



MOUNT ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

2026 - 2027

A community of learners, believers and friends...



ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA
Catholic Academy Trust

Welcome



Dear Parent,

I would like to warmly welcome you to Mount St Joseph School.

Our ethos is underpinned by the gospel values of serving others, tolerance, compassion and forgiveness. As a community of learners, believers and friends, we are committed to the spiritual, moral, educational and social development of all community.

We believe strongly in the power of high expectations of our students and of ourselves, and in the importance of personal goals that are meaningful to each individual. We know that every student has their own potential and we are determined to help them to fulfil it. We aim to enable all students to take part in exciting learning inside and outside the classroom, so that they can make rapid and sustained progress.

We are proud of our team of dedicated staff who provide an inspiring, structured and supportive learning environment, in which every student is challenged to realise their full potential and encouraged to be ambitious for their futures. Our school continues to celebrate good results; they are attributable to the hard work and high aspirations of our students, the strong teaching from our committed and talented staff, the outstanding pastoral support and a clear commitment to raising achievement from all members of the school community.

There is a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for students to further build their confidence, self-esteem, interpersonal relationships and to develop the resilience to overcome problems. We aim for all our students to enjoy their time at Mount St Joseph School, to have memories and friends that will last a life time and to leave with the qualifications, personal skills and attributes needed to be successful young adults.

Choosing a school is a very important decision and I hope this prospectus is useful in helping you make this choice. If you have questions, or would like to visit the school, do not hesitate to get in touch.

On behalf of all the staff and students, we look forward to welcoming you and your family soon.

Mrs A Devany
Headteacher



MOUNT ST JOSEPH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have a fellowship with each other ..."



Mount St Joseph strives to be a community of learners, believers, and friends.

As a community of learners, we aspire to achieve our full, academic potential in a happy, safe, and caring environment.

As a community of believers, we aim to develop a full awareness of our spiritual and moral responsibility and a deepening love and understanding of our faith.

As a community of friends, we influence the people around us by using our unique gifts and talents to develop one another socially and culturally to build a better world.

We seek to have Christ at the centre of all that we do in school and to give the pupils in our care the opportunity to grow spiritually in a living worshipping community. We welcome children of other faiths and respect their beliefs and culture.

We believe that every child is uniquely created and loved by God and called by Him to fulfil a special purpose. It is our privilege to help each child identify, nurture, and use their talents to build a better world. To this end, we will work in partnership with parents, parishes, the community of schools, and with the wider community.



A community of learners, believers and friends...

OUR CHARISM AND HISTORY

John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have a fellowship with each other ..."



The Sisters of the Cross and Passion arrived in Bolton in 1902, establishing Mount St. Joseph's as their first Catholic secondary school in England, located on Willows Lane. Founded by Elizabeth Prout in Manchester in 1852 to serve the poor during the industrial revolution, the order grew, later establishing a presence in Bolton and contributing to the education of the working-class.

The school was one of the first secondary schools built under the Balfour Education Act, reflecting the order's commitment to providing education to the working class.

Inspired by their mission to:

- Bring the compassion of Christ to the suffering and deprived.
- Combat materialism and spiritual emptiness.
- Promote Christian family life and responsibility at local, national, and global levels.





APPLYING FOR A PLACE AT MSJ



The school is part of Bolton Local Authority co-ordinated admissions process which is outlined below:

All parents/carers of Bolton children must complete the Bolton LA online application form for admission. This will include children with a statement for special educational needs. **Applications must be made online** for admission into any secondary school. Parents applying for a place in Secondary school can apply from **September 2026**.

The LA will provide parents with access details to the online application form which will be distributed together with the LA's Secondary Admissions Booklet.

If you live outside Bolton then please contact the Authority you live in and indicate to them your preference for a place at Mount St Joseph (a Bolton school).

The application form will allow parents/carers to express 3 preferences in rank order and to state reasons for their preferences. This will include maintained schools in Bolton and the neighbouring LAs.

The closing date for the return of the completed LA preference form is 31st October 2026.

All parents/carers of Bolton children will receive letters from the LA informing them of the outcome of the application for admission to Borough and neighbouring LA schools after the **1st March 2027** (or next working day).

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/secondary-school-places-1>



Admissions Policy 2027/2028

We believe that every child is uniquely created and loved by God and called by Him to fulfil a special purpose. It is our privilege to help each child to identify, nurture and use his/her talents to build a better world. To this end we will work in partnership with parents, parishes our community of schools and with the wider community.

Mount St Joseph 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 academy company 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.

For the school's year commencing September 2027, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 180.

