



St. Philip's
RC Primary School

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing following some recent concerns and questions raised regarding our mixed-age classes and the placement of children within them.

When families choose St Philip's, it is important to understand that we are a 1.5-form entry school and mixed-age classes are an established and necessary part of our school structure. We have always had mixed-age classes at St. Philip's and our staff are highly experienced in planning and teaching effectively within this model.

As with every class, whether mixed-age or single-year-group, teachers carefully adapt their teaching to meet the needs of the children in front of them. Lessons are pitched appropriately to ensure that children are supported, challenged and working towards the relevant curriculum outcomes for their year group. Children within the same year group will naturally have different needs, abilities and starting points, and teachers respond to these differences accordingly.

At St Philip's, we are very proud of our ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum, which has been carefully designed to ensure that children develop a love of learning and make excellent progress. Our consistently strong Key Stage 2 outcomes, which have been significantly above national averages, demonstrate the progress our children make during their time at the school.

I would therefore respectfully ask parents to trust our professional judgement when it comes to class organisation and teaching and learning. It is understandable that parents may naturally compare classes, homework or learning activities but comparisons can sometimes create unnecessary concern when the context and individual needs of each class are different.

I am aware that some parents have been exchanging homework between classes and discussing differences through WhatsApp groups. While we completely understand that parents want to share information and support one another, this can unintentionally lead to unnecessary worry or concern, particularly when activities are taken out of the context in which they were planned. Please be reassured that teachers plan homework and classroom learning with their particular class and pupils in mind.

We value the partnership we have with our families and your support and trust are an important part of our school community. We are always happy to speak with parents where there is a concern about a child's progress, wellbeing or learning. Our shared priority is to ensure that every child at St Philip's feels happy, supported, challenged and able to achieve their very best.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and trust in our staff and our professional judgement.

Miss McNamara

Headteacher: Miss R. McNamara BA HONS QTS NASENCO NPQH

St. Philip's RC Primary School, Cavendish Road, Salford, M7 4WP

0161 505 2524

office@stphilipsrcprimary.com

@stphilipsrc www.stphilipsrcprimary.com



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