



'Nurturing Hearts and Minds'



St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Prospectus 2025-26

ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Well Lane
ALSAGER
Stoke on Trent
ST7 2PG**

email: - admin@stgabriels.cheshire.sch.uk

Telephone: - 01270 875770

Age Range: - 4 - 11 years

HEADTEACHER: Mr E. J. Byrne

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: - Mr. Gerard Silverlock

St. Gabriel's is a voluntary aided, co-educational, Catholic Primary School and Pre-School (3 - 11) years which serves St. Gabriel's Parish Alsager and St. Winefride's Parish Sandbach.

There are approximately 236 pupils on roll, which includes our Pre-school, with 30 places for the reception age group available each year.

St. Gabriel's was opened in 1975, with further extensions added in 1980, 1987, 1997, 2004, 2007 and refurbishment in 2011.

The school is situated at the edge of Alsager, a thriving community which retains its village identity.

The Governing Body 2025-26

Governor	Position
Mr Gerard Silverlock	Chairperson/Foundation Governor
Mr J Luxford	Vice-Chair/Foundation Governor
Mr E J Byrne	Headteacher
Mrs C Stevenson	Deputy Headteacher
Rev A Grace	Foundation Governor
Vacancy	Foundation Governor
Mr M Mitchell	Foundation Governor
Mrs S Edge	Foundation Governor
Mrs R Reeves	Foundation Governor
Mrs K Poole	Foundation Governor
Mrs C Basquez-Hunt	Parent Governor
Mrs R Schauer	Staff Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor

TEACHING STAFF

Mr E J Byrne	Headteacher	B.Ed. (Hons) CCRS, N.P.Q.H.
Mrs C. Stevenson	Deputy Headteacher	B.A.(Hons) P.G.C.E. CCRS
Mrs S. Baker	Teacher/SENCo	BSc.(Hons) P.G.C.E.
Mrs S. Keating	Teacher	B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E
Mrs. R. Chilton-Jones	Teacher	Cert Ed B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E.
Mrs A. Jones	Teacher (Part-Time)	B.A. (Hons) Cert Ed
Mrs S Maguire	Teacher	B.A. (Hons) PGCE
Mrs R. Schauer	Teacher	BSc. (Hons) P.G.C.E.
Miss M. Dickenson	Teacher	BA (Hons) QTS

TEACHER ASSISTANTS	
Mrs L. Murphy	
Mrs S. Ledger	
Mrs A. Chetwood	
Mrs S. Pitchford	
Mrs J. Stokes	
Mrs M. Townson	
Mrs S. Hall	

Pre-School Staff	
Mrs J Cookson	Pre-School Leader
Mrs K Soutar	Pre-School Assisitant
Mrs J Sterio (B.Ed. Hons)	Pre-School School Assistant
Mrs K Cartlidge	Pre-School School Assistant

NON -TEACHING STAFF	
Miss L. Hendry	School Business Manager
Mrs A. Stevenson	Admin Assistant
Mr. P. Colclough	Caretaker
Mrs J. Cooke	Cook
Mrs L. Clarke	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs. M. Hindhaugh	Mid-day Assistant
Mrs J. Ruston	Mid-day Assistant
Mrs B. Chow	Mid-day Assistant
Mrs A. Chung	Mid-day Assistant

WELCOME TO ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you are considering sending your child to St. Gabriel's or if your child is about to join us for the first time, we welcome you. We look forward to a happy and successful partnership with you and your child over the coming years.

Confidence in a school develops from knowing and understanding what is happening within it. This prospectus provides information about the school, its aims, philosophy, curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Parents considering sending their child to St. Gabriel's are invited to visit the school at any time, by appointment.

AIMS

We aim:-

1. To provide, a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum which will enable each child to develop his or her true potential spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, socially, emotionally and aesthetically.
2. To help the children to develop lively, enquiring minds, the ability to question and argue rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
3. To help the children to use language and numbers effectively.
4. To instil respect for religious and moral views, and tolerance of other races, religions and cultures.
5. To help the children to understand the world in which they live, and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.
6. To help the children to appreciate human achievements and aspirations.
7. To encourage the children to become increasingly aware that they are part of a caring Catholic community, whose members, through their life and worship, serve as a living example of Christ in our world.
8. To foster the partnership between the home, the school, the parish and the wider community.

