



**ST JAMES'**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

With God  
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26



St James' is a good, oversubscribed school (OFSTED 2017) located in Stockport, South of Manchester. Our school is made up of 800 students and 100 staff, and is a thriving Catholic community that places children at the centre of everything we do. The Diocese of Shrewsbury judged our school to be an "Outstanding" Catholic school.

The reputation of our school is exceptional within Stockport and across the Shrewsbury Diocese, for academic excellence, impeccable pupil conduct and for providing outstanding additional opportunities for our young people. The result is that our young people develop into global Catholic citizens, who are proud to profess their faith, and who make a positive contribution to society.

We are on a journey to outstanding; in every sense of the word. We would be honoured if you choose to join us on that journey.

I look forward to meeting you, as we work together in partnership to make your child's experience at St James' enjoyable, fulfilling and successful.

**Anthony Pontifex**  
Headteacher

#### **Our Purpose**

To educate and develop  
global Catholic citizens

#### **Our Mission**

To ensure everyone within our  
school family achieves their full  
potential, to encourage learning  
and development through faith  
and to strive for excellence.

"With God all things are possible"  
Matthew 19:26





## Artistic Excellence



St James' Catholic High School has embarked on a new chapter in its journey to outstanding; a journey that we want your child to be part of.

In 2019, a new chapter in the life of our great school began by developing our shared values. Teaching staff, support staff, canteen staff, cleaners, pupils, parents and Governors were all involved in determining our collective values, vision and mission. The three values are simple but powerful; **Family**, **Faith** and **Excellence**.

## Family

We are proud of our school family, and of the strong roots we have grown within our local community. From our pupils through to our visiting guests, every person who arrives at St James' is welcomed and supported, as a valuable member of our family.

So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:5

## Faith

The Roman Catholic faith is at the heart of life at St James', with a focus on Christ-centred learning, and our daily work guided by Gospel values of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, faith, integrity, humility, service, peace, hope and prayer.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

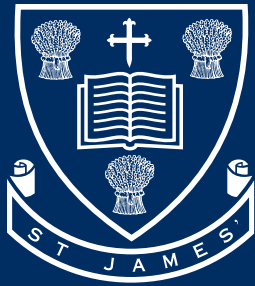
## Excellence

Our school is driven by an unbreakable focus on academic excellence. In everything we do, we aim to create the perfect environment for our children to achieve and exceed their potential, in every pursuit they undertake.

Do you see a man skilful in his work?  
He will stand before kings.

Proverbs 22:29





Our school badge has been reworked and sharpened to include our three values;

#### **Family**

The three sheaves of wheat represent our roots in the community and our school family.

#### **Faith**

The cross of our patron saint St James represents our Catholic faith.

#### **Excellence**

The book represents our education and study at the centre of our focus.

Sitting behind our updated values, mission and school badge is our St James' philosophy;

Jesus looked at them and said,  
"With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible"

Matthew 19:26







## Senior Prefects

St James' Catholic High School has Senior Prefects every year. The most recent Senior Prefects appointments are Cameron (Cheadle Catholic Juniors) as Head Boy and Abby (Our Lady's) the Head Girl. The deputies are William (St Simon's) and Ellie (St Anthony's).

The Head Boy and Girl of the school are responsible for managing the whole of the Prefect Body, ensuring that all duties are carried out correctly and that the Prefects are the ultimate role models for all other pupils in the school. Duties of the Head Boy and Girl consist of representing the school as St James' ambassadors, making speeches at school events and being an integral part of the induction process for the new Year 7s in September.

The Senior Prefects are key to all major events that the school is involved in, such as organising Open Evenings and Parents Evenings, taking parents and pupils on tours of the school and generally welcoming visitors to St James'.

As ambassadors for the school, the Senior Prefects ensure that the views of all pupils are represented and listened to by coordinating student voice for a wide range of school issues such as teaching and learning and extracurricular activities.

"The relationships between teachers and students has encouraged me to take up the role of Head Boy" said Cameron.

"The school has taught me that the bare minimum is never acceptable. This was also true during the selection process for Senior Prefect" said William.

"To be Senior Prefect you do not need to be perfect, but you do need to put in as much effort as possible" said Abby.

"I have really enjoyed my time at St James' and it has led me on this path to become Deputy Head Girl. It has given me the confidence ready for the next stage of education and to continually improve myself as a person" said Ellie.

## What Do Parents Say?

As an outward facing Catholic school, it is important that we gather the views of one of the most important parts of our St James' family; the parents and carers.

At each Parents' Evening a number of our Governors hand out questionnaires to canvas opinions on our school. The results are analysed and, where appropriate, Heads of Year contact parents/carers directly. The views are used to measure the performance of our school and focus us for future development.

We also hold a half termly parental forum where parents and carers are invited into school to ask questions and/or put their views forward.

We welcome these opportunities to engage with our St James' family.

