School Prospectus 2026/2027

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

Together,

Through our words and actions,

Our work and play,

We point towards Christ

Each and every day

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

Floral Way

Andover

Hampshire

SP10 3PF

01264 361 806

www.sjbschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Whatley

Chair of Governors: Mrs Helen Hammond

Welcome to SJB!

Starting a new school is a new adventure for both you and your child and it is important that you take the time to find the right school for them.
SJB is a warm and welcoming Catholic school with welcome, faithfulness, service and generosity as the core values. The school is one form entry, which means each year group consists of one class. Being a smaller school means the staff know every child by name and there is a strong sense of community and belonging. The staff, governors, children and parents work hard to provide the best possible start to school life for all in the SJB family.

Catholic Social Teaching principles are the roots of our school – nourishing and supporting each individual on their journey to finding their vocation in life. Each one of us has been blessed with a gift and a purpose - a vocation. St Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours." Through our Mission Statement – Together, through our words and actions, our work and play, we point towards Christ each and every day - we support the children to discover their gift and ignite their passion for this world that we live in so that they are ready to become confident global citizens, ready to make a positive difference.

SJB is an inclusive school and we value each child as an individual. We teach children how to behave in the school and we set high expectations for all pupils to ensure the behaviour is excellent at all times. This is fundamental to ensuring teaching and learning is at its highest standard across the school.

If you would like to come and visit the school, please give us a call and we would happily give you a tour and answer any questions you may have. As you walk around the school, you will see polite and welcoming pupils, teachers passionate about learning and a calm, happy atmosphere.

We are an extension of the Catholic family, and with your cooperation as parents, your child has a unique contribution to make in our community and together we shall find much to discover, share and enjoy.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Catherine Whatley
Headteacher.

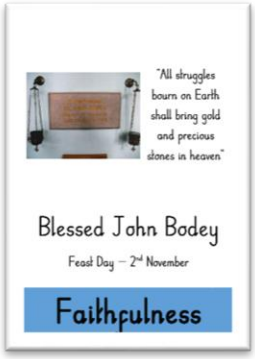
SJB's Mission and Values

Together, through our words and actions, our work and play, we point towards Christ each and every day.

Jesus called St John the Baptist "the greatest prophet born of woman" (Matthew 11:11). He is presented to us as a model and a guide in our own lives as we discern our God-given mission in this world. Through art, John is often shown pointing - showing us where to find Christ, pointing us in the right direction. Each of us has been called to make a difference in this world - through our words and actions every day, pointing the way to Christ.

From our Mission Statement and the example of St John the Baptist, we find our charism values. Together, through our choices and actions, our work and play, pointing towards Christ each and every day.

Core Values: Welcoming, Service, Faithfulness & Generosity

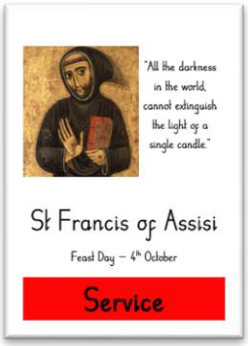


At SJB, we strive to be faithful.

By being faithful we:

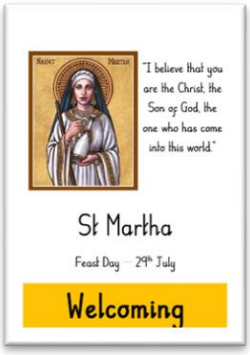
- stand up for what we know to be right
- love others even when that might be difficult
- follow God's path for us even if we want to choose another

Showing faithfulness every day is hard so we 'pray together' to ask the Holy Spirit the strength.



At SJB, we serve others.

Our Mission Statement asks us to strive to "work together" and through working together to serve others in love and charity as John the Baptist did. John and his disciples worked together to serve others just as Jesus did.

