

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

A Guide to Year I 2025-2026

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Introduction

St Paul's Cathedral School is a Christian, co-educational community where the values of love, justice, tolerance, respect, honesty, service and trust are encouraged and practised to promote positive relationships throughout the school community and where the safety and welfare of each child is of the utmost importance.

The school aims to instil a love of learning through a broad curriculum. It aims to give each pupil the opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, personally, physically, culturally and spiritually. All pupils are encouraged to work to the best of their ability and to achieve standards of excellence in all of their endeavours.

Through the corporate life of the school, and through good pastoral care, the school encourages the independence of the individual as well as mutual responsibility. It aims to make its pupils aware of the wider community and encourages a close working relationship with parents and guardians.

Welcome to Year 1

Year 1 is an exciting year for the children. As they move into Key Stage 1 their learning becomes more formal and they are encouraged to further develop their confidence and focus.

Your child's first experiences of school have a significant impact on their future success. In the Pre-Prep, we aim to provide a solid foundation and foster a love of learning, allowing each child to fulfil their full potential.

This booklet aims to provide an overview of your child's time in Year 1, outlining the curriculum and routines of the school day. We hope you will find it useful.

You will find below a chart outlining the main subjects and topics covered each term. Alongside thorough schemes for English and Maths, we follow the International Primary Curriculum, which ensures the children's learning is creative, thematic and topic based.

The children have weekly specialist lessons in French, Music, Drama, Dance and ICT. They also visit the school library once a week.

We look forward to an exciting and busy year ahead!

Miss Lottie and Miss Sosa

Pre-prep Welcome

Pre-prep at SPCS is a joyful and purposeful place to launch your child's education journey.

Here, your child will set down foundations for happy and successful lifelong learning.

Pastoral Care in Pre-prep

At SPCS, pastoral care is at the very heart of all we do. The Good Schools Guide describes SPCS as 'pastorally superb'. Your child will be known and nurtured right through the Pre-prep years.

Relationships are at the heart of Pre-prep life. Children learn best when they are secure in their relationships and have the confidence to tackle challenge.

Sustainable wellbeing is built on learning to understand and respect yourself, others and the world around you.

Our approach places great emphasis on the skills needed for self-management, developing and nurturing friendships and working together in teams. Learning how to communicate with others is a key focus in our Pre-prep.

We make our expectations of behaviour clear and reinforce them through celebration of good behaviour at assemblies and the weekly Star of the Week ceremony.

Confidence is developed through growing competence. Regular opportunities to perform (at assemblies, concerts and events such as Sports Day) build self-belief.

Pre-prep class teachers oversee your child's pastoral care. Our pastoral team also includes the School Chaplain, a Counsellor, a Mental Health Lead and ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants).

Learning in Pre-prep

We make learning irresistible! From age 4, when your child joins Reception, to age 7 at the end of Year 2, expect to see an amazing journey in every aspect of learning and character development. Our Pre-prep approach promotes the development of problem-solving skills, independence and personal enthusiasms in each classroom. We go beyond acquiring vital skills to develop a love of reading, writing, number and a passionate curiosity about the wider world.

Year 1

Year 1 is our key transition year from play-based learning to a more formal style, although play and imagination remain a crucial part of the curriculum. The school day takes a great greater focus on independent learning and the development of core literacy and numeracy skills. Building on the foundations of Reception, expect to see your child developing great learning habits and enthusiasm for specific topics during this busy year.

Wider Learning

As well as their dedicated class teachers, Pre-prep work each week with subject specialists in PE, ICT, Music, Dance, Drama and French, benefiting from extraordinary expertise from the very start of their education. Our Heads of English, Maths and Science support class teachers to ensure smooth transition to prep school study.

Learning beyond the classroom is a really important part of Pre-prep life, here on site and in the local area. Your child will love regular outdoor learning in the Cathedral Gardens and visits to museums, galleries and concerts during the Pre-prep years will provide lifelong memories. Year 2 visit the swimming pool each week.

In the Pre-prep we advise against any external tutoring except in the most exceptional cases and in consultation with the school. SPCS provides an excellent curriculum, including everything your child needs for academic and personal development. SPCS has a great track record of providing children for their senior schools. This conversation begins with you in Year 4.