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of students with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an 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.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

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 attend a feeder Catholic primary school, named below: (see notes 3&4)
St Ethelbert's, Deane - St Gregory's, Farnworth - Our Lady of Lourdes, Farnworth - SS Peter and Paul, Bolton - St William of York, Great Lever - St Teresa's, Little Lever
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
5. Children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission (see note 5,6)
6. Children of staff at the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years, or has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.
7. Non-Catholic children from the Catholic Partner Primary Schools instanced above.
8. Non-Catholic children from other Catholic Primary Schools.
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 be most appropriately met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made (see note 7)

(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 5)

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated [on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) and the main entrance of the school using the local authority's computerised measuring system with those living nearer to the school having priority. 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 (see note 8)

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round 2, you must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 1 to 3. The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to Mrs Amos, Mount St Joseph, Greenland Road, Bolton BL4 0HT by 31st October 2026.

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.

If you do not provide the information required in the Supplementary Information Form and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child will not be placed in criteria 1 to 3, and this is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

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 2026.



Our full admissions policy can be accessed by scanning this QR code

CURRICULUM

At Mount St Joseph students enjoy dynamic lessons in a rich and varied curriculum designed to engage and motivate students.

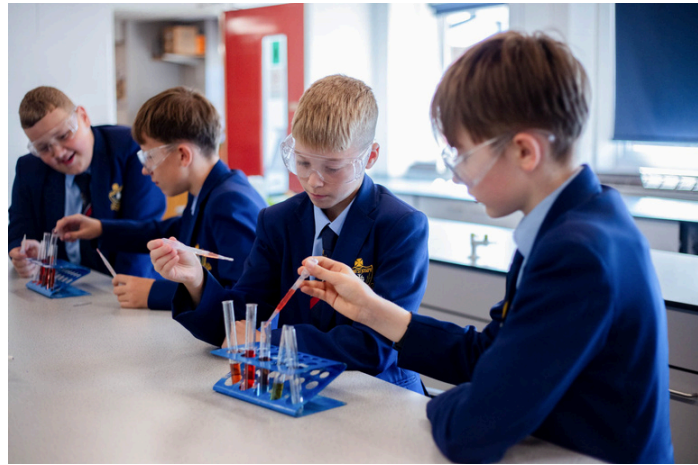
Our curriculum aims to offer all students a broad, balanced, and rich experience which will equip them to succeed in a rapidly changing world. We create the conditions in which all students can grow and develop resilience and creativity.

The transition from primary to secondary is a high priority for the school and students arriving new to the school in year 7 are initially taught in their form groups, this enables them to develop strong relationships with their peers and a strong sense of belonging.

After the first term and throughout the remainder of year 7 and year 8, students are taught in ability groups enabling lessons to be tailored to maximise each individual's potential. Whilst the curriculum focuses on literacy skills and mathematics it is also varied so students can experience a wide range of subjects.

In year 9 students are able to opt for certain subjects whilst still following a core programme. This allows students to focus on their interests and experience some subjects in greater depth before choosing their subject specialisms in year 10.

In years 10 and 11 all students study core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Physical Education and a humanities subject, in addition students can choose to study to gain qualifications from a wide range of other subjects including creative arts, technologies, languages, sports, vocational and many more.



"Mount St Joseph provides well-structured and engaging lessons in religious education by teachers with good subject knowledge and commitment."

Catholic Schools Inspectorate - 2023

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities are offered, taking place at lunchtime and after school. All pupils are encouraged to participate in these activities to develop their skills, make new friends and record their achievements in all aspects of school life. These activities include:



- Homework Club
- Band practice
- School Choir
- Art Club
- Dance Club
- Musical Theatre Club
- Photography Club
- Languages Club
- Science Club
- Law Club
- Chess Club
- Debating Club
- Writing Club
- Reading Club
- Colouring Club



We also have a wide range of sporting activities and clubs available for the students. Teams and individuals regularly compete against local schools in various sporting activities. These activities include:

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| • Hockey | • Athletics | • Cricket |
| • Badminton | • Basketball | • Dance |
| • Football | • Table tennis | • Netball |

Sports Activities - At Mount St Joseph School teams and individuals compete against local schools in various sporting activities. Many of our teams and individuals are successful, going on to compete at Town Team or Greater Manchester County levels.

Visits - Trips and excursions enrich the learning experience in many curriculum areas.

Curriculum - At Key Stage 4, Years 10 and 11 pupils have the opportunity to opt for GCSE PE.

"There is a myriad of opportunities to support pupils' wider development. For example, pupils can be involved in the MSJ band, school productions and they can act as members of the school council. Pupils readily learn how to take on responsibilities. Head prefects and house captains are wonderful ambassadors for the school. They lead their fellow pupils maturely and act as excellent role models."