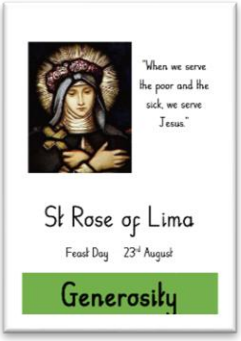


At SJB, we are welcoming.

St Martha welcomed Jesus into her home with acceptance, love and understanding.

St John the Baptist welcomed everyone to follow him and prepare for the coming Messiah.

At our school, we welcome children and families from all faiths, cultures and backgrounds to journey with us in God's love.



At SJB, we are generous with our time, our love and our resources.

St John the Baptist gave of himself to others in service to God. We show our generosity in the little things we do every day:

- a smile
- including others in our play
- giving of our time to help those in need

What do others say?

Thanks for what you and your staff do for the community and my child in particular. He sorely misses his friends back home, but your team have opened your school and their hearts to a little boy who is different and we appreciate it immensely.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the support and opportunities that the school is providing my daughter during her time here. She is enjoying being a part of the school community and is learning a great deal from her teachers and peers.

I feel that SJB has in no small part been the foundation on which my children have benefited and have both faith and confidence that educationally and socially, the needs of our children are met at SJB and without hesitation, I can recommend this school and its supportive community.

St John's always has and always will be an amazing place to learn and to work. Once again, thank you all so much for making my child's time with you so enjoyable.

What do our inspection reports say?

Catholic School's Inspection – May 2025

"Pupils are in no doubt that they are loved and valued in all of their God-given uniqueness because the staff are so committed to caring for and nurturing every single child in their care."

"Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent, with the school community frequently being described as a family"

"Pastoral care is a strength and staff always go the extra mile to support others, especially the most vulnerable."

"Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of this and every parent who responded to the survey agreed that their child was happy at the school."

"Pupils are fully engaged in all forms of prayer and liturgy throughout the school day, be it class worship, whole school celebrations of the word, the daily Angelus in the playground during lunchtime led by Year 6 pupils, or more informal prayer opportunities. They act with deep reverence and have a wealth of knowledge about different forms of prayer."

OFSTED

"Pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities strive to 'go beyond' what is expected at this caring, inclusive school."

"Pupils are proud to say that their school encourages them to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally. Pupils treat adults and each other with courtesy and politeness."

"Leaders create engaging classrooms and want every child to achieve at the highest possible levels, to be prepared for the next stage of education."

"Staff are committed to ensuring pupils make the progress they need to against the curriculum"

Faith in our school

SJB is a Catholic school. Our mission and values are centred around the Catholic faith, and it is at the core of what we do as a school. Not all pupils at SJB are Catholic and so we develop and nurture spirituality that encompasses all faiths and beliefs.

What do Catholic schools do?

- Catholic schools share the vision of the Catholic Church
- Provide the best learning for each child to reach their potential
- Give the best context for young people to engage in worship and Christian action
- Have community members, i.e. staff, who lead worship and model Christian life and values
- Provide learning opportunities about faith: evangelisation and catechesis
- Are the place where children and young people engage daily with faith: worship, witness of staff, opportunities to reflect, pray and put their beliefs into practice
- Religious education (RE) is a core part of the curriculum. The RE curriculum includes learning about other faiths.

As a Catholic primary school, we understand that every child is unique and a precious gift. Our mission is to work in partnership with the home and parish to provide a Catholic education that puts Christ firmly at the centre of everything we do. We have been tasked by the diocese to prepare the children in our care to become global citizens.

Our Catholic identity permeates all areas of school life and prayer is the heartbeat of the day. Children are provided with opportunities to encounter God through their learning, their prayer and their interactions with others to support their spiritual journey and allow them to deepen their relationship with God.

The school works closely with our parish priest, Canon Chris. The school holds liturgical prayer throughout the year and also celebrates Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and other key events in the life of our community in the school hall. We support the parish who prepare children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist and provide opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

"Our school is like a tree. God is the trunk and we are the leaves. We are all one family."

