

Information for Parents

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School



Copy Lane
Netherton
Bootle L30 7PG

Telephone: 0151 526 6423

Website: www.stbenedictsprimary.co.uk

'With Jesus we learn, love and laugh'

A Catholic Voluntary Aided School for boys and girls aged five to eleven with an attached Nursery for three and four year old children.



Headteacher: Mr M Phillips
Acting Assistant Headteachers: Mrs L McCaughrean and
Mrs S Lyon
Chair of Governors: Mr A Dawes

Parish Priest: Fr B Walles
Ethos Statement

"The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here."

Communications

We strive to keep you fully informed about your child's progress and the life of the school. We also feel it is essential to enable you to work with us, share good news, address any concerns properly and to achieve this we have a comprehensive communication system.

School Life:

Prospectus
Website
Text/E-mail Messaging
School Newsletters including Religious Education, Class and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)
School App

Meetings:

Brief 'at the door' information exchange
Open Door appointments
Termly Progress meetings
Curriculum Meetings

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



COPY LANE, NETHERTON, BOOTLE, MERSEYSIDE L30 7PG

TEL: 0151 526 6423

Headteacher: Mr M Phillips

September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

If your child is to join us for the first time, we welcome you and look forward to a happy and successful association over the coming years. If you already have a child at the school, we are pleased to renew the links between us.

This booklet is required by law to contain certain information for parents but we have added further details, that we feel give you a fuller picture of the community at St Benedict's.

I speak for our children, parents, staff and governors when I say how proud we are of our school. All involved combine to produce an exciting, enjoyable, caring yet challenging atmosphere in which our children thrive. High expectations are placed upon them and they respond by reaching high levels of personal achievement. All our staff share the concern and commitment you have, to see your child develop to their fullest.

If there is anything else that you would like to know about or discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Regular communication establishes a mutual understanding of our SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.

The information contained here is merely a starting point and is no substitute for the school itself. May I take this opportunity, therefore, to invite you to come and visit us if you have not done so already.

In the back of the prospectus you will find our Home School Partnership form. We ask you to sign this form and return it to school.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Phillips

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

St Benedict's is a Catholic Voluntary Aided School which opened in September 2005 offering primary education to children aged 3 – 11 years.

The school is situated in a well established, residential area of both old and new property in Netherton, for Catholic children from the parish of St Benet.

The school is comprised of a foundation stage unit catering for children aged 3 – 5, a library, an ICT suite, a media suite, a large multi-purpose hall, 4 small study rooms, a partnership room, 3 resource bases and 11 permanent classrooms.

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

'With Jesus we learn, love and laugh'

Aims

"We will strive to be a centre of educational excellence which meets the needs of every individual. We will love one another as Jesus loves us, recognising and strengthening true partnerships in the Spirit of God".

To love one another as Jesus loves us

Objectives

1. To know that everyday is a fresh start.
2. To respect each other at all times and in every way.
3. To do everything we can to maintain a happy school through our friendships with each other.
4. To celebrate each individual's efforts and achievements.
5. To recognise we make mistakes but we forgive.
6. To make time to support and listen to all members of our school community.
7. To work together to bring about a welcoming atmosphere.
8. To ensure all are safe and protected from harm at all times.

To provide a centre of educational excellence which meets the needs of every individual

Objectives

1. To identify each person's special gifts and talents, providing experiences and opportunities to fully develop their potential.
2. To provide a wide range of subjects taught in an enthusiastic way.
3. To plan effectively –
 - i. acknowledging individual needs and abilities
 - ii. incorporating different teaching and learning styles
 - iii. having clear learning objectives
4. To plan and deliver the Come and See programme throughout the school and recognise that it is a core subject.
5. To carefully monitor the progress of all pupils throughout their school life through effective assessment.
6. To respect and develop understanding of other people's beliefs and cultures.
7. To celebrate God's love through a variety of meaningful experiences.
8. To share good practice with each other and promote a love of learning.
9. To explore awe and wonder through everyday experiences and so promote spiritual development.

Recognise and strengthen true partnerships with the wider community in the Spirit of God.

