and motivate our children to learn and grow.

We are committed to providing rich, engaging learning which has the highest aspirations for our children and community, taking place in a safe and stimulating environment that values our children and enables them to achieve well. As research advances, our curriculum will continue to flourish and develop to match the needs of our children, their families, our school, parish and wider community in the 21st Century.



Curriculum Key drivers

Aspiration

“So be sure when you step, step with care and great tact. And remember that life’s A Great Balancing Act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed) Kid, you’ll move mountains.”

Dr Seuss

- We will give our children at St Ambrose a range of broad, varied and rich experiences that help them to aim high and be their best selves
- We will introduce vocabulary beyond the primary curriculum where appropriate
- We will raise awareness of the concept of a lifelong educational learning journey i.e. nursery - primary - secondary - post 16 - higher education- life beyond school
- We will make our children aware that education improves career and life chances understanding the concept of choice
- We will give our children experience of life beyond the area they live and the possibilities the world has to offer them

Achievement

“The expert in anything was once a beginner.” – Helen Hayes

- We will give our children high quality learning that helps them ‘be the best they can be’
- We have the highest expectations of our children and they will develop the highest expectations of themselves
- We will show our children the endless potential they have to achieve well
- We will work with sporting, business and educational partners to raise standards and aim high
- We will teach our children to communicate effectively as global citizens

Resilience

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.” Winston Churchill

- We will teach our children to solve their own problems
- We will teach our children to face up to challenges they previously thought would be impossible
- We will enable our children to think big and set their own goals
- We will support our children to achieve their goals
- We will give them opportunity to discover talents and gifts beyond the curriculum
- We will provide enrichment activities that support us in this through trips, a range of visitors, residential opportunities and a broad experiential curriculum.

Teachers post 'Learning Journeys' for each term on their online class pages on our school website which provide further detailed explanations of the learning our children engage with.

Classroom management at St Ambrose

Children thrive under conditions which are well organised and orderly. At Primary School, the pupils come to accept the classroom as their personal base; they get used to the lay out and sitting with their classmates. The wall displays and decorations comprise their own work; the class teacher knows them all as individuals. Therein is the compact world of the Primary School pupil. At St Ambrose, good order and well behaved pupils are the priority and therefore become the norm. In such a calm and work orientated environment, education is both positive and productive.

English Communication, Language and Literacy

Language work is fundamental to good communication skills involving speaking, listening, reading and writing. It is given a high priority together with Maths and Science. These are core subjects under the



National Curriculum. St Ambrose engages in the daily English lesson as advised by the Department for Education, but also ensures that this learning continues through all our lessons and learning opportunities offered throughout the school day. As a school, we use a 'quality text' based approach to engage our children in high quality reading and writing and writing lessons. We use the phonics programme 'Read, Write Inc' to help our children learn the necessary skills to meet today's requirements and to help children express themselves through their choices for reading, how they write and how they communicate with each other.

Mathematics

Maths helps pupils to develop the ability to solve problems, to analyse, think creatively and to question. Pupils are taught mathematical concepts such as numeracy, algebra, shape and measure; these are later applied to real-life situations. We currently follow the format known as the Numeracy hour, used successfully in most primary schools. In Mathematics, we use a variety of resources, including the Liverpool Calculation Policy. We use the White Rose scheme to supplement learning, as well as an online practice and learning programme for class and homework.

Science

Science skills are developed by undertaking investigations, predicting outcomes, recording and drawing conclusions. Children love the practical elements of Science.

Computing

Computing is a subject which is well embedded into the school curriculum. ICT within the school is well resourced and each classroom has its own digital projector and interactive whiteboard. We have now installed a system of 90 laptops across the school to enrich our children's learning frequently. We also use iPads to enrich creativity through ICT. The school has an E-Safety Policy which ensures the safety of our children whilst using the internet as a learning resource.

Other Foundation subjects

Our children study all other foundation subjects set out in the National Curriculum for schools in England. They study aspects of British and World History and Geography, as well as Art and Design Technology which helps develop further creativity. To enable more meaningful and in depth study, we will often focus on these subjects during thematic weeks that take place across the year.