Year 3 child

Our Curriculum

Our mission is to RECOGNISE the original gifts of our young people, preparing them for SERVICE in the common good for the transformation of society and we aim for academic EXCELLENCE for all, for the sake of the dignity of the individual.

Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) is a core subject. As such, it is 10% of our curriculum time - 2 hours and 15 minutes each week.

We follow the Portsmouth Diocese approved scheme of work "Source to Summit: Lighting the Path". This scheme is taught in six learning journeys across the year. The timing and length of these units will vary each year as they are linked to the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. Each year every class will also study other world faiths: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. The academic year will begin with a fortnight dedicated to the Mission of the school as well as a week dedicated to Mary during May, which culminates in our May Procession liturgy.

Reading

At SJB we believe that creating a culture of reading is a vital tool in ensuring our children are given the best life chances. Cultivating passion in our readers will ensure that their love of reading will extend far beyond the classroom and allow them to build on their skills independently through a real curiosity and thirst for knowledge. We believe it is essential that reading, directed and freely chosen, is an everyday part of our children's lives. Many exciting and rewarding activities are arranged in school to promote the pleasure and knowledge that can be gained from books.

Maths

Maths enhances the ability to think in a systematic and logical way. At SJB, we promote the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

We follow the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Maths (NCETM) for planning, ensuring that teaching builds on small manageable steps in order to help children understand the concepts. When introducing new concepts, we use the concrete, pictorial, abstract approach in order to embed understanding and build competency.

Phonics

Phonics is taught every day in Early Years and Key Stage 1 using our own 'Phonics Together' programme. Lessons are fully interactive and learning is enhanced through the use of songs, actions and games.

Writing

At SJB, we know that **writing is communication**, hence the need to produce well-structured, detailed writing in which the meaning is made clear and which engages the interest of the reader, and the need for the purpose and audience of the writing to largely dictate its form.

Equally **writing is art**, and so our writing experiences at school should creatively satisfy the writer as well as reaching the reader. We use the scheme Kinetic Letters and our own 'Spelling Together' programme to support the development of key skills.

Science

At our school, science is about the study and growing understanding of the world around us and the knowledge that we obtain about it through working scientifically. This enables children to make sense of the world in which they live by observing over time, pattern seeking, identifying, classifying, grouping, carrying out comparative and fair testing and researching using secondary sources. We place great importance on working scientifically and believe that this brings the subject alive for our children.

Computing

Computing is essential for all children as it is at the heart of every modern household and therefore will be key to their journey through life. As Digital Natives, our children need to be able to use and express themselves as well as develop their ideas through technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as positive active participants in a digital world. We strive for pupils who are equipped to create programs and systems which accomplish specific goals and contain a range of content whilst instilling fundamental behaviours, which will empower children to keep themselves safe online.

History

Developing a sense of chronology has been a crucial element in the development of our curriculum. History skills and processes are carefully mapped for progression across both key stages. The children are taught how to interrogate evidence by asking, investigating and answering questions. Children are given opportunities to develop their understanding of the past through the use of artefacts and historical documents; including reports, photographs, numerous written sources, newspaper articles and electronic media.

Relationships and Health Education

As each, individual child in our school develops, they are preparing to become a successful contributor to society. The teaching of Relationships and Health Education at SJB aims to provide our children with the personal and social skills necessary to prosper in today's world and partake fully in our community. In order to do this, we endeavour to equip them with the necessary knowledge about risk and skills to keep themselves safe and make informed decisions. We use the diocesan recommended scheme by Ten Ten called "Life to the full"

Physical Education

At SJB, we aim for all pupils to leave school physically literate and with the knowledge, skills and love for physical activity that will encourage a lifelong participation in regular movement that they enjoy, equipping them with the understanding of the positive nature of physical activity on the body and mind.

P.E. is carefully mapped and builds on previous learning. The curriculum focuses on the physical, how children compete and perform, giving children opportunities to co-operate and collaborate, children being creative and curious and children having an understanding of health and fitness.