"St James' is a safe, happy & supportive environment which I'm certain contributes to optimal learning"  
Year 11 Parent

"The teachers do actually care about the students and want to encourage them to reach their potential"  
Year 10 Parent

"The staff genuinely care about the students"  
Year 9 Parent

"School reacts quickly about any concerns about our child"  
Year 8 Parent

"Transition from Primary has been so good"  
Year 7 Parent







## Transition

As students move from Primary to secondary school, we encourage ambitious goals. Everyone involved in the St James' family is responsible for creating a culture of high expectations and academic excellence. From the moment you choose our school, we work hard behind the scenes with your Primary School to get to know your child.

The success of your child at St James' depends very much on our partnership with you, the parents and carers. From this partnership we will develop high aspirations and resilience in your child, that will enable them to grow into well rounded, global Catholic citizens.

St James' has strong traditional values of Family, Faith and Excellence, which support the very high expectations we have for our students. Our success is built upon a tradition of providing exceptional opportunities for children, empowering them and encouraging them to strive for excellence in all that they do.

Whether it be our extensive charity work, numerous educational visits or our partnerships with other local school and colleges, you can be assured that your child will receive a well-rounded Catholic education, that extends far beyond the classroom.

## Curriculum

We aim for excellence throughout our curriculum, in order to shape well rounded, global Catholic citizens who achieve their full potential. We support, guide and inspire our students and their families through the different transition points between Key Stage 2 to 3, Key Stage 3 to 4 and Key Stage 4 to 5. We endeavour to ensure our students are happy, engaged and make continuous progress.

As part of our St James' mission we place great emphasis on Key Stage 3 i.e. Years 7-9. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum spans three years as we believe that students have the right to experience a wide range of different subjects across an extended period of time. We ensure that students receive a solid foundation across many subjects before specialising at Key Stage 4 in Year 10.

Our students at Key Stage 3 study a well-balanced curriculum including English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Humanities; Geography and History, Creative Technology; including, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Resistant Materials, Textiles and Computing, as well as a Modern Foreign Language, Physical Education, Arts; Art, Music and Drama, and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE).

## Pastoral Care

Academic success is only one part of our curriculum. Woven throughout it is our outstanding pastoral support.

Students are carefully organised into form groups, taking on the advice and guidance of our Primary colleagues who know our students so well. In order to ensure stability, our students remain within these form groups for five years with the same Form Tutor and Head of Year. The Form Tutors and Heads of Year work to develop our students, through the academic and pastoral curricula, into well rounded, global Catholic citizens, who are proud to profess their faith.





# Alumni

St James' has a proven track record of strong academic performance over many years. Most recently our Catholic community has achieved:

- **Impressive positive progress 8 scores** for the last four years
- In 2019, **84% of students achieved at least a grade 4 in English & Mathematics** while **65% of students achieved a grade 5** in these subjects
- **64 grade 9s and 134 grade 8s in 2019** demonstrating exceptional attainment across a wide range of subjects
- Exceptional results in Mathematics, English, Open subjects and the Humanities placing us in the **top 20% of similar schools nationally**



# Admission Arrangements



St James' Catholic High School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children, in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its Governing Board as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The Governing Board is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round 1. The Governing Board has set its admission number at 160 pupils to Year 7 in the school year which begins in September, 2020. Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs (see note 1). The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs

or an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

## Oversubscription Criteria

At any time 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 children. (see notes 2&3)
2. Catholic children who live in an associated parish (or part Parish), (see notes 3&4)
3. Catholic children who attend an associated Catholic Primary School,
4. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
5. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
6. Other Children who attend an associated Primary School
7. Any other children

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provision

- (i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application
- (ii) 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

## The Parishes or Part Parishes that are associated with St James' Catholic High School are as follows

Christ Church  
Our Lady's and the Apostles (part)  
Sacred Heart  
St Ambrose  
St Ann's  
St Chad's  
St Vincent's  
St John's (Benchill Part)  
St Peter's (Part)

## The Primary Schools that are associated with St James' Catholic High School are as follows

Cheadle Catholic Junior School  
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School  
St Ambrose Catholic Primary School  
St Peter's Catholic Primary School  
St Simon's Catholic Primary School

## Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest straight-line distance. For the purpose of allocating school places, distances will be measured consistently and will be measured as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point. Measurements will be made using the local authority's school admissions data mapping software, which employs a Geographical Information System based on Ordnance Survey. In the event of distances being the same for

two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

The address from which distance will be measured will be the permanent residential address, at the time of application, of the parent with whom the child is normally resident. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the home address is the address from which the child travels to school for the majority of school days per week. If the number of days is exactly equal the home address will be that of the parent who receives the Child Benefit.

## Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 1st March or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions, which is 31st October 2020.

## Late Applications

Late applications will be considered after all those that were received by the deadline.

## Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group, for example if the child has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Chair of the Admissions Committee at the school at the same time as the admission application is made. The Governing Board will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the Headteacher, including the Headteacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the Governing Board will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

## Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be automatically added to the waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held

open until the last day of the summer term 2022. Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

## In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Applications are made directly to Stockport Local Authority, see [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or speak to a member of the school office for further details.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above). You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

To download our admissions policy in full visit <http://www.stjamescheadle.co.uk/statutory-information/>





# Contact

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