



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No. 1 – Back to School September 2025



Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

<u>Wellbeing & Mental Health Vision</u>	<u>Mission Statement</u>	<u>Vision Statement</u>
To support everyone’s wellbeing and mental health, so that they can be the ‘Best they can Be’, are happy together, resilient, ready to learn and succeed.	Following Jesus’ footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness.	Vision: Aiming for Excellence: Being The Best We Can Be.

Avoid a School Tragedy

Today could be someone’s last day at school

I often wonder when it will end,
the death of a child, the loss of a friend?
The car is so handy; it saves so much time
But, to stop by the school is almost a crime.

The yellow lines are bright and clear
And must remain for the ones we hold dear.
Drive if you must but park somewhere else,
Then walk the last bit, it’s good for your health.

I’ve tried in the past to get this message across
I will not give up, lest a life should be lost.
The children are small; the cars block their view,
They don’t see the danger when they run up to you.

The parents are many, the offenders are few,
That child could be YOURS – am I getting through?
So, do the right thing, abide by the rule

Or today could be someone’s last day at school.

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Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers, welcome back to all our children and families. A special welcome to the children and families joining us for the first time this term. We are excited to start the new school year and look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growth for us all. This is the first newsletter of this year.

Following a year of weekly newsletters and taking feedback, in an effort to improve the spread and clarity of our communication we are going to send full newsletters monthly instead of weekly this year. You will continue to receive theme specific newsletters and curriculum letters at regular intervals.

Instead of a weekly newsletter, you will get a weekly message from me along with a summary of dates and events for the week ahead. This will be sent out each Friday via the App. We will try and send out communication so that you get the information in a manageable and timely way.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we begin this new school year, we ask for your guidance and blessing on our children, staff, and families. May we grow in faith, hope, joy and love, and may our school be a place of learning excitement and kindness. Amen.

A Catholic School

Be a pilgrim with us in this Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church.

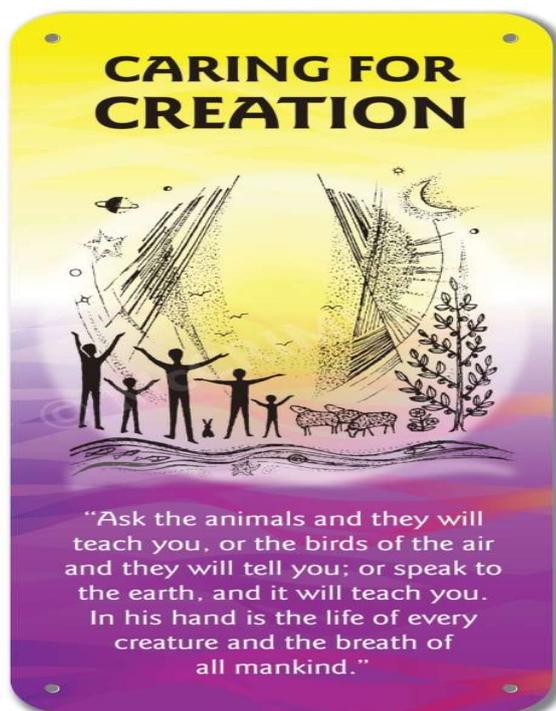


Prayer:

Inspire our hearts with your compassion and justice. Empower us to be bearers of hope and agents of change. Together, may we help bring forth solutions rooted in fairness and equity; economic systems that uplift and create hope for the downtrodden; and a future where every nation can walk the path of sustainable development, free from the shackles of debt. May we be instruments of your peace, secure in the faith that, through our collective effort, poverty can be overcome.

Amen.

The Catholic life of our school is strongly rooted in:



- Faith
- Prayer
- Community
- Ethos
- Catholic Social Teaching

We have a Catholic Social Teaching Theme in focus each half term .

This half term the focus is stewards of creation



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Welcome Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the welcome meetings for Years 1-6. There was a 52% turn out over all so just over half of all children in each year group had a parent attend. We recognise children achieve their best when home and school work together and the turn out at this meeting is a positive element of working together. The presentations have also been sent out to every parent via the App.

Summer Updates

During the summer when school was closed we had the following works

1. Kitchen equipment replacement following the fire. These works were paid for by our insurance company.
2. We created a new medical room next to the Library which is accessible from both the infant and junior playground. The works are due to be completed with the addition of a new external access door at the end of September. The cost of this project was £40,000 and could only be undertaken thanks to all those parents who have paid into the building fund over the last 5 years. We received no grant funding for this project.
3. We have also updated some of our office and admin facilities and upgraded two of our access doors to a more secure fob access lock.

Future Plans

We have been allocated some grant funding by the diocese to improve safeguarding by adding additional fencing, creating a new secure main entrance and a separate bin storage area. This project is budgeted at £450,000 and is due to go to tender at the end of September. As a Catholic school we are required to pay 10% of the project amount so will need to find £45,000 to pay our contribution for this project. This can only be paid for from donations and parent contributions to the charity so please make your contribution as shown on your Scopay account to help us with this project. Any amount is greatly appreciated and will help us improve the school building for your children and for children in the future.

Staffing Updates

I am delighted to announce that following an interview over the summer holidays Miss Lay has been appointed to the role of Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for RE and Catholic Life of the School. Miss Montgomery remains part of the RE team and will continue to lead the Chaplains.

Congratulations to Ms Pipkin who gave birth to a baby girl during the holidays. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Pupil Leadership

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils who have taken on a range of leadership roles this week. Well done to our Eco Council who continue to go from strength to strength and had their first meeting this week.