Meanwhile, bear in mind that the best ways that you can stimulate your child's academic curiosity are often through the most enjoyable family activities. Trips to a museum or gallery, a family volunteering project, board games, walks together, shopping trips and above all regular conversation at the family meal table: all these give your child the kind of enrichment no tutor can provide. The good news is that the rich experience of family life is the best support you can possibly provide - and is likely to be great fun into the bargain.

We rely on close communication with you and encourage you to share any joys, successes, worries or concerns so that we have the best possible picture of your child's needs and progress.

Your child's form teacher acts as your first contact for communication but do remember they are not in front of a screen during the day but working with your child: call the School Office if you have any urgent messages, questions or concerns.

Madeleine Smyth

Head of Pre-prep

The School Day

Year 1 will be welcomed at St Augustine's Tower between 8.30 – 8.50am by a member of Pre-Prep staff. Children will be welcomed and registered as they arrive. Children should come straight up to their Pre-Prep corridor before going into their classroom for their morning activities. Parents are asked to drop off their children without entering the school building.

Children are dismissed from St Augustine's Tower at 3.30pm. Children are handed over to their parent or carer by their teacher.

Year 1 children may attend an after-school activity club, led by a Pre-Prep teacher. At 3.30pm they will be given a snack and will play under supervision until their club begins at 4pm. Clubs end at 5pm and children should be collected promptly from St Augustine's Tower. Children may attend wrap around care after this until 6pm. There is also an option of wrap around care from 4 – 6pm.

You will find your child's timetable at the end of this document.

Organisational skills are strongly encouraged and supported at school; please do encourage your child to play an active role in getting ready for school the next day.

Resource required	
PE Kit	ILH, IAS - Monday
Reading Book	Please bring to School on Monday and Thursday to be changed
Library books	ILH – Wednesdays, IAS - Tuesdays
Musical instrument	Check timetable on parent portal

Prep

Parents are asked to read with their child for 15 minutes each evening. If you have any comments about reading please email the class teacher.

Starting in Autumn Term (2), ten spellings will be sent home with your child each week. The spelling patterns are based on our phonics scheme so most phonemes will be familiar to the children already. These spellings should be practised at home and there will be an informal test at school each week. Children will be tested every Tuesday in ILH and every Wednesday in IAS.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell is a highlight of our weekly timetable and is held every Tuesday and Friday (IAS) and every Monday (ILH). Each Show and Tell should be topic-based. Your child will be allocated a topic on which to base their presentation.

The children gain a lot from these sessions; not only does it develop their public speaking skills, but also the ability to listen and ask interesting questions.

Parents' Consultation / Reports

Year 1 Parents' Meetings are held in the Autumn Term and in the Spring Term.

Year 1 parents receive the following feedback during the year:

Autumn Term:	Curriculum Evenings, Parents' Meetings
Spring Term:	Book look, Parents' Meetings.
Summer Term:	Humanities and Science Showcase, written report.

In addition to scheduled communication, there may be times when parents, or staff, may feel a face-to-face discussion or phone call would be beneficial to discuss academic or pastoral issues. It is suggested that parents, in the first instance, email the staff concerned and then arrange a meeting at a mutually agreeable time.

Year 1 - Curriculum Overview

Please note that the information given is only a general guide to the material covered in the year. The pace and order of delivery of the curriculum is constantly monitored by the teaching staff in every subject and will be adjusted to match the requirements of the pupils.

Subject	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
English: Reading	School reading scheme book sent home twice a week. 3 x partner reading in phonics sessions. Teacher/TA hears child read at least once a week. One school library book sent home a week.	School reading scheme book sent home twice a week. 3 x partner reading in phonics sessions. Teacher/TA hears child read at least once a week. One school library book sent home a week.	School reading scheme book sent home twice a week. 3 x partner reading in phonics sessions. Teacher/TA hears child read at least once a week. One school library book sent home a week.
English: Writing	Stories in familiar settings. Labels, lists and signs. Poems about the senses. Traditional poems Information texts Poems with repeating patterns. Grammar – finger spaces, capital letters.	Stories with repeating patterns/number story books. Songs and repetitive poems. Information texts. Newspaper articles Instructions. Grammar – writing complete sentences, extending sentence punctuation, exclamation marks, 'shouting' sentences.	Fairy Stories and Traditional Tales. Fantasy books. Letters. Poems about nature. Grammar – connecting words, extending sentence punctuation.
English: Spelling	In class phonics lessons. Weekly spellings starting Autumn 2.	In class phonics lessons. Weekly spellings.	In class phonics lessons. Weekly spellings.
Maths: Number	Number and place value. Addition and subtraction. Multiplication and division. Fractions.	Number and place value. Addition and subtraction. Multiplication and division. Fractions.	Number and place value. Addition and subtraction. Multiplication and division. Fractions.
Maths: Shape, Space and Measure	Properties of shape. Position and direction. Measurement (length and height). Measurement (money)	Properties of shape. Measurement (mass) Measurement (time). Measurement (volume and capacity).	Properties of shape. Position and direction. Measurement (length and height). Measurement (time).
HaS	<u>Buildings</u> <i>Science:</i> How to test the strengths of structures		<u>Sensational!</u> <i>Science:</i> About our senses and how we use them