Objectives

1. To keep positive lines of communication, open with parents/carers through:
 - i. newsletters
 - ii. parents evenings
 - iii. information boards the plasma screen, text messages, emails, website, school radio
 - iv. reports
 - v. surveys
 - vi. open days
 - vii. our home/school agreement
 - viii. availability of staff
 - ix. courses and clubs
2. To ensure that all Governors are kept fully informed of all that goes on in school so that they are enabled to play a major role in its progress and development.
3. To maintain links with our parish by:
 - i. providing information for parish newsletters.
 - ii. inviting our parish priest/community to school celebrations.
 - iii. supporting parish sacramental programmes.
 - iv. joining parish celebrations
4. To support adopted charities e.g. Cafod, Good Shepherd.
5. To promote partnerships with other local businesses/outside agencies by creating positive links.
6. Develop links with other schools and communities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Together we will welcome and encourage an open partnership between the school, parents and wider community.

**THE CURRICULUM
MEETS THE NEEDS
OF THE PUPILS WELL**

**THE MOST ABLE PUPILS
ARE WELL PROVIDED
FOR, THEIR NEEDS ARE
QUICKLY IDENTIFIED
AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT
IS PUT INTO PLACE TO
HELP THEM MEET THEIR
TARGETS**

**PUPILS FEEL SAFE IN
SCHOOL AND ARE
KEPT SAFE BY STAFF
THAT CARE FOR
THEM VERY WELL**

**WHAT
OFSTED
SAID ABOUT
ST BENEDICT'S**

**TEACHING IS GOOD
OVERALL AND
SOME TEACHING IS
EXCELLENT**

July 2023

**EFFECTIVE
TEAMWORK
BETWEEN
TEACHERS AND
TEACHING
ASSISTANTS
GUARANTEES A
GOOD LEVEL OF
SUPPORT FOR
PUPILS**

**THE SCHOOL
PROVIDES A GOOD
LEVEL OF SUPPORT
FOR DISABLED
PUPILS AND THOSE
WITH SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS. THESE
PUPILS LEARN
WELL AND MAKE
GOOD PROGRESS**

**THE
HEADTEACHER
IS HIGHLY
AMBITIOUS FOR
THE SCHOOL
AND IS CLEARLY
FOCUSED ON
CONTINUING TO
IMPROVE
STANDARDS. HE
IS WELL
SUPPORTED BY
THE DEPUTY
HEADTEACHER,
STAFF AND
GOVERNORS**

Organisation of the School

The school includes children from the ages 3 - 11

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Headteacher | Mr M Phillips | |
| Acting Assistant Heads | Mrs Lyon and Mrs McCaughrean | |
| Foundation 1 | Mrs H Wright | Mrs N Riley Miss Reid |
| Foundation 2 | Mrs L Meath | Mrs K Criddle |
| Year One | Miss J Glynn | Mrs C Edwards Mrs J Jones |
| Year Two | Mrs M Tetlow Mrs C O'Hare | Mrs F Thornton Mrs H Tagoe Miss A Calder |
| Year Three | Mrs E Ellis Mrs J Nicol | Ms S Culley |
| Year Four | Mrs S Lyon | Mrs K Place Miss K Brown |
| Year Five | Ms E Carrington Mrs B Leyland | Mrs J McLaughlin Miss M Higham |
| Year Six | Mrs L McCaughrean | Mrs L Caldwell Mrs Horton Mrs L Handley |
| Pastoral Support | Miss S Culley | |
| SEN Co-ordinator | Ms E Carrington | |
| School Bursar Clerical Assistant | Mrs C Valori Miss K Toole | |
| School Keyholder | Mr D Brannan | |
| Head Cook | Mrs D Mosey | |

Governing Body

Foundation Governors

Mr A Dawes (Chair)

Mrs G Edwards-Rice(Vice Chair)

Mrs M Webb

Mrs M Bridson

Mrs S Tu

Mr M Phillips

Staff Governors

Mrs L McCaughrean

LA Governor

Cllr C Thomas

Parent Governor

Mrs G Edwards-Rice

Clerk to the Governors

Mrs C Valori

St Benedict's Catholic Primary Admissions Criteria

Admission Criteria for 2026/2027 The Local Authority agreed with the governors that the admissions number for Reception is set at a maximum of 30. Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children*(See glossary for full definition).
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling* in the school at the time of admission. (*See glossary for full definition).
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Benet.
4. Other Baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children who have a sibling* in the school at the time of admission. (*See glossary for full definition).
6. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
7. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
8. Other Children

Tie Breaker Clause If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criteria above then priority will be given to those living closest to the school measured by the shortest walking distance from the child's home. We will measure from the property's address point, to the nearest school gate (using recognised routes known to the Authority at the time of measurement). In the event of distances being the same for 2 or more applicants where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place.