Religious Education

Religious Education is such an integral part of school life that it cannot be isolated into lesson periods only. It permeates and colours everything and creates the tolerant and friendly atmosphere in our school. The syllabus used is that which is authorised by the Archbishop. It is called 'Come and See'. Your children will receive help in preparing for the sacraments of the Confirmation, the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Preparing for these sacraments is a partnership between school, parents and the church. Parents have a full and practical involvement in helping to prepare their children. We provide other religious experiences for our children: Masses for individual classes and Holy Days of Obligation, assemblies, seasonal services at Christmas, Easter as well as Harvest Thanksgiving and Penitential Services. Parents are always welcome on these occasions.

Physical Development

In a city with such a rich sporting culture as Liverpool, we greatly value the physical development of our children. At St Ambrose we are highly committed to developing children's physical development and wellbeing. We have extensive links with our local Sports College and a variety of sports clubs and associations, engaged in providing broad sporting opportunities for our children. We recognise the importance of developing children's awareness of healthy lifestyles, taught through PE, Science and PSHE



lessons weekly. Our kitchen provides freshly made, healthy lunches to many of our children to compliment this approach. We have again received the Healthy Schools Award as recognition of this work.

Music

All children experience the learning of Music through the 'Charanga' programme. Year 4 children learn the guitar each week and our junior children have the opportunity to learn another instrument through paid tuition time.

Relationship and Sexual Education (RSE)

The Governors have decided on following the Archdiocesan approved RSE policy within the school curriculum. Positive relationship Education should: help pupils towards a happy and positive acceptance of their own personal sexuality and to develop a genuine sense of their own worth and value as a human being; remove ignorance and dispel unhelpful myths with regard to sexuality by ensuring that young people have access to all appropriate knowledge and information about the physical, emotional, social and spiritual dimensions of human sexuality including the nature of love, of relational life and the family; promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Our staff, are trained to deliver this programme. Mr MacKenzie is available to discuss any aspect of this programme with families.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Here in St Ambrose, we believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings and these are how we plan for teaching and learning within St Ambrose Catholic Primary School. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, known as the prime areas, are: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development.

We also support children in the four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are: literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; expressive arts and design.

Assessment and Reporting

Each pupil goes through the school with records so that teachers are aware of the child's attainment as they move from year to year. An annual report will be sent to parents at the end of each school year. Open evenings are arranged to allow parents to view children's work and discuss progress with the class teacher. If you wish to discuss your child's progress at any other time please telephone school to arrange an appointment with the class teacher. This would be greatly appreciated.

Special Educational Needs

We aim for all children with additional needs to be happy and confident learners who achieve their potential. We aim to help them achieve this through the provision of a supportive and stimulating curriculum and learning environment.



Class teachers provide quality-first teaching with differentiated learning activities. Needs are equally met through individual and small group provision. Our experienced Learning Support Assistants help to provide for those with additional needs.

Achievable and realistic targets are recorded on an Individual Education Plan (IEP). These are reviewed regularly alongside parents and children. The review meeting allows progress to be celebrated as well as identifying new targets and sharing of teaching methods.

For those with recognised complex needs, the support of outside agencies, including the Local Authority, is essential.

On our website you will find our SEND policy, Local Offer and Statement of Information.

Our SENCo is Mrs S Bird.

Attendance and Punctuality

At St Ambrose we value good attendance. In the course of the first part of the present school year, the amount of unauthorised absence was very low.

Should your child be absent for any reason please inform the school as soon as possible by telephone or letter. A record of your communication will be kept by us and shown to the Education Welfare Officer when the registers are inspected.

Should you experience any problems and require the assistance of the Education Welfare Officer the contact number is (0151) 233 2297. The School expects all children to arrive each day on time and ready to learn. It is most important that parents promote attendance and ensure that their children attend and are on time each day. We comply with the Liverpool Attendance Strategy and expect children to attend each day.

Finally

If at any time during the school year you are worried about any aspect of your child's school life, please speak with a member of staff. We have expertise across the school that can deal with most situations, both academic, personal and social. Where we don't have the expertise we can involve other groups to get the help needed.

Your child is coming into a loving and caring environment where the child comes first every time. We know that, with family support, our school will enable your child to flourish and be ready for the next stage in life, onto secondary school. We look forward to welcoming your child and your family to our community. Thank you for choosing our school.

