



School Development Plan Summary 2025-2026

We celebrate ...

Following our positive Estyn inspection, our self-evaluation continues to show that St Joseph's is a safe, nurturing and ambitious Catholic school.

In 2026-2027, staff worked hard to strengthen oracy, positive behaviour for learning and digital competence across the school. We continue to enable all pupils, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to make strong progress and access a broad range of knowledge, skills and experiences.

We celebrate our hard-working staff, who are ambitious for pupils and welcome high-quality professional learning.

Our high standards, Catholic ethos and strong relationships with families remain central to our community.

We are proud of our Enhanced Inclusion Provision and the wider support we offer to pupils with complex needs.

An overview of the conclusions or findings of the school's self-evaluation

Estyn stated:

St Joseph's Cathedral Primary School is a safe, nurturing and vibrant place for pupils, staff and visitors to be. Pupils love coming to school and are proud to be part of such an inclusive and supportive learning community.

Pupils know that adults expect them to behave well, work hard and do their best. Teachers and support staff encourage pupils to develop independence and solve problems wherever possible.

Our self-evaluation for 2026-2027 shows that our next steps are to secure consistency in high-quality teaching, deepen science and technology skills, and strengthen the link between talk, vocabulary and writing.

We know this is a strong starting point for our continued journey of excellence and we want our priorities to support the needs of all children, driven by our school mission to:

"Follow Jesus as we live and learn together."

What we need to work on this year ...

Our School Priorities – At a Glance

Priority 1: We Can Culture

We will embed a consistent whole-school approach to high-quality teaching, adaptive practice and learner independence through the St Joseph's Way.

Priority 2: Science and Technology

We will develop pupils as confident scientific thinkers through:

- progressive enquiry
- investigation and problem-solving
- purposeful digital learning

Priority 3: Oracy into Writing

We will strengthen the connection between oracy and writing through:

- oral rehearsal and discussion
- ambitious vocabulary across the curriculum
- clearer, more confident written outcomes

Last year we achieved ...

Oracy:

More purposeful opportunities for pupils to talk, explain, present and listen across the curriculum.

Behaviour for Learning:

The Ready, Respectful, Safe approach supported clearer expectations and stronger learning behaviours.

Digital Competence:

Staff and pupils developed confidence using digital tools to support learning and creativity.

Inclusion and Wellbeing:

Our Enhanced Inclusion Provision and nurture work helped vulnerable pupils access learning more successfully.

This year we aim to...

At St Joseph's, we are always seeking ways to improve outcomes for all our learners. These three priorities guide our development in 2026-2027 and reflect where we can make the biggest difference.

Priority 1: Embedding the St Joseph's Way "We Can" Culture

Why this matters:

High-quality teaching, high expectations and adaptive practice help every pupil believe they can achieve.

We want pupils to become more independent, resilient and confident in their learning.

This priority builds consistency in teaching and learning across the school.

What we aim to do:

Embed I do, We do, You do approaches, strong assessment for learning and purposeful scaffolding.

Support all staff to develop adaptive practice and pupil independence.

Priority 2: Developing Science and Technology

Why this matters:

Science and technology help pupils question, investigate, test ideas and solve problems.

Self-evaluation shows that pupils need a more progressive experience of enquiry and investigation.

Digital competence should be used meaningfully to support thinking, communication and creativity.

What we aim to do:

Provide clear progression in science and technology skills across the school.

Give pupils practical opportunities to investigate, reason and apply digital skills.

Priority 3: Strengthening the Link Between Oracy and Writing

Why this matters:

Talk supports thinking, vocabulary, confidence and written outcomes.

Pupils need regular opportunities to rehearse ideas orally before writing.

Stronger vocabulary and discussion will improve writing across the curriculum.

What we aim to do:

Use oral rehearsal, discussion and ambitious vocabulary as a route into writing.

Support pupils to write with greater clarity, confidence and independence.

This is how we'll achieve our aims and who will help us

At St Joseph's, we are focusing on three priorities that will make a real difference to learning, wellbeing and aspiration for every child.

Priority 1: Building a We Can Culture

What we're doing:

Teachers and support staff will use consistent approaches to modelling, scaffolding, feedback and independence so pupils know that they can succeed.

Priority 2: Developing Science and Technology

What we're doing:

Children will investigate, ask questions, solve problems and use digital skills purposefully across the curriculum.

Priority 3: Connecting Oracy and Writing

What we're doing:

Pupils will use talk, oral rehearsal and ambitious vocabulary to improve the quality and confidence of their writing.