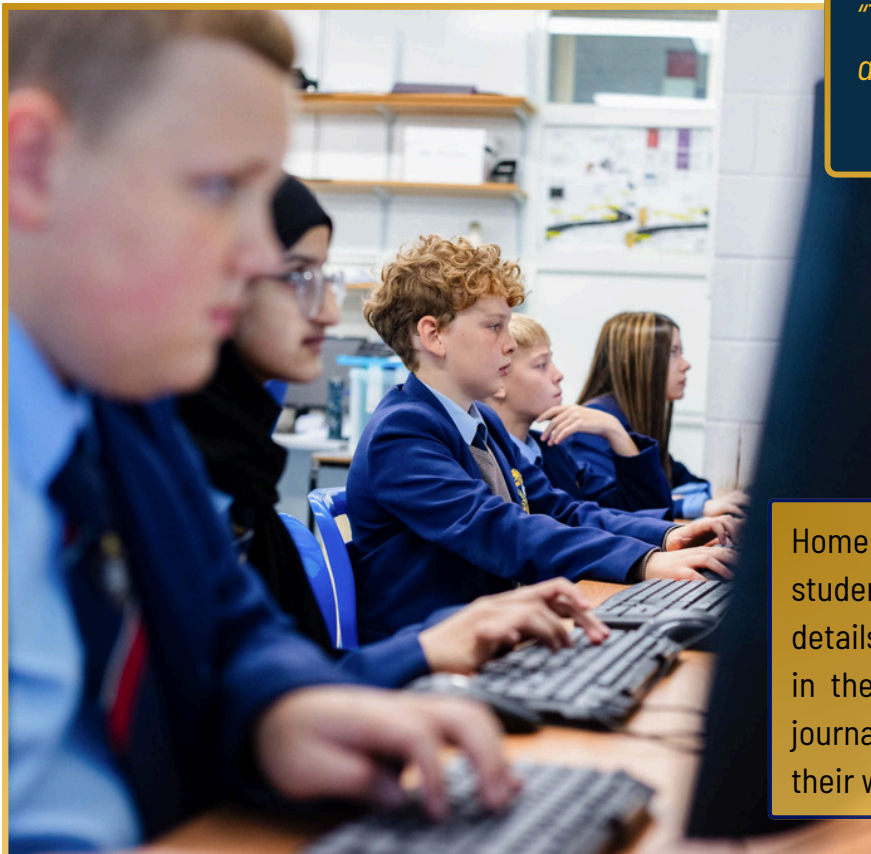
REPORTING PROGRESS



Parents and carers receive regular updates throughout the academic year to keep them fully informed about their child's progress, attainment and development. Termly reports provide a clear overview of how each student is progressing across their subjects, allowing parents and carers to identify areas of strength as well as those where further progress can be made.

In addition to these termly updates, parents and carers receive a written report at the end of the academic year via the Arbor Parental app. This provides further information about the student's performance alongside information relating to attendance, behaviour and their overall progress throughout the year,

A scheduled Parents' Evening also provides an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with teaching staff, discuss their child's progress in greater detail and consider any areas where additional support or focus may be beneficial. These meetings allow school and home to work together to ensure that each student is supported in achieving their full potential.



"The school has high expectations of pupils' achievement."

OFSTED - 2023

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning is compulsory for all students. Each student is supplied with a journal. Pupils enter details of their Home Learning and any other notes in their journals. Parents are asked to check the journals each week to encourage their children in their work and take an interest in their progress.

"Pupils experience the Catholic foundation of the school and feel it strongest in the way they feel valued and cared for as individuals by school staff. As one pupil commented, "school is inclusive, respectful and fair." They feel safe and happy. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the school's mission through charity fundraising and by joining groups such as Eco Warriors and Be Kind to Your Mind. The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) team, drawn from all year groups, provides the best example of students inspired to lead others in the school's mission."

Catholic Schools Inspectorate - 2023



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



In our school, we are not just educators; we are stewards of a profound legacy rooted in gospel values – Community, Reconciliation, Justice, Courage, Love, Faith, Service, and Hope. These values are not mere words; they are the foundation upon which our educational institution stands, shaping the character of every student who walks through our doors.

Religious education in schools plays a crucial role in fostering moral, cultural, and intellectual growth. Here are a few reasons why we think it Religious Education is still just as important today as it has been:

Moral and Ethical Development

Religious education provides our students with a foundation for understanding right and wrong, helping them develop strong moral values like compassion, honesty, and respect.

Cultural Awareness and Diversity

It helps our students understand different cultures and beliefs, promoting tolerance and respect for diversity in an increasingly interconnected world.

Critical Thinking

Studying religious ideas, texts, and their influence on history encourages critical thinking and the development of analytical skills.

Historical and Global Context

Religion has shaped much of human history, and understanding its role helps students grasp important historical events and current global issues.

Social Responsibility

Religious education often emphasizes community, service, and helping others, instilling a sense of responsibility and compassion in students.