Geography

The curriculum at SJB aims to equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, natural and human environments, combined with developing a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Pupils will develop a contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places, including their physical and human characteristics. Beyond the classroom, we use our school grounds and trips to allow for rich, meaningful experiences that spark engagement and cement knowledge.

Art and Design

Our curriculum is designed to enable children to record from first-hand experience and from imagination, and to select their own ideas to use in their work, to develop children's creativity and imagination through a range of complex activities and to improve the children's ability to control materials, tools and techniques.

French

At SJB we open the door to enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language through the EuroStar Rising Stars scheme of work. Children build progressively on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing as to understand and respond in both verbal and written communication.

Design Technology

Children learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.

Music

The teaching of music is arranged in different elements including performing, composing and appraising. As part of their class music lessons, children will have the opportunity to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.

Please visit our school website to learn more about our curriculum: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/curriculum/

Early Years Foundation Stage

At SJB we adhere to The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, and the four guiding principles that shape practice in Early Years settings.

Unique child – We recognise that every child is unique and is continually learning, resilient and capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships – We recognise that children learn to be strong, secure and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments – Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development – Children develop and learn in different ways.

The children in EYFS participate in a range of learning experiences every day including child-initiated and adult-led learning as well as outdoor learning.

Child-initiated learning involves cognitive, social, and physical learning that is within, but desirably near the upper limit of, each child's abilities. It involves the inside-out learning of discovery and thinking about experience and the outside-in learning that comes from interaction with other people. Rather than controlling these activities, adults share control with children.

Adult-led learning is based on the teacher's own professional understanding of what should be taught to young children and what experiences they should have. Through adult-led activities teachers introduce children to new ideas, provide opportunities for them to develop their skills and ensure that they experience all areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

All children at St John's have the opportunity to explore the **outdoor learning** environment where they will have the same opportunities to access the curriculum as inside. Focused teaching occurs where children have opportunities to interact with members of staff - practitioners joining the child's play and skilfully using questioning to move children's learning forward.

Children are encouraged to find and use equipment and resources independently. These are organised to allow all children including those with disability and/or SEND to explore and learn in a secure and safe space for most of the day. Children are able to flow freely between indoor and outdoor areas whilst remaining in ratio following statutory guidance for the EYFS.

Opal Play

We are proud to be the first accredited OPAL school in Andover and also the first to achieve the highest level of accreditation – Platinum! The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is a nationally and internationally recognised initiative that transforms play in schools. OPAL is built on over 20 years of research and development across more than 800 schools worldwide, and has received multiple awards for its impact on children's wellbeing and learning. The programme recognises that play is a vital part of a child's development—accounting for around 20% of their time in school—and aims to ensure that this time is rich, meaningful, and joyful.

As childhood experiences continue to change, many children now have limited opportunities for outdoor play beyond school. OPAL helps address this by creating inclusive, engaging play environments that support physical health, emotional wellbeing, and social development. As we implement the programme, you may notice changes in how children use the school grounds, the resources we request, and the freedom they are given to explore and play. These changes are intentional and rooted in best practice, ensuring your child benefits from a safe, stimulating, and developmentally appropriate play experience every day.

Wellbeing

Pastoral Care

At all times we endeavour to maintain a healthy and safe environment for your child to live and learn in. We recognise the importance of good pastoral care, and the issues of security.

Our staff are able to manage minor accidents and illnesses and we will always contact you if we consider that your child is too unwell for lessons or there is something that is concerning us.

Safeguarding

At St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, we are dedicated to promoting the welfare of all pupils. All members of staff are proactive in ensuring children are safe and supported. All members of staff are expected to be aware of and follow the safeguarding procedures, which include reporting any concerns to a designated safeguarding leader. For more information on our safeguarding procedures, you can find the policies on our school website:

https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/topic/safeguarding

The school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is Mrs Whatley and the deputy DSLs are Mrs Pearson, Mr Downing, Mrs Horrell and Mrs Nawn

SEND

If your child has Special Educational Needs, the first point of contact is the class teacher or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

Many children have times when they find new work difficult, and in most cases these problems can be overcome. The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy which sets out the stages of need in the revised Code of Practice.

