

**School Context**

St. James’ Catholic Primary School, Hattersley, is a smaller than average Voluntary Aided school under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury and is situated in Tameside LA. We are adjacent to the M67 motorway, the nearest town being Hyde. The school opened in the 1960’s on Hattersley, a large Manchester overspill estate which was established to re-house tenants from East Manchester. St James’ is one of four local primary schools serving Hattersley which has approximately 8,000 residents. The socio-economic circumstances of the area are below average, with 49% of our children eligible for FSM.

Our children are friendly, keen to learn and the proportion of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average.

The school is a large two storey building set in extensive grounds with magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. There are at present 189 children in the school and 17 in our part-time Nursery. The school is single form entry, and all our children are taught in single year groups of approximately 25 children with no mixed classes. The school, and indeed the whole surrounding area, is in a state of change due to the regeneration of Hattersley. Large areas have been demolished to make way for brand new housing (rented and owner/occupier) which has led to exciting times and a continued boost in numbers. The school also attracts pupils from beyond the estate as parents choose to have their child educated in a Catholic Primary School.

Our most recent Ofsted report (June 2021) acknowledges that “St James’ is a happy, caring and supportive place to be” and “Staff enjoy working at the school”.

St James’ Catholic Primary has an excellent reputation within our community. The school is seen to be successful by the community it serves, and it is a popular choice with parents. Our numbers have been rising rapidly each year. We have extremely strong links with our parish and the wider local community which enriches pupils’ moral and social education. Our relationship with our parents is excellent.

The School Mission Statement aims to provide a caring environment where all pupils and staff are recognised as children of God. Gospel values are taught so that every individual has the opportunity to grow in faith and reach their full potential. Pupils are encouraged to become responsible, happy and confident members of society. School aims to share with parents and parish the responsibility for developing the “whole child” – socially, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually and sacramentally. We serve the parish of St. James the Great, and our church is situated next to the school which enhances relationships between school and parish.

We have strong links with the six other primary schools in our local cluster and the four other Catholic Schools in our Catholic School’s partnership. We work closely with them for shared inset and school development.