

# EDUCATING YOUNG GIRLS FOR ALMOST A CENTURY

## ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT SCHOOL IN WANSTEAD

WORDS: MICHELLE B. HARRIS



©St. Josephs Convent School.

*“St. Joseph’s Convent School for Girls, is an independent school, which was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1918. Their mission was to provide an excellent education for young girls, in keeping with Venerable Catherine McAuley’s vision and inspiration.”*

Speaking to the School Business Manager Susan Juffs over a coffee, we discussed the school, its mission statement and working with local children and their parents.

“ **Michelle:** How long have you been working at the school and what continues to inspire you?

**Susan:** I joined the school in 2003 and love the job satisfaction. The whole team work closely together and the school feels like an extension of family.

**Michelle:** Do you have a personal connection?

**Susan:** Yes. My daughter attended the school so I am also able to understand from a parent’s perspective the school’s ideals and how we achieve them. The girls grow into confident young women with a great overall knowledge of many subjects in addition to the academic. They develop sports, music and performance skills plus through the school ethos, we help their spiritual development and enhance a sense of social responsibility and community.

**Michelle:** How do the older children look after the new three years old girls when they first join the Nursery?

**Susan:** We have a system where our Prep 4 (Year 6) girls are Prefects and they have a number of responsibilities including looking after the younger classes at play and lunch times. As we are a small school, the children all know and look out for one another. There’s a strong sense of camaraderie amongst the girls.

**Michelle:** It sounds as if the school is very caring and from what I have seen, they all look very happy but what about the academic results?

**Susan:** In the school’s prospectus we outline the destinations of our Prep 4 girls every year and details of offered places and scholarships. We do care and wherever possible, like to keep in touch and hear from the girls with respect to their progress through their secondary school life. Most girls do keep in contact to tell us how they are faring. We love to hear about their successes, particularly because we know that St. Joseph’s has played a formative part in their development.

**Michelle:** You mentioned your daughter went to St. Joseph’s. Are there many children at the school whose mothers also attended?

**Susan:** Yes. We have children whose mothers attended the school and we also have a number of siblings. St. Joseph’s is very much a family affair and in one case, a mother had actually kept her hat which her daughter then wore! We really have been educating families for generations...■

### THE DETAILS

If you are interested in attending an Open Day, please visit the website for more details and to download the prospectus. [www.stjosephsconventschoo.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsconventschoo.co.uk)  
Or call the School Office for more information:  
020 8989 4700.