

St George's Catholic School



Parent Handbook 2020/21

Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

A warm welcome to St George's Catholic School. We hope your child's time at St George's will be a happy, rewarding time of learning.

This handbook has been compiled to provide you with the necessary information about school procedures. The Parent Handbook is available to all parents and carers and reading it is highly recommended. You should also refer to other school policies which are published on the St George's website.

If any of this information is unclear, or if we have missed out anything that you feel you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask at the school office. Please do not feel any question is too trivial. What you tell or ask us will enable us to improve this Parent Handbook for the future.

Yours sincerely

Mark Braund
Head teacher



Staff

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

MEMBERS OF STAFF

Teaching Staff

Mr M Braund - Headteacher

Mrs J Gavins - Year 6 Teacher, Maths Lead

Mrs E McDonnell - Year 5 Teacher, Assistant Head, RE Lead

Mrs E Rolf - Year 5 Teacher, Science, KS2 Lead

Mrs C Earp - Year 4 Teacher, English Lead

Mr D Lake - Year 3 Teacher, Assistant Head, Curriculum Lead

Miss H Crocker – Year 2 Teacher, Computing Lead, DT and Art

Mrs R Godfrey – Year 1 Teacher, KS1 Co-ordinator, Music Lead

Mrs C Martin – Year 1 Teacher History & Geography Lead

Mrs A Weetch – EYFS Teacher, EYFS and Assessment

Mrs M Bullock - Special Needs, EAL Lead

Non-Teaching Staff

Mrs S Gordge – Office Manager

Mrs A Bradshaw - Admin Assistant

Mr P Davies - Caretaker

Mrs D Barthram - Teaching Assistant

Miss A Blackmore - Teaching Assistant

Mrs S Buck – Teaching Assistant, PE and Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs D Carter - Teaching Assistant, French HLTA and Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs L Carter - Teaching Assistant and HLTA Maths Intervention

Mrs B Cox- Teaching Assistant

Miss K Droba - Teaching Assistant, Computing HLTA and Library

Mrs C Erolan - Teaching Assistant

Mrs J Farthing - Teaching Assistant, Forest School Lead

Miss B Hawkins – Teaching Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs A Hazeldine - Teaching Assistant
Ms M-L Lipscombe - Teaching Assistant, First Aid
Mrs A Marchant - Teaching Assistant, Forest School Lead and Lunchtime Supervisor
Miss D Parker – Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Parker – Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Pitak – Teaching Assistant, Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs A Potter – HLTA, French and Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs V Price - Teaching Assistant, Computing HLTA and Library
Mrs A Spence - Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Thomas – Teaching Assistant, Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs V Ward – Teaching Assistant

PE coach – Mr J Chidgey
Swimming coach – Mrs J Smith

Lunch Time Supervisors

Mrs L Lodge
Mrs M Mitchell
Mrs J Murray
Mrs M Ostrouch
Mrs C Tohall

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Mrs C Tohall
Mrs M Mitchell
Mrs S Buck
Mrs A Potter
Miss K Droba
Mrs D Carter

Cleaners

Mrs M Ostrouch
Mrs E Pich-Blaszczyk



The School Governing Body

Chair of Governors

Mrs Helen Mac Connell

Head Teacher

Mr Mark Braund

Foundation Governors

Monsignor Bernard Massey

Mrs Helen Mac Connell

Mrs Grace Rayson

Mrs Catherine Farmer

Mrs Adria Martin

Mrs Lesley Robertson

Mr James Salt

Parent Representative

Mr Richard Mansell

Mr Stan Ely

Teacher Representative

Vacancy



Our Mission Statement

At St George's Catholic School we help all our children to grow in MIND, BODY and SPIRIT.