All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Uniform

We believe this makes a statement about the pride we take in our community. Uniform is kept simple and economic and is strongly expected to be worn at all times. No jeans or trainers are permitted.

St Benedict's School Uniform

Black shoes for boys and girls – no high heels are allowed to be worn in school

Boys Winter

Long grey trousers
White polo shirt
Purple sweatshirt

Girls Winter

Grey skirt or pinafore
White polo shirt
Purple sweatshirt
White socks (Grey tights & socks are also permitted)

Boys Summer

Long or short grey trousers
White polo shirt
Purple sweatshirt
Black shoes

Girls Summer

Purple gingham dress
Purple cardigan or sweatshirt
White socks
White or Black shoes

Sweatshirts are available from Prima Donna, 48 Carr Meadow Hey
www.primadonnanetherton.co.uk and from 'Paul's Place' in the Strand
alphaschoolwear.com/schools

PE Kit for boys and girls

Plain white T shirt or school T Shirt
Black Shorts
Black pumps
Purple school sweatshirt
Plain black, unbranded tracksuit bottoms for games in the winter
PE kit must be unbranded. Base layers are NOT permitted.

Swimming

Key Stage 2 children will have the opportunity during the year to attend swimming lessons at the Meadows Leisure Centre swimming pool in Maghull. They will require swimsuits/trunks (no shorts) a bathing cap and a towel.

Jewellery

In the interest of safety no child is to wear jewellery which can constitute a danger to self or other. Children who have their ears pierced may wear studs, however no jewellery is permitted whatsoever in P.E. or swimming lessons. **Ear piercing should not be arranged during the school term.**

Name Tags

It is **ESSENTIAL** that all items of clothing are clearly labelled. This is particularly important in Key Stage 1 (infants) and Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) where the children have difficulty identifying their clothes as they are all of a similar size and colour.

(we would strongly advise against sending children in wearing expensive items of clothing as we can not be held responsible for any loss or damage to personal belongings).



Annual Terms and Holiday 2025/26

| | Autumn Term 2025 | Spring Term 2026 | Summer Term 2026 |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| Term Commences | Tuesday 2 nd September | Tuesday 6 th January | Tuesday 14 th April |
| Half Term Holiday | 27 th – 31 st October | 16 th – 20 th February | 25 th May – 29 th May |
| Term Ends | Friday 19 th December | Friday 27 th March | Friday 17 th July |
| INSET Days | Monday 1 st September Monday 3 rd November | Monday 5 th January | Monday 13 th April Monday 20 th July |

Arrangements for Foundation Stage Children in September

- Please assemble on Infant Playground
- The children will be received and released from their registration room door

Children start school full time on Tuesday 2nd September.

Nursery Provision

Children are offered 15 hours nursery provision as a basic entitlement. However, the government are allocating an additional 15 hours to families that meet a certain criteria. For further details, please see Mrs Valori at the school office.

Monday – Wednesday (2.5 days)
Wednesday – Friday (2.5 days)

For those parents who fit the criteria we have limited spaces of 30 hours which is Monday – Friday 9am - 3pm.



School Day



Nursery Times

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monday – Wednesday | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm |
| Wednesday - Friday | 12:15 pm – 3:00 pm |

Foundation Stage 2

Key Stage 1

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Morning Session | 9:00 am–12:00 pm |
| Play | 10:40am – 10:55 am |
| Lunchtime | 12:00pm – 1:00 pm |
| Afternoon Session | 1:00 pm – 3:15 pm |

Key Stage 2

| |
|--------------------|
| 9:00 am – 12:15 pm |
| 10:40am – 10:55 am |
| 12:15pm – 1:15 pm |
| 1:15 pm – 3:15 pm |

Apart from members of breakfast club, children are expected to be on the premises within ten minutes prior to the start of the morning session. They go immediately to their classroom where a member of staff will be on supervision. Children should not arrive before 8:50 am.

We only have a small car park and this is for the use of staff or those with pre-arranged appointments. Children coming to school by car should be dropped off outside the school gates and we advise parents to use extreme caution.

All infants should be collected from school. If you normally collect your child and for some reason you are unable to do so, it is essential that you notify the school in advance.

Children withdrawn for specific appointments during the school day must be signed out at the office.