Our Mission Statement

'Nurturing Hearts and Minds'

God's love is at the heart of all that we do at St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School. Hearts and Minds are nurtured in a stimulating and safe environment. We believe that every child is unique and we nurture each child through a creative and rounded curriculum to reach their full potential. Talents are celebrated and differences are respected within a strong, supportive Catholic community.

At St Gabriel's children learn to love, respect and care for each other and God's entire world. Our school is a place where children are filled with a love of life and learning.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

The school is a one-form entry primary school.

There are seven year groups which are divided into seven teaching groups:

Year R. (Reception), Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6.

ADMISSIONS (for 2026-27 please see full policy on school website)

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after Catholic children.
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Gabriel's, Alsager and St Winifride's, Sandbach [for whom St Gabriel's is the nearest Catholic school].
3. Other Catholic children.
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children.
5. Children attending St Gabriel's Catholic Pre-School.
6. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church.
7. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the

application is made. (see note 10)

(ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 8).

(iii) The children of staff will be given increased priority within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 11).

ARRANGEMENTS OF VISITS BY PARENTS

Parents of prospective pupils are welcome to visit the school at any mutually convenient time, arranged in advance with the headteacher. Children who are entering the Reception class are invited to spend a morning or afternoon in the classroom with the teacher and children towards the end of the term prior to them starting school. This enables them to become familiar with their new surroundings, to meet the class teacher and to meet other children starting school the same time as themselves.

Parents of all St. Gabriel's children may visit the school at any time by prior arrangement with the headteacher and also on the Parent/Teacher Meetings, which are arranged each term.

STARTING SCHOOL

All children start school in September i.e. there is a single intake each year.

Children whose fifth birthday falls on or between **1st September** and **31st August** in any one year start together at the beginning of the Autumn Term in September.

Please note all applications should be sent on a Cheshire East form to the Admissions Team at Cheshire East Council in the Autumn Term prior to your child starting school.

PARENTS AND THE STAFF

St. Gabriel's enjoys and welcomes the fullest participation on the part of its parents.

All parents are encouraged to assist with the organisation of the wide variety of social and fund-raising activities. Parents also come into school to assist the teaching staff by taking individuals or groups for baking, art and craft and by hearing children read.

Parents also help to supervise the children when walking to the swimming baths and on educational visits. If you are a new parent and you feel that you can offer your services in any

capacity please do not hesitate to contact the headteacher.

THE CURRICULUM

The National Curriculum includes all the learning experiences in the life of the school. Such experiences include core and foundation subjects of the National Curriculum, cross curricular projects and extra-curricular activities.

Our curriculum at present covers many areas of learning; Religious and Spiritual Development, English, Mathematics, Science, Art and Design, History, Geography, Languages, Music, Computing and Physical Development and Well-Being.

This Creative Curriculum is a cross-curricular method of using the skills, knowledge and concepts of all areas of the curriculum. Key Stage topics/themes last a term or half-term, and are chosen and planned to incorporate all aspects of the curriculum. All the teaching staff are involved in the planning procedure, to ensure continuity and progression.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

As a Catholic school we foster attitudes that encourage the children to develop as responsible people, who are sincere, conscientious and honest, and whose lives reflect the Christian virtues. Religious Education is not considered purely as a subject on the time-table. The children are encouraged to 'live' their faith.

The children are prepared for the Sacraments of Forgiveness and the Eucharist. Such preparation involves a close liaison between the school, the home and the Parish.

Religious Assemblies/hymn practices/prayer services take place at the beginning of each day. Each class takes its turn in presenting their own liturgy/assembly.

The Parish Priest says Mass on a regular basis and takes an active part in the life of the school.

The National Project called 'The Vine and the Branches' is taught throughout the diocese of Shrewsbury and therefore throughout the school. This is an exciting, comprehensive Religious Education Programme for Primary Schools.

RHE EDUCATION

Relationship and Health Education is now a statutory element of the curriculum. We follow a Diocesan approved programme of content for all year groups, with the emphasis being on all forms of relationships. The content will be taught throughout the year and is also placed in the context of the child's spiritual, moral, emotional and social development throughout our curriculum.