The Code implements a graduated response of: assess, plan, do, review. In all cases, parents are included in the

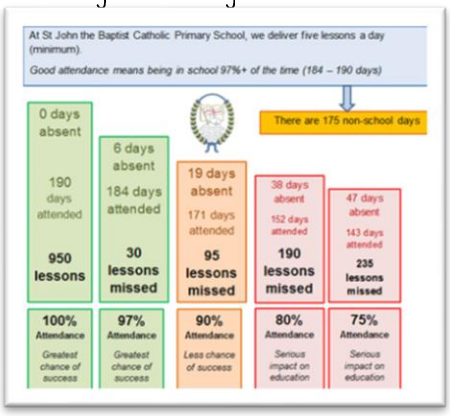
Attendance and Punctuality

We expect excellent attendance and punctuality from all pupils because pupil progress is affected by absences. We regularly monitor attendance and punctuality and write to parents/carers when their child's attendance falls below 96%.

If your child is late to school, it can adversely affect their learning. We ask for you to make every effort to bring your child to school on time. If your child is regularly late, therefore, a meeting will be set up with the Headteacher in order for us to help you to change this.

Holidays

We do not authorise holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances for doing so. Exceptional circumstances may include bereavement, a family event or religious holiday.



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

We have two ELSA practitioners.

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA): There will always be children and young people in school facing life challenges that detract from their ability to engage with learning, and some will require greater support to increase their emotional literacy than others. When our children find themselves struggling and encounter difficulties with their emotional health our

identification process and at each stage of the process. The graduated response details a child's specific needs, their assessments, objectives and provision.
Where a child has an Education Health and Care Plan, there is an annual review.
Details of our Local Offer can be found on the school website: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/sen/

ELSAs will be there to listen, provide additional care and support them.

Governance at SJB

Written by our Chair of Governors:

School governors work to plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee budgets, and support and challenge the headteacher. As part of the governing board, governors play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give children the best education possible. The governors' role is to be a critical friend and support the school to reach excellence across the whole spectrum of school life.

The statutory duties of governors are to

- Plan the strategic direction of the school
- Oversee financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account

Governors are strategic in their role and do not get involved in the day-to-day running of the school. The board of governors meet regularly as well as conduct many monitoring activities during the year to achieve this goal.

School governors are volunteers and the school is regularly looking for individuals who would like to volunteer for governor roles. Parents and individuals with education experience make great governors, but neither are requirements to volunteer, and the school welcomes an outside perspective and a good mix of skills in the governing body. The best governing body has a mix of governors from different backgrounds and with different skill sets skillsets, such as education, SEN, law, financial management, and business and the school welcomes interest from any individual who feels they have skills to offer to benefit the school community.

Friends of St John the Baptist (FOSJB)

The Friends of St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School (FOSJB) work collaboratively with the school to create and enhance opportunities for all students by raising funds and organising fun-filled events! The funds raised at these events have contributed to a range of enhancements and opportunities for all, including a brand new Trim Trail and our annual panto!

Find out more about the work of our PTA by visiting our website: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/pta/

Behaviour

We have high expectations of behaviour and we want all children to reach their full potential before leaving the school. We have a very clear behaviour policy and the systems and expectations are explicitly taught to the children throughout the school year.

We believe that good order has to be worked for, it does not simply happen. Acceptable standards of behaviour, work and respect depend on the example of all those within the school. To achieve good order we set high standards, clear guidelines and apply rules firmly, fairly and consistently.

Great emphasis is placed on developing each child's self-esteem and capacity for self-discipline, respecting the rights of others and the environment as well as their own personal needs. Good behaviour is celebrated and children rewarded with awards, Mission Leaves, House Points, stars and certificates. The children belong to one of four Houses, St Francis of Assisi, St Rose of Lima, St John Neumann and St Martha.