MISSION STATEMENT

The school aims:

*** To provide a broad and balanced curriculum based in a Catholic, Christian setting where we are led by the Spirit of Christ. We believe that, "Children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities."**

VATICAN II

*** To make prayer, worship and liturgy real educational experiences and to contribute successfully to the development of the faith of each individual in the school community.**

*** To provide an environment in which children can grow in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, knowledge, attitudes and values for life.**

*** To participate in and encourage interaction between the home, parish and school. We believe that it is important that common aims be established and developed in a climate of mutual trust and openness. Home, parish and school must together provide preparation for the pupil's entry into the wider community.**

*** To develop within each child a respect for themselves and their achievements, and a respect and understanding of others.**

What are the vision and aims of St George's Catholic School?

Our vision is to provide a challenging, creative and inspiring learning environment in which every child reaches their full potential. Led by the head teacher, all staff will facilitate this by seeking to be innovative and pioneering change.

We aim to do this in the context of a warm and welcoming Catholic ethos so that our care for the children will be evident to all who come within our walls and so that our children will develop strong Christian values.

We believe that children should develop a happy way of being together, that their self-respect leads to a respect for the rights and the needs of other people from their own culture and other cultures.

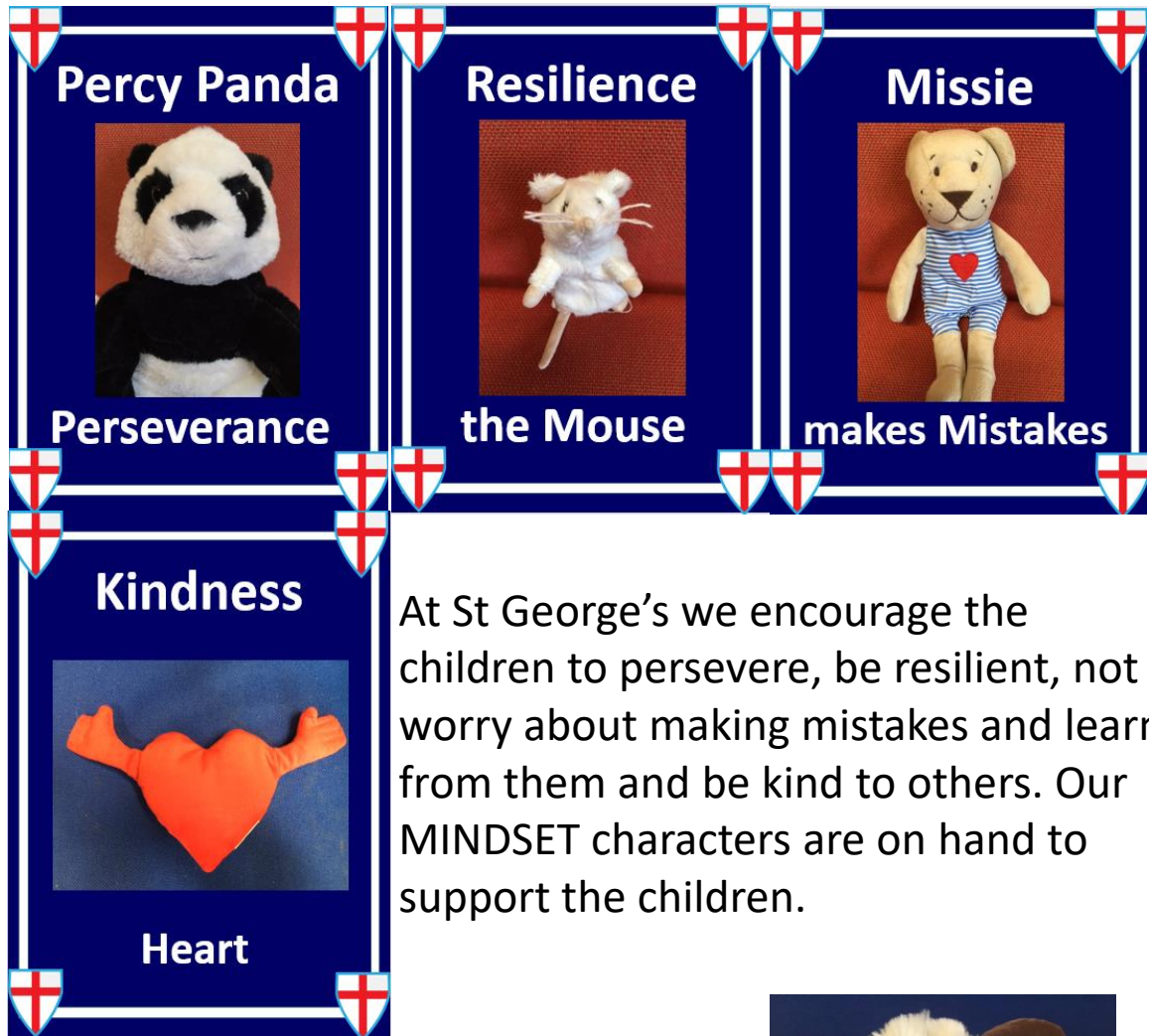
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We regard safeguarding of children as everyone's responsibility and we expect all staff and volunteers to share in this.