ENGLISH

Language is central to our life and to our learning and as such occupies an important place in the curriculum of our school. In accordance with the National Curriculum Document, three distinct areas of English are experienced at St. Gabriel's - Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

We pride ourselves on having a high standard of English in school.

A structured reading programme is used and we rely on the co-operation of parents to ensure that the children read on a regular basis at home to complement and enhance the work which is carried out in school.

Emphasis is placed on the quality of both the content and presentation of all written work. Children are encouraged to express their own ideas and feelings in both the spoken and written word.

The school follows the National Curriculum 2014.

MATHEMATICS

At St. Gabriel's we aim to provide Mathematical experiences which satisfy children's natural curiosity in an exciting and stimulating way and at the same time provide opportunities for the acquisition of knowledge, skills and concepts, which are relevant to the needs of society.

We use a 'mastery approach' to maths, including investigations, problem solving activities and mental strategies, which are an integral part of our Mathematics curriculum and are carried out by all the age groups.

The school follows the National Curriculum 2014.

SCIENCE

At St. Gabriel's we aim to help the children to understand the changing world and to develop the attitudes fundamental to scientific study. Such attitudes include intellectual curiosity, perseverance, open-mindedness, independence of thought and co-operation.

The National Curriculum requirements are met through specific Science lessons and by integrating the science programmes of study into cross-curricular topics.

ART

The quality of Visual art work in the school creates an interesting and stimulating environment.

Pupils are encouraged to develop their creative, imaginative and practical skills through a balanced programme of art, craft and design activities.

COMPUTING

The purpose of teaching Computing is to enable children to code, to connect, to communicate and to collect data. To use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly. A recent investment in new technology (Learn Pads) alongside regular renewal of pupil laptops has improved our provision for our pupils.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

The purpose of Design and Technology is to enable children to be inventive in designing practical solutions to problems and to bring about change and or improvement. Design and Technology consists of designing, making and evaluating.

Designing is a problem solving and creative activity which leads to an accumulation of knowledge and experience. It is cross curricular and encourages pupils to be open minded and flexible.

Children are encouraged to generate ideas and explore ways in which they can be developed or refined.

GEOGRAPHY

The teaching of Geography at St. Gabriel's draws on the natural interest of the children in the world around them, and gives them a clear sense of the physical and human processes at work. In following the process of Geographical enquiry through the school, the children study a range of places and themes which encourage them to use Geographical skills such as map work and fieldwork. As the place studies develop from the local area to places within other regions and countries, there is a progression in knowledge and understanding.

In helping the children to understand their relationship with the wider world we aim to promote environmental responsibility and respect for its peoples and diverse cultures.

HISTORY

It is intended that the teaching of History will enhance the individual pupil's understanding of themselves, the influence of the past on their lives and their place in the wider community.

It is our aim to develop in our pupils an accurate and increasingly detailed knowledge of the past through stimulating their interest and enthusiasm for learning about it. They will become equipped with the skills of enquiry and investigation to enable them to extend their learning.

LANGUAGES - French

All pupils in KS2 receive lessons in the French language delivered each week from our Modern Foreign Language Teacher Mrs Davies . Children also have an opportunity to learn different languages though extra-curricular provision.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The school prides itself on offering a wide variety of Physical Education experiences in order to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

All classes have indoor P.E. lessons. Here the teachers concentrate on a particular theme involving gymnastics, games and dance.

During the year all children take part in a number of outdoor activities which include Netball, Football, Tag Rugby, Cross Country running, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Rounders.

The school takes part in competitive games with other schools, where great emphasis is placed on sportsmanship and the social aspect of meeting children from other schools.

The Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children receive weekly swimming instruction during the summer term.

In Years 4, 5 and 6 opportunities are provided, through a residential activity course, for the children to take part in a range of adventure and outdoor activities.

MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA

The children are encouraged to develop a love of all aspects of music, dance and drama. They are given the opportunity to listen to, observe and develop an understanding of the arts from different times and cultures.

They are encouraged to respond to and evaluate live performances and recorded music, dance and drama including their own and others compositions and performances.

There are many opportunities for performing arts during Concerts and Assemblies.

At Key Stage 2 children are given the opportunity to participate in a school choir, art club, dance club and a drama club.