Attendance and Punctuality



Good attendance and punctuality are strongly encouraged to ensure that there is no disruption to the pupil's development and the teacher's planning. We operate a system called '**First Day Response**'. Please notify school if your child is to be absent by 9:00am. If the school has not been notified that your child will be absent, contact will be made with you as soon as possible. This is to ensure your child's safety.

All children's records of attendance and punctuality are now kept on computer. Children who are absent will be marked as an 'unauthorised absence' if school has not been informed. If there is a concern in this area, parents will receive notification. Attendance records will be available for discussion at Parents' Evenings and included in the annual reports. As you will be aware, the government no longer allows holidays to be taken during term time. Authorisation for term time holidays will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Parents must still complete a holiday notification form in advance of any planned absence.

Attendance for the year 2024/2025 was 93.4%



Medication



Staff have no legal or contractual duty to administer medicines or provide health treatment although all staff have been trained in paediatric 1st Aid. The school will consider written requests from parents in specific circumstances e.g. chronic long term illness. A form is available from the office for this purpose. It is essential that we have all medical information relating to your child.



Emergency contact



If your child becomes unwell whilst at school it is essential that a parent or a designated, responsible adult can be contacted to collect the child from school. It is very important that the emergency contact lists are kept up to date and even if you are working during the day it is vital that we have someone we can contact by telephone. In the event of a real emergency, every attempt will be made to contact you before the child is taken to the hospital or doctors.

Please notify the school immediately if there is any change in these details, particularly changes to mobile phone numbers.



Headlice



This is a district wide problem, which arises in all schools periodically. The school follows Local Health Authority advice and frequently includes information in newsletters. Further advice is available in school.



School Meals



The school has its own kitchen providing excellent meals on site. The cost is £2.50 per day - £12.50 per week which is payable **in advance** every Friday. We are a cashless school, all money must be paid online via our Schoolgateway app. There will be no exceptions.

From September 2014 all Infant children are entitled to a free school meal under the government's Universal School Meal Scheme.

Application for free meals should be made to the Education Department at Bootle Town Hall and we urge you to apply for this entitlement if eligible. The school also receives additional funding for eligible children in the form of Pupil Premium.

Provision is made in the dining hall for packed lunches. Drinks in cans or glass bottles are not permitted. We would ask parents to think carefully about what they put into packed lunch boxes to make sure they are healthy and providing a balanced diet.

Please try if possible to keep your choice of hot or packed lunches for at least half a term and then if you wish to transfer please give at least one week's notice to the school office.



Milk



EEC subsidised milk is provided daily for the children in the Foundation Stage.



Water



All taps are fed directly from mains water supply and children are encouraged to drink water.



Fruit for Schools Scheme



All children from Nursery to Year 2 will receive a piece of fresh fruit daily and they will be encouraged to take up their entitlement. Please inform us if your child is allergic to any foods. Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring in fruit only as a break time snack. Children should not bring in crisps, biscuits etc to eat at play time.



Pastoral Care



In school we are concerned not only for the educational progress but also for the personal and social development of your child. We try to combine high expectations with a sympathetic approach. Sometimes, however, problems do crop up and we involve parents at an early stage rather than leave it until later and we hope you as parents will do the same with us. A new baby in the family, a sudden death or some upset at home can cause your child to behave differently.

The Pastoral Team meet regularly to discuss children who are vulnerable. Our Pastoral Mentor, Miss Culley is available to discuss any concerns you have. They will also arrange a meeting with the class teacher if you feel that is appropriate.



Child Protection



Our first concern is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. Should this be necessary we want to reassure you that any concerns we have about your child will then be fully discussed with you after we have talked with the other agency. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board has laid down the procedures we follow. If you wish to know more about this procedure, please speak to **Mr Phillips** who is our designated Child Protection Teacher.

Parents should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow procedures and inform Children's Services of their concern.

Parents will not always be fully informed of concerns, unless staff are certain that the safety of the child will not be prejudiced by their so doing.

Safeguarding

All staff having regular contact with children in our school have enhanced DBS clearance, renewed every 3 years. We welcome volunteer support in school but all volunteers must also be DBS cleared. All visitors must sign in on arrival and will be provided with a visitor's badge.



Security



It is impossible to make school into a fortress but we have taken measures to try to make sure your child is as safe as possible. The main entrance has a video security system, the door is locked and access is controlled. Playground gates are locked during play times and we would ask that if **you are late**, that you bring your child to the **school office** since all other doors are locked.



