



St Francis

Catholic Primary School

Melton Mowbray



A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for the interest that you have shown in St Francis Catholic Primary School, a vibrant and unique community school in the heart of Melton Mowbray.

Parents choose St Francis because our children are happy, confident and enjoy learning.

We balance a strong ambition for academic excellence with a commitment to the moral and spiritual development of each child. Outstanding pastoral care ensures that all children are cared for and nurtured in a warm and caring environment.

A wide range of enriching extra-curricular activities complement an exciting curriculum so that each child can reach their full potential.

We warmly welcome you to visit so that you can fully appreciate all that St Francis has to offer and how we can support your child to be the best that they can be.

Gosia Brown
Head Teacher



COMMUNITY

We are fortunate to have strong links with our parish, the parish of St John the Baptist, and with our Franciscan sisters who reside in the convent next door to the school. Engaging with all of our stakeholders, which includes our children, parents, staff, governors, local community and schools is very important to us to help us to shape our mission.

Our school PTA is an enthusiastic team of parents and staff who work to raise additional funds for the school. In the last year, the PTA raised over £3,000 which directly benefited the children in school through the provision of new books for the library and a new sensory room. We welcome all parents to join this group.

We are proud to be a part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust which provides a wealth of experience and support to St Francis in all areas of school life. The Trust also leads the Leicestershire and Rutland Teaching School Hub, which collaborates with first class partners to provide support to schools across Leicestershire and Rutland. Our access to the hub means that we provide our staff with the opportunity to learn from best practice, and highly effective research to maintain excellence in our provision.



FRANCISCAN HERITAGE

Since 1900 there has been a tradition of Catholic Education in Melton Mowbray when the Franciscan Minoreesses came to the town and just four children enrolled with them.

By 1903 the Sisters were in the position of being able to rent Tower House on Dalby Road, the present Convent. Under the leadership of Sister Clare Coyle, Bishop Ellis laid the foundation stone of the existing school building in February 1957.

In February 1958 the junior pupils transferred from their classrooms in the Convent to brand new classrooms in the present school.

We are proud of our Franciscan Heritage and maintain strong links with the neighbouring Convent. We strive to build on the hard work of the Sisters so that our school can continue to serve our local community.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Saint Francis Catholic Primary School is to prepare our children for tomorrow's world, in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community. With Christ at the centre, we will strive to allow His Spirit to be the love and guiding force of all our teaching and living, to reflect the Gospel values and the unique value and dignity of each individual.

'In Jesus, we will do our best as we love, pray, learn and play because this is the St Francis way'

We have an exciting mission. We have the power and help of God to fulfil it.



CATHOLIC LIFE

St Francis' is a Catholic school but inclusive of all with a real sense of family community. St Francis' welcomes pupils of all faiths and backgrounds and all children take an active part in the Catholic Life and mission of our school. In our recent DCI inspection, the Catholic Life of our school was graded 'Outstanding' with inspectors noting our 'happy, safe and inclusive school environment'. DCI February 2020

Children and staff take part in regular fundraising activities for various charities as well as contributing to the local community through and acts of service, such as litter picking with the local Womblers group. This is actively promoted and our children love to see the impact they make on the community and how their good works help to make the world a better place for all.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Faith and prayer are central to school life and children of all faiths and backgrounds feel included in this important aspect of school life; we teach all children to have the utmost respect for others, including those of other faiths.

Prayer punctuates the school day as well as weekly whole school liturgies and a celebration liturgy on a Friday to which parents are invited. Children become confident to lead prayer and weekly whole school worship is led by a group of pupils.

Our Chaplaincy Team, led by children, lead and organise prayer at lunchtimes giving children across the school the opportunity to engage in spontaneous prayer.

Fr Tom visits the school at least once per half term to celebrate Mass. This is always a joyful occasion where parishioners, the convent sisters and parents have the chance to come into school to celebrate with us.




HOUSE FAMILIES

St Anthony – Red

St Clare – Green

St Elizabeth – Yellow

St Francis – Blue



St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony was a Portuguese Catholic priest and friar of the Franciscan Order. He was known for his forceful preaching and expert knowledge of scripture. He was the second most quickly canonised saint after Peter of Verona. He joined the Franciscan Order in 1221, because of the death of the first Franciscan protomartyr who shed their blood for the Catholic Faith in the year 1220, in Morocco, North Africa. He lived only ten years after joining the Franciscan Order. He is typically depicted with a book and the infant Child Jesus, to whom He miraculously appeared, and is commonly referred to today as the "finder of lost articles."

He is the patron saint of lost things or people.

St. Anthony's Feast Day is on 13th June.




St. Clare

Clare was born of a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. After hearing Francis preach she wanted to follow him. She founded the Order of Poor Ladies who followed the rule of Francis. They slept on the floor, went barefoot and spent hours in silence and prayer. They ate donated food because they had no money. As the head of this community she chose the hardest work for herself and inspired the others to trust in God. One time as she prayed to protect her convent from invaders she heard the words, "I shall shield you always," the convent and the town of Assisi were saved. Her community still exists today and are called the Poor Clares.

She is the patron saint of sore eyes.

St. Clare's Feast Day is on 11th August.