Opportunities are also provided for instrumental playing including pitched and unpitched percussion instruments and recorders.

Private music teachers provide violin, woodwind, guitar and brass instrumental tuition. The lessons take place during lunchtimes and after school.

HOMEWORK

All children are expected to take home a reading/library book on a regular basis.

We request that parents spend time listening to their children reading, discussing the pictures as well as the text. This assists the teachers in developing, in the children, a love of books.

Other homework may be given at the discretion of the class teachers. This will include the learning of spellings and tables and research related to their project work.

Our Homework policy is reviewed annually and each class teacher informs the parents in detail, at the beginning of the academic year and again at the beginning of each term, what the expectations are. On a regular basis, during the year, information is shared.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The teachers at St Gabriel's are sensitive to the individual needs of each child. Work is set so that it matches individual abilities. All children, regardless of their particular special need, are entitled to have access to the full range of National Curriculum subjects.

Those with specific or general learning difficulties, a physical difficulty, behavioural problems or qualities of giftedness are monitored carefully and given individual consideration and attention.

If a child has special needs which require specialist facilities then the matter is referred to the Local Authority's Education Learning Support Services, psychology or medical services.

Medical examinations, including vision, hearing and dental checks, are carried out by the school doctor or dentist.

Parents are advised before children are referred to any Local Authority Services and before medical examinations take place.

PASTORAL CARE

We are aware that we share, with parents, responsibility for the children in our care and make every effort to provide the care which any responsible parent would be expected to make. An approach may be made to the headteacher, at any time, about any problem concerning a child's health, safety or any aspect of school life.

DISCIPLINE

The development of self-discipline and a co-operative caring attitude amongst the children is a high priority.

The school has a Behaviour Policy which is shared with parents, published on the website.

If a child persistently behaves in a manner which is not acceptable or which is disruptive, the school will consult with the child's parents.

Caring for the children is a partnership and on occasions a joint solution may prove necessary.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school endeavors to maintain a wide range of extra curricular activities.

At present these include:- Netball, Football, Cross Country running, Rounders, French, Science, Drama, Dance, Choir, Art and Design, Baking, Textiles and Instrumental tuition.

RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

1. SAVIO HOUSE Retreat – BOLLINGTON

The Year 4 children are given the opportunity of taking part in a 3 day visit to Savio House in Bollington. Here the children embark on a retreat, including a variety of planned activities which inspires their spiritual development through prayer and worship, language, science, history, geography, music, dance, drama, and visual art activities.

2. STANDON BOWERS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE and STANLEY HEAD OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

The children from Year 5 and Year 6 experience such activities as abseiling, archery, high ropes, low ropes, orienteering, and a variety of problem solving experiences.

Standon Bowers is a Staffordshire based OEC and Stanley Head is Stoke on Trent based OEC which provide a wealth of learning experiences which, extend pupils awareness and understanding of the environment, improve inter- personal and social skills, inspire greater confidence, reveal new talents and incite the thrill of new achievements.

SECONDARY TRANSFER

The children from St. Gabriel's Catholic Primary School transfer at eleven years of age to our feeder high school of St. Thomas More Catholic High School Crewe with whom we have excellent links.

Pupils also transfer to St Joseph's Catholic College, Alsager School, Sandbach Girls School or Sandbach Boys School.

In the final year at St. Gabriel's (Year 6) the children are given the opportunity to spend at least one full day at their chosen Secondary School. Parents and children are also invited to open evenings at the schools.

We have an excellent liaison programme between us and our partner secondary schools, where we participate in a rich variety of activities.

LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

All Reception Class and Key Stage 1 pupils are entitled to a 'universal free' school meal each day.

All Key Stage 2 pupils can purchase the hot meal if required at a cost of £3.30 per day.

We request that each week's lunch money is paid in advance and should be sent in a sealed, named envelope.

Children may bring a packed lunch if they prefer, though we request it is a healthy, balanced lunch in line with our whole school food policy. Lunches are taken in two sittings, each of which are supervised by our Midday Assistants.

If you wish your child to change from school meals to sandwiches, or vice versa, please let the school know at least two weeks beforehand.

For safety reasons, glass containers and canned drinks are not permitted.