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Reminders

Uniform - Please ensure all uniform is labelled with your child's name, including water bottles and lunch bags.

Start of school day - School starts at 8:50am sharp. The main gate opens at 8.40am and will close at 9.00am. Children arriving after 8.50am must report to the school office to ensure they are recorded as on site in the event of a fire or emergency

Parking - please DO NOT:

- park in disabled bays if you are not a blue badge holder.
- park on double yellow lines (these mean NO stopping or waiting at any time)
- park over our neighbours' driveways
- stop in the road and allow children to exit your vehicle without switching off your engine and parking up safely

Please remember that we are in "School Street Zone SZ31". Cameras are in operation from 8.15am - 9.15am and from 2.30pm - 4.00pm - please see road signage. If you enter the zone at these times you will be fined.

The approach/access road to the school is not to be used for parking, dropping off or collecting children for Before School Club, After School Club or any other after school clubs or activities.

Communication

Please email admin@robsouth.org or cmcevoy@robsouth.org if you have any queries or issues.

Safeguarding

The school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSLs) are:

Miss Joseph, Miss Beck, and Mrs Egan; however, all members of staff have a duty to, and are trained in the safeguarding of our children. Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to a member of staff as soon as possible. For any matters concerning safeguarding outside of school hours or during the holidays, please send an email to: safeguarding@robsouth.org.

Questions or Concerns

Do you have any questions about school life? We are, of course, really happy to answer any questions about school, no matter how small: do pop in to the school office to ask questions or ask your child's class teacher. If you are worried about something, see us straight away. Don't let a little worry turn into a big one. Most importantly, don't be misled by playground gossip, where misinformation can spread because of something mis-heard or mis-interpreted. Please check by being brave and asking a member of staff.

Celebration Assembly

Parents and family members are welcome to join us each Friday at 9.00am for our weekly Celebration Assembly. At this assembly, children receive a birthday pencil if they have celebrated their birthday during the week. Children are also presented with any certificates or trophies they have been awarded, both in and out of school. Please hand in any awards and certificates your child has received outside of school to the office, clearly marked with your child's name.



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Friends' Association News

The Friends' Association have their first event next Friday, 19th September. They will be holding a BBQ straight after school. If you can help sell drinks, food, set up or clear away your assistance would be gratefully appreciated. We hope as many people as possible will come along to support this event and help raise much needed funds for our Friends' Association. Children may wear their own clothes on this day in exchange for a suggested donation of £1 per child that will go towards our MUGA all-weather surface fundraiser.

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Please see below our agreed parent code of conduct:

Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians to the School

Throughout this document parents and guardians will be referred to as `Parents`.

Aims and Purposes

All staff, pupils and parents have the same goal: to ensure the best for every child, every day and to provide a safe and enjoyable learning environment. This code of conduct is to provide clarity of expectations and clear procedures in the event of matters arising.

The purpose of this code of conduct is to make clear to all parties the types of behaviour which are expected in our school, and the types of behaviour which are not acceptable.

This code has been adopted by the Governing Board for the purposes of safeguarding our children and the working environment of our staff and visitors to the school.

Conduct and Expectations

Parents must inform the school if there are any concerns or problems in relation to their child.

Parents must encourage their child to obey school rules and that they should do their best to be kind to others, to share, to have fun and to work hard.

Parents must respect the rights of staff members and other individuals.

Parents must conduct themselves in a way that is in keeping with the values of the school. This means:

1. Parents should support the school and raise any concerns in accordance with the procedures overleaf.
2. Parents must refrain from using bad language or swear words of any nature, racist comments, derogatory remarks or any form of intimidating behaviour.
3. Parents should be aware that events which children report may have many sides and different points of view and should be prepared to listen and seek verification of facts with an open mind before raising a concern.
4. Parents should support the school in their efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment.
5. Parents should refrain from raising matters or concerns which have occurred during the day between children with other parents. Any concerns must be raised with the school.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should any parent approach another child about a concern or issue which has occurred during the school day.



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How to Raise a Concern?

1. Speak to the class teacher at the end of the school day and up until 3.30pm. Make an appointment at the school office to speak to the class teacher at a mutually convenient time.
2. If the concern relates to Inclusion or Special Educational Needs, an appointment must be made through the school office with Mrs Egan, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion.
3. If your concern is not resolved to your satisfaction, you should then make an appointment to see the Deputy Head, Assistant Headteachers or the Headteacher.
4. If your concern remains unresolved, parents may make a formal complaint by following the procedures as laid out in the school's Complaints Policy.

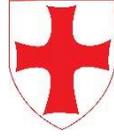
Action taken in the event of Misconduct

In the event of unacceptable behaviour or any type of misconduct, the Headteacher or the Governing Board will, at their discretion, take action they consider necessary to safeguard staff, children, parents or visitors.

This action may include, but will not be limited to, the removal of any person the school considers offensive from the premises, for any period of time that the school should see fit.

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Below is a reminder of our school rules:



School Rules

RESPECT yourself

- ✚ Take pride in your appearance.
- ✚ Keep safe.
- ✚ Listen and learn.

RESPECT others

- ✚ Keep your hands, feet and hurtful comments to yourself.
- ✚ Use good manners.
- ✚ Be a friend.

RESPECT all property

- ✚ Take care of school equipment, your own and others' belongings.

RESPONSIBILITY for all your actions

- ✚ Follow signs and instructions.
- ✚ Make good choices.



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Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank you for your guidance and ask that you continue to bless us with wisdom and patience. May we always strive to do our best and show kindness to others. Amen.

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