Extended Schools



The school provides a range of activities beyond the normal school day to meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community. Childcare is available from 7.30am with the **Breakfast Club** and until 6pm with Fun 4 Kidz (based in the L30 Centre)

The Breakfast Club is on site and costs £3.00 per session, this is also bookable and payable via the app. Please note, we ask that this is paid in advance or on the day. Arrears may mean that your child loses their place. Due to strict ratios, we are currently unable to allow Nursery children to attend breakfast club and there are a limited number of places for children in Reception. Application forms are available in school. Unfortunately

Parents/ Friends / Staff Association (PFSA)

We have a parent, staff and friends of St Benedict's group who meet to organise family events and raise money for our school. Their support is very much appreciated and we are always looking for new volunteers

We consider the school community to be not only those with daily involvement but also the wider local community and our partnership with other schools. This partnership is encouraged in order to foster all aspects of your child's development.



Parent/Teacher Meetings



Parent/guardian meetings are held 3 times a year

- Autumn Term – October/November to discuss how your child has settled in and the curriculum planned for the forthcoming year
- Spring Term – To view your child's work and discuss his/her progress
- Summer Term – July to discuss your child's report and annual progress

Annual Reports

Parents are sent a written report at the end of each academic year outlining children's progress, attitude to learning and performance against national end of year expectations.



Homework



We believe that homework can play an important part in our children's education. It can consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy. It is an integral part of learning covering a range of activities appropriate to the age, ability and interests of the children. Home activities include reading to parents, learning spellings and tables, written work, investigations and activities which encourage both academic and social skills and which promote independent learning.



Reading Homework



All children will be provided with a reading book to take home. It is of great benefit to the children if parents sign this diary and perhaps make additional comments. This gives school regular communication with you. There are homework files available for the infant children and homework bags available for the juniors. These can be purchased from the school office.



Children with Special Educational Needs



We seek to provide as wide a range of educational experience as possible for all our children to help them develop their skills and abilities to the full. Children with Special Educational Needs are given further support within the school to comply with the 1993 Education Act. The school has appointed a teacher with special responsibility for this area. If more specialised teaching is required than St Benedict's can provide, various provisions are made by the Local Authority. During all stages, parents are consulted and have the right to make decisions concerning their child. All children study the statutory range of National Curriculum subjects, as we believe that all children have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We operate a variety of support systems including

- Additional Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- One to One programmes
- Booster Classes
- Parents will be involved and will be kept informed if there is concern about their child's progress

At St Benedict's we are committed to early identification of abilities or needs. Our Special Needs Co-ordinator is Ms Carrington.



Able Children



It is our desire that all children fulfil their full potential, including those with particular talents, gifts and abilities. We aim to challenge those with particular aptitudes and skills.

The school has a policy on Able, Gifted and Talented Children



School Charging Policy



The school values and encourages visits to places of interest linked to the National Curriculum and will continue to seek parental support for them.

Government legislation requires the school make it clear that parents are under no obligation to contribute to school visits which take place during school hours and also to state that non-payment will not preclude a child from taking part. In practice, therefore, since school visits must be self-financing, they will only take place if sufficient voluntary parental contributions are received.



School Levy



Catholic schools are maintained in a partnership with the LA and remain under Catholic control, having a majority of Governors appointed by the Trustees with the power to control their own admissions policy so that Catholics can send their child to a Catholic School. This control comes at a cost to the Catholic Community, which has to pay 10% of all capital buildings work (the external fabric of the school).

At present there is an annual appeal for £10.00 per family.

The Catholic community has always been generous in supporting Catholic Education in the Archdiocese.



Complaints Procedure



If you have a problem or concern, we ask you to initially talk it over with the class teacher. If you are not satisfied, we ask you to speak to the Headteacher.

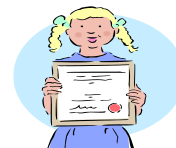
Serious concerns will be dealt with by the Headteacher so that an investigation can take place.

If you feel the problem is still not resolved, we ask you to contact the Chair of Governors and then the LA.

Detailed guidance on the procedure for complaints is available in school.



Positive Behaviour Policy



This is integrally linked to living out our Catholic Ethos, for every member of the school community to feel valued and respected and for all persons to be treated fairly.

The School's Positive Behaviour Policy is designed to support the way in which members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. We want an environment where all feel happy, safe and secure.