If you would like to find out more information about the behaviour policy, please look on our school website: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/policies/

Ready

Respectful

Safe

The School Day

It is very important that your child is in school on time. Classes start their morning activities as soon as they come into class. Any time they are not in is wasted learning time.

Morning

Larks Breakfast Club – places can be booked through the school office:

7.45am - 9.00am

Doors Open:

9.00am - the children are welcomed into straight into class by the staff and begin preparing for the day ahead.

9.10am - Playground doors close and lessons begin

Late arrivals must report to the school office.

Home time

3.35pm - End of the School Day (3.30pm for YR)

- Year R – from the pencil fence
- Year 1 – from the KS1 playground door
- Year 2 – from the classroom door

- Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 – from the KS2 playground

4.30pm: Finish time for after-school clubs – places can be booked through the school office:

- Collection from the hall doors

5.30pm: Finish time for Owls Club – places can be booked through the school office:

- Collection from the Serenity room doors

Lunchtimes

Our school lunches are provided by DOLCE - freshly cooked on site using much locally sourced produce. They meet the high nutritional standards for school food. As well as having a daily meat and vegetarian option, children are also able to order a jacket potato with various toppings or a packed lunch.

https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/lunch-menus/

All children in years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to receive, and are encouraged to take, their Universal Free School Meal.

If you are receiving Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the guaranteed element of Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190), Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) your child may be eligible for free school meals.. You can check if you are eligible on the website https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Further information can be found on our website: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/lunch-menus/

School Uniform

At SJB, it is our policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

A school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- prevents children from coming to school in clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;

- is regarded as suitable wear for school;
- is designed with health and safety in mind

Pre-loved uniform will be on sale regularly throughout the academic year to enable parents to purchase good quality, second hand items. Donations of pre-loved uniform can be made through the school office to be added to the sale.

School Uniform	Optional Summer Uniform (Summer Term – October Half Term)
• Royal blue jumper • Blue shirt • School tie • Grey trousers or grey skirt/dress (knee length) or tailored grey trousers (not skinny fit, jersey material or with embroidery or embellishment) • White, black or grey socks or grey tights (No footless or cropped tights) • Black shoes - not trainers or boots (During extreme weather wellies / boots may be worn to school, but changed for school shoes when the pupils arrive at school.)	• Tailored grey knee length shorts or blue and white checked school dress • A blue polo-shirt (no tie) • White/black/ grey socks must be worn. • Black shoes - not trainers or boots (During extreme weather wellies / boots may be worn to school, but changed for school shoes when the pupils arrive at school.)
PE Uniform	Other Requirements
• Royal Blue t-shirt • Navy shorts • Trainers • Plain blue or black tracksuit for colder weather	• A bookbag in your child's House colour • Shoulder-length or longer hair tied back • Small stud earrings only • A small cross or other religious symbol may be worn on as a necklace underneath your child's shirt

The school is fully inclusive of children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

How to apply for a place at SJB

An application can be made for a place at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. An application should be made to the school by completing the Common Application Form (CAF) and returning it to Hampshire Admissions: https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

To be considered under a faith category, supplementary application forms (SIFs) must be completed and returned to the school office. SIFs can be obtained by contacting the school office or visiting our school website.

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School is its own admissions authority: The Supplementary Information Form allows the Governors to ensure the children are categorized correctly and thus given the correct priority for admission.

For further information, visit our website: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/admissions/

School Building Fund

As a voluntary aided school, the Governing Body has to pay 10% towards all buildings and external maintenance work carried out. The Department of Education will only pay 90% of the total cost.

Parents are asked to make a £12 contribution per term per child to enable the Governing Body to meet its commitments.

Tax can be reclaimed by the governing body on donations from tax payers. Details of the Gift Aid scheme are available from the school office.

For further information, visit our website: https://www.sjbschool.co.uk/building-fund/