CHARGING POLICY

The Education Reform Act 1988 maintains "The right to free education during school hours".

The school, therefore, may not enforce a charge for children going on school trips to the theatre, museum, art gallery etc.; during school hours. However, voluntary contributions to finance such activities are requested and welcomed.

As the Governors, headteacher and staff believe that educational trips are extremely beneficial to the children; parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of a recommended amount for each activity.

No pupil will be excluded from an activity if his/her parents are not in a position to contribute. However, if sufficient contributions are not received, then the activity cannot take place for lack of funding.

WATER BOTTLE

It is recommended that all children bring a water bottle into school. Replacement bottles can be purchased from the school office. Water is provided for the children in the water coolers situated in school where the children can fill their water bottles. No juice or fizzy drinks are permitted within school. Only still drinking water is permissible to bring into school. (Unless under medical advice and evidence is provided).

THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our School Uniform consists for all pupils of:-

- Grey skirt, pinafore dress, trousers or shorts
- School v-neck sweatshirt or cardigan
- Pale blue shirt/blouse
- School tie
- Summer Term: dress - in pale blue check
- Black shoes (NB boots are not permitted)
- Grey or navy tights in winter/ grey socks

PE Kit

- sky blue polo shirt (school logo optional), navy shorts (logo optional) and plimsolls/trainers. This should be kept in a draw string bag clearly marked with your child's name.
- Winter PE Kit can include dark coloured (Navy/black) jogging top and bottoms
(These should be kept in a draw-string bag clearly marked with the child's name)

We request that all clothes worn at school are cleared labelled with your child's name.

The following items may be purchased from Smart Choice Uniform, 63 Crewe Road, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2EZ.

School tie
Sweatshirt
School Fleece
School Cardigan
P.E. - Navy short
School PE shirt

We hold 'pre-loved' uniform sales each term, so that any lost/mislaid clothing can be reused.

Hair

- should be cut smartly, with no 'fashion designs' of lines, patterns or extreme designs. No haircut should be cut below a 'grade 2'.
- should always be tied up in a ponytail if it is long enough (shoulder-length).

Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn in school for health and safety reasons. Under no circumstances should jewellery be worn during PE lessons. However, if earrings are worn in school, this is restricted to studs and children will be asked to remove these during PE lessons for their own safety. Covering with plasters is not permissible. Adults must not

attempt to assist children with the removal or replacement of studs. It is always our recommendation to have ears pierced in the summer break enabling safe removal during term-time.

We are extremely proud of our uniform and the standards we uphold.

PROPERTY, MONEY AND VALUABLES

It would be helpful if parents would take simple precautions against loss:-

- a) Label Reading Folder and Water Bottle clearly.
- b) Clearly label each item of clothing and personal property.
- c) Money brought to school should be in a marked envelope and should only be brought in on the day on which it is needed.
- d) Do not allow children to bring valuable items to school.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We would encourage any parent with a complaint or matter of concern to first approach the headteacher, so that the matter may be dealt with promptly on an informal basis.

If, however, the matter is not fully resolved, there is a formal complaints procedure. Please see the policy on the school website.

In the first instance it should be referred to the Governing Body for their consideration, secondly to East Cheshire Education Authority and finally to the Secretary of State.

TIMING OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The bell is rung at 8.40am prompt. The school gates are open from 8.20 am for children to access the playground.

KEY STAGE I	
MORNING SESSION	8.40 a.m. - 12.00 noon
AFTERNOON SESSION	1.00 p.m. - 3.10 p.m.

KEY STAGE 2	
MORNING SESSION	8.40 a.m. - 12.00 noon
AFTERNOON SESSION	1.00 p.m. - 3.10 p.m.

There is a 15 minute break at 10.15 a.m.

ABSENCES / APPOINTMENTS

If a child is absent from school then a telephone call to the school on the first day of absence before 9.00am is needed.

If it is known that a child will be absent due to a visit to the doctor/dentist etc; please inform the school office in advance by means of a letter.

Absence taken for leave during term time will not be authorized.

All late arrivals and absences will be recorded in the 'Absence and Late Diary' as a Health and Safety precaution.

Further information can be found on our School website at

www.stgabriels.cheshire.sch.uk



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Thank you for taking the time to visit us today.