The school's approach is mirrored in each classroom. We advocate that all follow a small number of simple promises (see foyer), that each person chooses the behaviour they follow, each person owns their behaviour. We actively praise, encourage and reward good behaviour through class charts, through a weekly team system, whereby each child is part of one of four teams and the winning team is rewarded the following week.

Sanctions are applied in a graduated manner, proportionate and clearly understood. (For fuller description see Website – Positive Behaviour Policy.)



Educational Visits/Out of Hours Clubs



Curricular activities, (i.e. sports matches, festivals, swimming, choir, clubs), which take place off site or out of normal hours will be viewed in line with the Positive Behaviour policy and a relevant list of expectations should be understood by the children. Health and safety is paramount.

School will take an interest in behaviour when children are off the premises within our community. The most likely course of action would be an appropriate discussion with the child, perhaps involving the parents, depending on the nature of the incident.

Major Incidents

These will be brought immediately to the attention of the Headteacher/Senior Management Team. These are incidents which bring teaching or learning to a total halt, or those in which the child puts his/her own safety, or that of others, at risk. Parents will be notified immediately



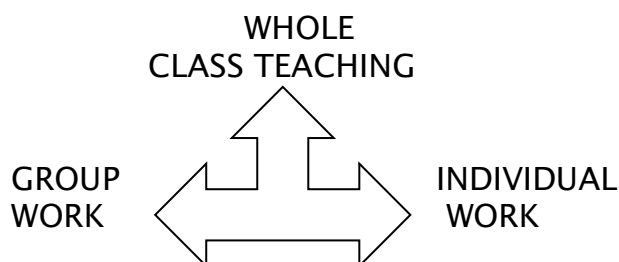
Curriculum



Mission Statement Quote,

*‘To provide a centre of educational excellence
which meets the needs of every individual’*

How do we organise children’s work?



In any week children will experience a variety of working patterns which balance individual, group and class work. They will encounter a range of activities which may include listening, observing, questioning and discussing, active participation in reading and writing, practical work and problem solving. Much has been done to make the school a safe, pleasant, vibrant and stimulating learning environment.



Foundation Stage Curriculum



We believe that the Early Years provide, not only the foundation for future learning, but have intrinsic value in developing children socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually.

The curriculum is presently broken down into seven areas of learning as follows:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Mathematical Development
- Literacy
- Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Expressive Art and Design

In addition, as we are a Catholic School the children also follow the Archdiocesan 'Come and See' syllabus alongside the rest of the school.

The Foundation Stage (nursery and reception classes) adopt a 'play based' curriculum with emphasis being placed on the outdoor classroom. You are very welcome to come along and see this in action.

The Primary Curriculum

The Curriculum Statement can be seen on the school's website along with Curriculum plans for each year group. These are only an outline and staff have flexibility to alter time allocations or explore other topics of interest that arise.

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Religious Education



This is a Roman Catholic School and the Religious Education it provides is in accordance with the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Religious Education will be provided within a timetable throughout the school according to the 'Come and See' syllabus authorised by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. The aim of the school is to interpret human knowledge to its pupils in the light of the Gospel, with the school community contributing to the spiritual and moral formation of the pupils as well as their intellectual and physical development. As a result, the withdrawal of pupils from formal religious education or worship would not isolate them from the Catholic teaching which the school gives and no specific arrangements for withdrawal are in operation at present.

An act of daily worship takes place in either class groups or Key Stage assemblies. Pupils celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist in Year 3 through the Parish preparation programme and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Year 5. Father Bruce Waller, our Parish Priest, frequently visits the children in school.

St Benedict's believe in the statement the Bishops made in 1988

'Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It should provide the context for, and substantially shape, the school curriculum and offer living experience of the life of faith...It stamps the Catholic School in every aspect of its operations with its distinctive Catholic character'

Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Relationships, Health and Sex Education is taught in accordance with the Governors approval, it is based on Christian principles and is related to children's stages of development as they move through the school. Sex Education is taught throughout the school, following the programme 'A Journey in Love'.



Spanish



Schools are obliged to introduce children to a Modern Foreign Language. At St Benedict's we have chosen to develop children's application and interest of Spanish. Every class dedicates a short session each week to the teaching of Spanish.

Out of School Clubs

Due to the enthusiasm of staff, the school is committed to provide children across the school opportunities to enrich the basic curriculum. These change year on year but for example this year included:

Boys and Girls Football, Cricket, Dance, Drama, Gymnastics, