



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Saint John Houghton

Catholic Voluntary Academy





Welcome to Saint John Houghton

Welcome to our school prospectus and thank you for taking the time to read this information.

We hope that this will be the beginning of your time with us and that you are able to glean the information you need to help you to make an informed decision about your choice of secondary school.

Saint John Houghton is a smaller than average Catholic voluntary academy. Being smaller than average means that we are able to give your child as much pastoral support as possible.

At Saint John Houghton, we pride ourselves on the support we give our students and the personal care and attention we offer. It is one of the greatest strengths of our school and many visitors comment that they can 'feel it' when they come through our school doors.



With this excellent pastoral support, we have worked hard in recent years to ensure that students are now making 'better than expected' academic progress after their 5 years with us.

Our latest Ofsted inspection took place in April 2025 and inspectors said we continued to be a 'Good' school. In our latest Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection, the Catholic Life of the School and Collective Worship were both judged to be 'Outstanding.'

I sincerely hope that you are able to visit our school and experience the very special atmosphere that exists at Saint John Houghton. The rest of the staff and I very much look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'S. J. Brogan'.

Steve Brogan
Headteacher



St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Our trust exists to serve all 25 Catholic schools within our family, ensuring that every child benefits from an outstanding Catholic education. Our mission statement, 'growing in faith, serving in love, transforming our world, together in Christ' permeates all that we do and this can be witnessed each and every day in our schools.



As a family of Catholic schools, we see every child as being created in the likeness of God with a mission to make the world a better place. We are committed to offering every child the very best education possible, but also, we know that an outstanding Catholic education is about instilling in every one of our pupils a deep sense of love and service to others. As parents and carers, you can be assured that we will care for your children as if they were our own, and that we will shape and challenge them to go out and transform the world.

Our Catholic mission is to serve all families in our communities; of course, we have a deep familial connection with our Catholic families but we also welcome, with warm hearts and open arms, children from

different faiths and children of no faith. We believe in the gift and dignity of every life and it would be an honour to serve all children in our communities. At the heart of Catholic education is a deep Christ-like love for each and every person, child or adult, who learns or works in our schools. This is the foundation of all that we do.

In contrast to some other education trusts, we do not 'brand' our schools. We believe in the leadership of our Headteachers and empower them to create outstanding Catholic schools that best meet the needs of their communities. As a result, our schools are deeply rooted in their communities to ensure that you, as parents and carers, feel a deep connection to your child's school.

Our virtues are, 'trust, togetherness and kindness.' I hope that you will see and experience this when you visit Saint John Houghton.

Lisa Walton
Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Noon
Chair of the Board of
Directors



'The St Ralph Sherwin Multi Academy Trust (the trust) has provided the impetus, challenge and support to help the school to secure rapid improvements,' Ofsted.





'Teachers have good subject knowledge, which they use to provide a solid foundation for learning. Where lessons are well planned, teachers clearly explain and demonstrate, helping pupils to understand,' Ofsted.



A Challenging and Creative Curriculum

We aim to 'push students to their limits' academically so that they achieve their very best in every subject.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and this means that we place huge value on academic success and that we strive for the very highest standards of progress and attainment.

Students follow a traditional GCSE pathway with several core subjects including Religious Education, English Language and Literature, Maths and Science. As well as these subjects we offer History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages and a number of practical and vocational qualifications including Art, Design Technology, Physical Education and Music, to name a few.

The aim of the curriculum at Key Stage 3 is to give our students a broad experience of many subjects so that they are as well informed as possible to make a decision about which of these subjects they will continue at GCSE.

Our recent examination results show that we have had success for each and every group of students who are placed in our care: more able students; students with special educational needs; students from disadvantaged backgrounds and all others.

Ultimately we want to develop students with inquiring minds, who have a desire to learn, succeed and who are not afraid to learn from their mistakes and who go on to become valuable members of society.

Developing Young Minds

Through high quality teaching and excellent pastoral care, our dedicated teachers and support staff will prepare your child to go out and succeed in the real world, to think for themselves and to face any challenges that may come their way and we will work closely with you to achieve this.

Teachers plan effectively for the needs of all students individually to ensure that, whatever their ability and background, they are challenged on a daily basis so that they reach and exceed their potential and enjoy their learning.

We strive for the highest academic standards and we also pride ourselves on ensuring that every student feels welcome, happy and safe in our school and that they are well supported by our caring staff members, including our full-time Lay Chaplain.

As well as receiving an education that will allow your child to progress successfully and develop academically, spiritually and physically, they will become part of the Saint John Houghton community, where we support each other and those in need.



'Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development reflects the school's core ethos. Pupils are confident and embrace the opportunity to offer service for the school and wider community,' Ofsted.





'There is a culture of safeguarding that permeates the school. Pupils say that they feel safe and know that they have someone they can talk to if they need support,' Ofsted.



A Smooth Transition

The transition from primary to secondary school can be daunting for some children and we fully appreciate that.

We aim to make the move as smooth as possible for every child. Our Year 6 open day is held in September which is a great opportunity to come and see our school and meet our dedicated staff.

Before children start in Year 7, we offer a two-day induction scheme and a third day for additional visits for students with special educational needs to ensure they are ready for life at Saint John Houghton.

Once your child has started their life at Saint John Houghton they will be placed in a form group with their own tutor who will support them with all aspects of school life.

Working Together

You will play a vital role as your child progresses through our school.

We want to work with you to ensure that your child is given the guidance and support they need as they move forward.

Our staff are available if you have any questions and we will keep in regular touch with you regarding their progress through reports and parents' evenings.

We will keep you up to date with school news by sending you a newsletter via email and you can also keep in touch via our popular Twitter feed @SJHCVA and our Facebook page.

You will also be invited to regular information evenings. We rely on you to help enforce our high expectations, both in terms of behaviour and uniform, and we hope you will work together with us to ensure that your child receives the very best secondary education.



'Teachers care about their pupils who value this and feel very well supported. Relationships between staff and pupils are very positive,' Ofsted.





'Personal, social and health education is delivered through a dedicated team of staff who have developed a comprehensive curriculum. Areas explored include being safe online, diversity and mental health,' Ofsted.



Exciting Opportunities

From our extremely successful overseas World Challenge trips to residential retreats, sports and music clubs and performances, there is something for everyone at Saint John Houghton.

Older students are offered the opportunity to take part in a World Challenge trip - destinations so far include Nepal and Swaziland - where they will learn valuable life lessons. We also run an annual ski trip for students in Year 10.

Throughout their time with us, all students are invited to stay at The Briars in Crich, a Catholic residential youth centre where they can reflect on their faith and have fun.

We run numerous lunchtime and after-school clubs and there are various opportunities for students to express themselves creatively with the help of our Music and Art departments. Our students also regularly achieve

tremendous sporting success at local, regional and national levels.

Adventurous activity weeks are on offer to multiple year groups and there is the chance to visit the Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

A number of leadership positions are available within the student body including Student Captain roles, the Student Leadership Team, the School Council and the St Ralph Sherwin CMAT Pupil Parliament. All of these opportunities enable our students to develop valuable communication, organisation and debating skills through key roles of responsibility and new experiences



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