We are aiming to educate the whole child by presenting a total experience that is right and relevant to his/her individuality, thus fostering the child's intellectual, spiritual, physical, cultural and moral development.

We aim to teach a broad and balanced curriculum by carefully planning and delivering the National Curriculum and our RE program, and by assessment of the children's progress. We also encourage reflection and evaluation by the teaching staff.

We recognise that change and progress are an important part of everyday life and, therefore, aim to equip children to cope and flourish in dealing with the challenges presented by such changes.

MEET THE MINDSET TEAM!



At St George's we encourage the children to persevere, be resilient, not to worry about making mistakes and learn from them and be kind to others. Our MINDSET characters are on hand to support the children.



Introducing 'YETI' our new member of the MINDSET TEAM!
"I don't know the answer YET!"



What really matters?

The child first and always

Our Catholic Christian foundation

“Love your neighbour as you love yourself.”

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children, in all its aspects

Our thoughtfulness and care of each other

Growth Mindset

Positive thinking, high quality teaching and learning

Praising each other

Our own development as professionals and people

A stimulating environment

A high quality of work

Our 3 Golden Rules

Our vision



Medicines in School.

Generally children taking medicines should be at home, however occasionally it is appropriate that we are asked to administer medicines. You must complete form 3b if you require us to administer medication to your child. Please ask for this form at the office.

In the case of long-term medication, a signed record of administration is kept with the drugs. Any medicine administered will be recorded with a date and time.



Extra Curricular Clubs

We offer a wide range of activities after school throughout the week. They usually run from 3:30 – 4:30. A newsletter is sent out every term with information about the clubs. Children must apply to attend the clubs and return a signed permission slip. Contact the school office for any additional information.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Breakfast Club

St George's Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday from 7:45am until 9am in the Busy Room. A selection of breakfast cereals, toast and fruit are available to eat, and the children play together from a selection of board games and craft activities.

Current charges are £3:50 from 7:45am, £2:50 from 8:00am which includes breakfast or just £1 from 8:30am.



After School Club

The After School Club runs from Monday to Friday from 3.30pm until 5.30pm and is a warm and welcoming club that provides a safe and happy environment for your child. A choice of healthy snacks and drinks are available.

The club offers a variety of activities: construction, toys, games, arts and crafts, singing, sports, gardening and a quiet area for homework.

We help the children to improve the skills they already possess and encourage the children to develop new ones.

The club is convenient for working parents and offers piece of mind if you need to use it in an emergency.

The After School Club is run by Mrs Mitchell who has worked within our school for many years and is friendly, enthusiastic and works to ensure that the children have a fun and happy experience.

Current charges are £2.00 for the first 30 minutes, £3.00 for 1 hour and £5.00 for 2 hours.



Behaviour

We expect excellent behaviour throughout the school. The children at St George's are kind, polite, hard working and considerate of others. They are honest and enjoy attending school. They have a lot of fun and also recognise the importance of working hard and trying their best in all aspects of the school day. We have a behaviour policy which is available on the school website.

We have a Golden Book Assembly every Friday where hard work, effort and good behaviour are rewarded.

Swimming

We have a swimming pool and all the children have a 30 minute swimming lesson on a weekly basis from a swimming coach. We ask parents and carers for a contribution of £10 per term (per pupil) to support the running of the pool. We ask that all children are provided with suitable swimming hats that completely cover their hair. All children with long hair must have it tied back in a ponytail or bun so that the hair is completely covered. This will ensure that children have as dry hair as possible and return to classes promptly for the next lesson

Amenities

The school Amenities Fund is an important source of income for us. It enables us to provide all the extra things that are not covered by our main budget. The fund is also used to contribute towards the cost of visiting authors and theatre workshops.

Each year we ask for a contribution of £30 per family or £10 per term.

The Amenities Fund is invaluable to us and we are always grateful for parents' support.

School uniform

To endeavour to promote a disciplined and purposeful atmosphere and help the child to take a pride in belonging to St George's, the wearing of the school uniform is encouraged.

Summer Wear

Light blue & white checked dress

Grey tailored trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
Light blue polo shirt with school logo or
White shirt with school tie
White or grey socks – not trainer socks
Sensible **flat** dark shoes or sandals – not open-toed
No trainers

Winter Wear

Grey tailored trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
Light blue polo shirt with school logo or
White shirt with school tie
Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
Grey socks or navy grey tights
Sensible flat dark shoes

P E Kit - Sports

White t-shirt with school logo
Navy blue shorts
Daps/plimsolls for gymnastics
Trainers suitable for junior games
PE bag for hanging on peg

Small book bag
Lunch box, if necessary

All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name to avoid loss and confusion.

Daps/plimsolls are essential for PE. All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name to avoid loss and confusion. Kit can be kept in a P.E. bag that can be hung up on a peg; we do not have the facilities to store large sports bags.

Hair – Any hairbands or hair accessories must be of a reasonable size.

School uniform is now sold online from the address below. You will be able to try the range of sizes in the School Office but must order from

<https://www.michaelhope.co.uk/>

If you have your order delivered to school, it will be free delivery!

P E Kit - Swimming

Dark Swimming trunks/costume
Swimming hat (essential)
Towel (no hoods please)
Swimming bag

ST GEORGE'S WEARING OUR UNIFORM WITH PRIDE!



Sporting events and representing the school

We aim to compete in as many sporting events as we possibly can. It is important that many children experience the thrill of representing their school in a tournament. We always aim to win a game but we recognise that it is important to play the games in the right way. Respect for the opposition and referee is expected at all times, resilience and perseverance throughout games are a must and supporting team mates throughout a game. We expect the children to win and lose in the right way and enjoy the occasion regardless of outcomes.



Website

We have a website with all the key information necessary. It is advisable to check this on a regular basis for newsletters and class information. The website has a scrolling news banner which will display urgent information if necessary, for example snow forcing the school to close. The website also has a translate option.

We also have a very active Twitter account and recommend that you follow us to see all the wonderful events happening at the school.

E safety

We take e-safety very seriously at St George's and use a number of on-line accounts and do seek parental permission to create monitored accounts for the children to enhance their learning.

We encourage you as parents to include on-line safety in your general family rules and discussions.

We have included 5 useful links on the next page that will support with your knowledge and understanding on how you can ensure that your children are as safe as possible when using technology.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us if you wish to discuss any concerns or if you need advice and support.

OUR TOP TIPS ARE:

START DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR CHILDREN FROM AN EARLY AGE

MONITOR ALL THEIR ACTIVITY ONLINE

DO NOT ALLOW INTERNET ABLE DEVICES IN THE BEDROOM

BE AWARE OF HOW MUCH TIME CHILDREN ARE SPENDING ONLINE

SWITCH OFF ONLINE DEVICES AT LEAST AN HOUR BEFORE BEDTIME

E safety

JESSIE AND FRIENDS –
POLICE INTERNET SAFETY ADVICE



CHILDNET INTERNATIONAL



NSPCC ONLINE SAFETY



COMMON SENSE MEDIA



INTERNET MATTERS



Collaborative working

We enjoy strong working relationships with other schools in Taunton and work closely on projects. We see this as an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships between staff at other schools and also provide CPD for the staff in all schools. At present, the school works with Parkfield, Trull, Bishop Henderson and Bishops Hull.

We also work with all the Catholic schools in Somerset. Head Teachers meet on a half-termly basis to discuss collaborative working, providing CPD and support for all schools.

Rules

We have three simple and positive rules that we expect all children to follow throughout the school day. These are:



Homework



Homework Progression

Class	Expectation	Notes
Reception	Reading Phonics Sound Cards Mathletics	Mathletics-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL
Class 1	Reading Weekly Write-optional Numeracy/Topic alternating each week Bear Diary (Individual Child) Phonics worksheets.	Mathletics-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL
Class 2	Weekly Spellings Reading Times tables (After Christmas) Weekly Literacy/Maths Mathletics	Mathletics-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL Unfinished work/misunderstandings sent home
Class 3	Weekly Spellings Reading Times tables One Maths sheet Mathletics/Bug Club (optional)	Mathletics/Bug Club-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL work/misunderstandings sent home
Class 4	Weekly Spellings Reading Times tables Alternating topic/numeracy/literacy Mathletics/Bug Club (optional)	Mathletics/Bug Club-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL work/misunderstandings sent home
Class 5	Specific Maths task Reading (Bug Club/reading book) Spellings Grammar task	Mathletics/Bug Club-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL work/misunderstandings sent home
Class 6	Spellings Times tables Reading (scheme & Free) Bug Club/Comprehension/ Guided Reading preparation	Mathletics/Bug Club-Can be used for targeted intervention. Vocabulary lists-EAL work/misunderstandings sent home

Trips

We offer a range of trips throughout the school year. We are very fortunate to be so close to Vivary Park, Taunton Museum, Taunton Library and other facilities. We also go further afield to attractions that are linked to our curriculum.

Cooked meals

We offer hot meals to all children on a daily basis. KS1 children are entitled to a free school meal. These are cooked at Bishop Fox's Secondary School. Meals are ordered online and every child will be given a logon when they start school. Meals must be ordered by Wednesday of the previous week.



Healthy lunch and snacks

The children who do not have a cooked meal are asked to bring in a healthy packed lunch. KS1 have a healthy snack provided for them. KS2 are encouraged to bring in a snack (fruit snacks only please).

Children are entitled to free milk up until their 5th birthday.

Supporting Reading at home

We ask parents to support with reading at home by listening to the children read on a regular basis. We aim for the children to read at least five times a week. We also encourage parents to read to their children on a regular basis regardless of their age.

School Library

We have a wonderful school library with a wide range of books. Children are given a library membership card and are allowed to borrow one book at a time. Books can be borrowed for two weeks and then children can either renew the loan or change their book. We do ask that the books are looked after and cared for.



When is a good time to speak to the teacher?

We have an open-door policy at the school and parents are welcome to speak with the class teacher and office staff if they have any enquiries. After school is regarded as the best time to speak with a teacher. Please call the office to make an appointment as teachers often run clubs and have scheduled meetings but if it is an emergency the class teacher will try to make themselves available in the morning before they have begun teaching.

Parent volunteers

We do ask for parent volunteers for a range of activities at the school including school trips, listening to readers, changing books, supporting with sporting events and much more. Please let the class teacher and office know if you are able to support. Volunteers must complete a DBS check when volunteering in school – please ask at the office for further information.

Celebrations

We have many celebrations throughout the school year. A calendar of dates is issued at the start of the school year and parents are welcome to events such as Mass, Stations of the Cross, Christmas Nativities, Carol Services, Christmas Fayres and Summer Fetes.



Child Protection

Child Protection is taken very seriously at the school. If you have any concerns please see Mr Braund (Designated Lead for Safeguarding) or Mr Lake, Mrs Crocker or Mrs Bullock (Designated Deputy Leads for Safeguarding).

We do allow photos to be taken at school events. However, it is school policy that such photos **must not be shared on social media.**

Links with the church

We have very strong links with St George's Church. Monsignor Bernard is visible throughout the school and takes an assembly every half-term. The Year 4, 5 and 6 children attend a penitential service three times a year. The whole school celebrates Mass at the start of term in St George's Church and in school at the end of term.

Attendance

Attendance in school is vital for a child's learning and development. Every day is crucial. We are always aiming for 100% attendance from all pupils.

Holidays during term time cannot be authorised unless it is for exceptional circumstances.

Contact details

We ask all parents to inform the office immediately when there has been a change in contact details. We require three different contact numbers.

Sickness

On the first day of sickness, parents must call the office to report their child's absence from school. On the child's return, they should return an explanatory note, explaining the absence.

If a child has been sick or had diarrhoea they must not return to school until 48 hours from the last time that they were sick or had diarrhoea.

The School Calendar

A calendar of school events are available on the website. The calendar for the year is produced every summer in readiness for the next academic year.

School closure

In extreme conditions the school may need to close. Parents are advised to check the school website and twitter account for updates when this may occur.

Residential

At present we offer three residential trips throughout the school year but this is in the process of being reviewed due to costings.

Class Four spend a night camping at Hestercombe in June, Class Five stay at Kilve Court in February and Class Six go to Pinkery in September.



Road Safety and Parking at St George's Catholic School

We appreciate that the mornings and afternoons can be very busy but also feel we are very fortunate to have the playground that we are able to use as a car park.

We expect all parents and carers to follow the school's directions when dropping off in the morning and collecting at the end of the day.

We expect that all drivers be mindful of speed and be extra vigilant and aware of pedestrians. We have families that walk to school and we want to ensure the safety for all of our children and families.

We expect all parents and carers to be supportive and understanding of the role of our caretaker when reminding us all of our duty of care. Mr Davies and Mr Braund are simply making sure that everyone is safe. There are times when Mr Davies may face the frustrations of parents and carers and we hope that everybody understands the vital role they have. Mr Davies does not need to be outside the school in the mornings and afternoons. He is there to ensure everyone is safe. There are very few occasions when Mr Davies and Mr Braund are not outside and it is particularly those days when drivers take advantage and leave cars with no consideration of others.

It is really important that **everyone** follows the one-way route which takes you down the side of the school and into the KS1 playground and back up through the staff car park. We have included photos to hopefully clarify understanding.

There are times when parents and carers choose to ignore our one-way route and this causes congestion. It also causes much concern with residents at Nunsfield Court. Nunsfield Court is housing for retired people. There is frustration at times from some residents who have spoken about parents and carers driving onto the premises to turn their cars around. There are signs prohibiting this but these signs are ignored.

We all want the children and families to arrive and leave safely and yet there are some drivers that are choosing to ignore this so that they can save a few minutes.



Please can parents and carers **remain** in cars facing the one way route. School staff will remain with the children on the playground until you are able to park up on the KS1 playground.

Please do not leave cars or wait on single yellow lines or the zig zags. We have a traffic warden who regularly visits the area and he has highlighted this concern.



We have double yellow lines outside the main gates to the school. This must be left clear during drop off and pick-up to prevent congestion.

Here are our 5 Steps to pick up at the end of a day:

- 1) Use the one-way system. Do not turn around in the church or Nunsfield Court.**
- 2) Wait in your car until you are safely on the playground. The staff will stay with your child/children.**
- 3) Please pick up as quick as possible to allow other parents to park on the playground.**
- 4) Drive sensibly and slowly when near and on the school premises.**
- 5) Be considerate to all drivers and pedestrians!**

We put leaflets on cars that continue to break these rules as our aim will always be to make the school a safe place for all.

We really appreciate your support and understanding with this. It is our aim to ensure that all children and families are safe. There can at times be delays in the car park but the safety of all must always come first.

Contact Details

Address : The Mount
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 3NR

Phone : 01823 284130

E-Mail : sch.351@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.st-georges-somerset.org.uk>

Twitter: @StGeorgesTauntn



Scan here to visit
our website