St. Elizabeth of Hungary

St. Elizabeth of Hungary was born in Hungary in 1207 to the Hungarian King. When her mother was killed in 1213 she sought peace with prayer. In 1221 she married and had three children. She wore simple clothing and took bread to the poor. In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Third Order of St. Francis. She passed away at the age of 29, on November 17, 1231. One of her greatest known miracles was the miracle of roses. After her death, miraculous healings began to occur at her graveside near her hospital.

Pope Gregory IX canonised her on May 27, 1235.

She is the patron saint of bakers, beggars and more.

St. Elizabeth's feast day is on 17th November.



St. Francis of Assisi

Francis was born in Assisi and lived as a wealthy young man, even fighting as a soldier. In 1204, Francis had a vision that directed him back to Assisi where Francis took a vow of poverty. He preached to people about the life of Jesus Christ, and they began to follow him. He had one basic rule which was "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps". He established the Franciscan Order of friars and the women's Order of the Poor Ladies. Francis set up the first known Nativity scene to celebrate Christmas in 1220.

He is the patron saint of Italy and of animals.

St. Francis' Feast Day is on 4th October.

All children join one of our House Families when they attend St Francis. Regular house meetings help children to have a voice and share in discussions about how to improve our school.

House points are earned for good behaviour during lunchtimes and children love to compete for their House during our end of year Sports Day.

FACILITIES

The grounds at St Francis are spacious and provide the ideal learning environment for our children.

A large school field has a Sport Stadia to provide a bespoke area for team games as well as plenty of space to play and explore the extensive trim trail and environmental area. We also have two playground areas, including a newly resurfaced court for sports.

All classrooms have updated interactive boards with a full suite of educational software. The children have access to a refurbished library, a dedicated ICT suite, a fully equipped kitchen, a sensory room and an impressive school hall with it's own professional stage.





CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils who attend St Francis so that they have the skills and knowledge to prepare them for future learning and employment.

Pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum which includes the full range of subjects as well as enriching experiences and extra-curricular activities which inspire, engage and prepares our children for the next stage in their academic journey.



EYFS



Early Years Foundation Stage is the beginning of your child's learning journey with us and our carefully designed Early Years classroom and outdoor areas provide your child with a great environment to discover a lifelong love of learning.

Our curriculum values the uniqueness of each child and will take account of children's different life experiences. A thematic approach provides an exciting foundation for the children's learning. We know that our children will develop different skills and knowledge at different times and we will use our insight into them as individuals to adapt our curriculum and plan their next steps.

Quality play experiences in an engaging and stimulating environment based on children's needs and interests will facilitate much of their learning, alongside guided learning; adult modelling across a range of activities; direct teaching and quality interactions.



PE & SPORT



Our PE curriculum includes a focus on a range of sports as well as units on outdoor adventurous activities, fundamental movement skills and sports leadership. We buy in to the Leicestershire Sports Package which supports our specialist PE Coordinator to provide a high quality PE curriculum for our children.

In KS1 pupils' physical development is supported through access to physical literacy sessions which aim to develop fine and gross motor skills. We have our own balance bikes and staff trained to deliver sessions to our KS1 pupils.

In KS2 all children have the opportunity to experience inter-school sports competitions, and as play leaders, children in Y6 are able to lead physical activities with the younger children.

Sports clubs run after school and include; dance, football, dodgeball, rugby, multi-sports, golf, dance theatre with many new clubs added each year to cater to the children's interests.



MUSIC

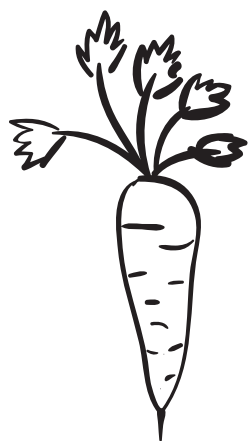
Music and singing are an integral part of the experience for our pupils with vibrant musical performances bringing to life our school plays and liturgies.

Teachers deliver an excellent curriculum with support from the Leicestershire Music Hub.

Alongside the music curriculum, in lower KS2, children take part in ensemble lessons and learn to play the Ukulele, taught by specialist teachers.

All pupils in upper KS2 have the opportunity to learn a woodwind instrument such as the clarinet, saxophone or trombone and have the chance to keep this instrument for two school years as they hone their skills! Expert tuition from the Leicestershire Schools Music Service ensures that ensemble teaching in KS2 is of the highest standard.



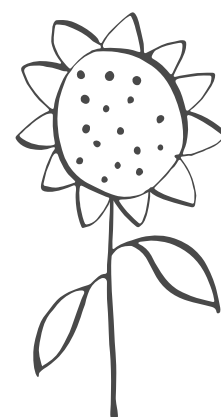


EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



We offer a range of different clubs across the academic year in addition to after school sport, we also have the following clubs; Cookery Club; Gardening & Eco club; Sewing; homework club; Reading club; Young Voices; Science and Heritage Club, just to name a few.

Children also have the opportunity to attend music lessons delivered by peripatetic music teachers including flute, piano, guitar and violin.





VISIT US

We warmly welcome you to come and visit us at St Francis. You can book an appointment through the school office.

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