Incorporating religious education in schools helps students develop ethically, understand diverse perspectives, and contribute positively to society.

"Pupils experience the Catholic foundation of the school and feel it strongest in the way they feel valued and cared for as individuals by school staff. As one pupil commented, "school is inclusive, respectful and fair." They feel safe and happy. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the school's mission through charity fundraising and by joining groups such as Eco Warriors and Be Kind to Your Mind. The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) team, drawn from all year groups, provides the best example of students inspired to lead others in the school's mission."



PASTORAL SUPPORT



Pastoral support systems help students navigate the complexities of their emotional and social lives. By providing access to trained staff, such as counsellors, pastoral leads, or mentors, schools create safe spaces where students can express their feelings, manage stress, and seek guidance during challenging times. This support is particularly vital during transitional periods, such as moving from primary to secondary education or preparing for exams.

Though primarily focused on emotional and social well-being, pastoral care often overlaps with academic guidance. Our teachers and pastoral staff work together to monitor a students' progress, identify any barriers to learning, and ensure that each student has the resources they need to succeed. Whether through tailored learning plans, additional tutoring, or conversations about career aspirations, pastoral care contributes to academic success by addressing any personal challenges that may impede learning.

A key component of our schools pastoral care is fostering an inclusive environment where every student feels accepted, regardless of their background, identity, or personal circumstances. We achieve this through anti-bullying policies, diversity awareness initiatives, and a strong emphasis on respect and tolerance. By addressing issues such as bullying, discrimination, and social isolation, pastoral support ensures that students can learn without fear or anxiety.

Pastoral care helps students build strong, positive relationships with their peers, teachers, and the wider school community. It encourages empathy, kindness, and co-operation, which are essential for creating a harmonious school culture. In this way, pastoral support fosters a sense of belonging, helping students to feel connected and engaged with their school environment.

Beyond immediate support, pastoral care helps students develop resilience and important life skills that will benefit them beyond school. This includes teaching conflict resolution, time management, emotional regulation, and interpersonal skills. Through workshops, one-on-one sessions, and group activities, pastoral teams equip students with the tools they need to cope with future challenges, both personal and professional.

Our effective pastoral support team also involves working with families and the wider community. Engaging parents in discussions about their child's well-being and development, ensuring that support extends beyond the classroom when needed.

Our collaborations with local mental health services, social workers, and charities further enhance the level of care that we can offer to any students in need.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Students are expected to be on site at 8:20am. Personal development time begins at 8:30am. There are six lessons in the day - four in the morning and two in the afternoon. When you arrive in the morning you should line up in the designated area for your year group until the bell rings or your designated entrance is opened.

Morning break is 20 minutes long.

During this time you are able to buy toast and other breakfast items in the hall.

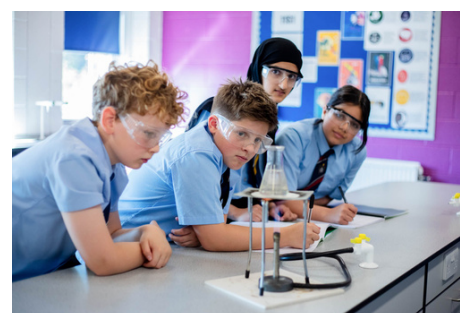
Lunch for Year 7 students commences at 12.40pm. (The school operates a cashless canteen system) You may bring a packed lunch if you wish.

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE PREMISES AT LUNCHTIME

The school day finishes at 3:00pm.

Year 11 students finish at 3:35pm Tuesday - Friday

Start - Finish Time	Session
8:20 - 9:00am	PDT or Assembly
9:00 - 9:50am	Period 1
9:50 - 10:40am	Period 2
10:40 - 11:00am	Breaktime
11:00 - 11:50am	Period 3
11:50 - 12:40pm	Period 4
12:40 - 1:10pm	Lunchtime (Years 7, 8 & 9)
1:10 - 2:10pm	Period 5 Lunchtime (Years 10 & 11)
2:10 - 3:00pm	Period 6
3:00 - 3:35pm Tues - Fri	Period 7 (Year 11)





KEEPING IN TOUCH

Deciding on the right school for your child is a big decision and here at

Mount St Joseph Catholic School

we understand that you may have additional questions.

For more information about our school, please:

Visit our school website: [**www.msj.stoccat.org.uk**](http://www.msj.stoccat.org.uk)

Follow our Facebook account: [**@MSJBolton**](#)



You can also contact us via email at

[**reception@msj.stoccat.org.uk**](mailto:reception@msj.stoccat.org.uk)

or by telephone on

01204 391800



**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust

Mount St Joseph Catholic School
Greenland Road
Farnworth
Bolton
BL4 0HT