	About materials used in structures <i>History:</i> How buildings were made in the past How buildings have been used in the past How people travelled in the past <i>Geography:</i> About different houses, homes and other buildings around the world How to use maps and atlases to locate the different countries these buildings are in <u>Let's Celebrate</u> <i>History:</i> How people in our families celebrated in the recent past How particular past events are still celebrated <i>Society:</i> How different groups of people celebrate different events. How different groups of people have different rules		What happens when we are deprived of our senses How sound travels and how our senses of taste and smell are connected About the sensory qualities of different materials <u>A Day in the Life</u> <i>Geography:</i> About the services and buildings in the local area How to create our own street map <i>History:</i> About the jobs people used to do in the past About significant people from the past What our local area might have looked like a 100 years ago
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Art	Children will create artwork in connection with their topics: -Learn about colour theory through a variety of media. -Cement knowledge of shape names. -Draw shapes -Connect shapes to make composition -Design buildings Media explored: -watercolour -Colouring pencils -Oil pastel and inks -Tissue collage Children will look at a variety of different artists including: Paul Klee, Hundertwasser, Rachel Whiteread. Children will use different crafts such as weaving, collage to create different festival celebrations decorations	Children will: -Design rockets -Make peg/lolly stick aeroplanes -Explore painting inspired by space Children will look at a variety of different artists including: Giacomo Balla and Umberto Boccioni	Children will: -Make trapeze artist silhouettes against a painted tent background. -Create circus animals Children will look at a variety of different artists including Degas, Toulouse Lautrec, and Calder. Children will explore synaesthesia through painting to music and looking at art works by Kandinsky and Rothko. They will explore colour mixing inspired by Chuck Close.
ICT	Children will cover: • E-Safety. • Touch typing. • Recording facts using microphones.	Children will create: • Scratch Junior programs. • Digital charts.	Children will use: • Bee bots. • Paint Software. • Video Editing Software.
Drama	Character Creation: Expressing Emotion Through Voice, Body, and Imagination Students explore how to create characters by understanding and expressing different thoughts, emotions, and relationships. They learn how emotions are shown through facial expressions, body language, and voice—building empathy and creative confidence.	Imaginative Ideas: Collaboration, Creativity, and Stagecraft Year 1 students continue to explore their imaginations through playful group work and drama linked to familiar classroom themes. The focus is on building confidence, learning to collaborate, and enjoying the creative process. Activities Work in small groups to practise sharing, listening, and agreeing on imaginative ideas. Strengthen stagecraft through body movement, facial expression, and voice.	Continued Exploration: Storytelling Through Drama As the year progresses, Year 1 students continue to develop their drama skills by revisiting key themes from class in creative and engaging ways. They build on what they've learned about characters, settings, and how to communicate simple stories through performance. Activities Continue with class-themed drama work, connecting to familiar books, topics, or seasonal themes.

	Activities Warm-up exercises to prepare the body and voice. Fun games and movement activities to develop character through voice, body, and movement. Mime tasks to explore jobs and daily activities in detail, and examine how characters relate to one another. Nativity Preparation Year One students take supportive roles in an imaginative retelling of the Christmas story. Learn songs, dances, and choreography, applying character work to bring nativity scenes to life. Build stage presence and awareness of performing for an audience.	Explore a class-related book or theme using drama games and simple improvisation. Encourage fun, sharing, and seeing stories from different perspectives through role-play and performance. This unit helps learners grow in confidence while learning how to work together, express ideas, and bring stories to life in their own unique ways.	Develop understanding of character and situation, using facial expressions, gestures, and movement. Practise telling short stories through role-play and guided drama activities, both individually and in groups. Reflect on their work through class discussion and positive peer feedback. This final phase supports young learners in consolidating their dramatic skills while celebrating their creativity and confidence in telling stories together.
French	In town Seasons Christmas	Super Heros Transports Easter and Mother's Day	Animals Story: Je m'habille et je te croque
Music	Singing: Harvest Festival songs Instruments of the Orchestra (guest performers and demonstrations) Singing: action songs (including hand percussion and body percussion)	Rhythm games including hand percussion and body percussion Animal Songs Class recorders; note, reading, rhythm reading, ensemble skills	Class recorders: note, reading, rhythm reading, ensemble skills Summer Concert preparation

	Notation: crotchets, quavers, minims, rests Singing: Nativity songs and children's carols		
PSHE	Unit 1: Me and My Relationships Feelings Getting help Classroom rules Special people Being a good friend Unit 2: Valuing Difference Recognising, valuing and celebrating difference Developing respect and accepting others Bullying and getting help	Unit 3: Keeping Safe How our feelings can keep us safe – including online safety Safe and unsafe touches Medicine Safety Sleep Unit 4: Rights and Respect Taking care of things: myself, my money, my environment	Unit 5: Being my Best Growth Mindset Healthy eating Hygiene and health Cooperation Unit 6: Growing and Changing Getting help Becoming independent My body parts Taking care of self and others
PE	Run Jump Throw Mastering basic movement skills Demonstrate and understand Ready Position Combine movements in sequence Balance and stance Choose appropriate throw and moderate power Balance variety objects Send Return Work with a scoring system Hit ball with hand Track ball Move to ball Hit moving ball Work as team to score points	Attack Defend Shoot Throwing skills Basic defensive skills to defend a target. Body positioning. Cooperative defending and attacking skills. Communicate as a team Hit Catch Run Hit in to space Track and return moving ball Work as a team to attack /defend Effective communication in play Attack Defend Shoot	Athletics/Sports Day Practice Ready/Start position Sprint Practice Relay procedure and teamwork Jump for distance/Across the River Target/Bean Bag Throw Javelin throw
TPR (Theology, Philosophy)	Christianity – Harvest Festival Judaism The Good Samaritan	Celebrating birth in different religions Islam – Places of worship	10 Commandments Philosophy – Special objects and recognising good and bad behaviours

and Religion)	Festivals – Advent and Christmas		
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Contacts

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1LH Timetable

	8:40	9:20	9:30	9:40	9:50	10:00	10:10	10:20	10:40	10:50	11:00	11:10	11:20	11:30	11:40	12:30	12:40	12:50	13:00	13:10	13:20	13:30	13:40	13:50	14:00	14:10	14:20	14:40	14:50	15:00	15:10	15:20	15:30
Mon	Registration	Phonics						Morning Break	Maths						Lunchtime	PE (Mr Lambert)		H&S						Afternoon Break	Tutor	Show and Tell						Dismissal	
Tues		Phonics							Maths							Spellings	Mental maths	Dance (Mrs Cassidy)		H&S		H&S											
Wed		H&S		Music					English							Library		Handwriting		French (Mr <u>Foxall</u>)		ICT (Mr Demetriou)											
Thurs		Maths							English							H&S		Drama (Mr Brockwell)		Phonics		H&S											
Fri		Mental maths		PSHE (Miss Harrison)					Maths							TPR (Miss Smyth)		Art							Golden time		Awards						

1AS Timetable 25/26

	8:40	9:20	9:30	9:40	9:50	10:00	10:10	10:20	10:40	10:50	11:00	11:10	11:20	11:30	11:40	12:30	12:40	12:50	13:00	13:10	13:20	13:30	13:40	13:50	14:00	14:10	14:20	14:40	14:50	15:00	15:10	15:20	15:30
Monday	Registration and Assembly	Phonics						Morning Break	Story Time		PE				Lunchtime	HaS				Maths				Afternoon Break	Art						Dismissal		
Tuesday		Phonics							Maths							HaS				Library					S&T		Dance						
Wednesday		English							Maths							Drama		Handwriting				TPR				Spelling Test		Music					
Thursday		ICT							Maths							HaS						Phonics				HaS							
Friday		English							S&T		PSHE					French		Maths							Golden time		Star of the week						



TRUST

RESPECT

H O N E S T Y

L O V E

T O L E R A N C E

F A I R N E S S

EXCELLENCE

C O M M U N I T Y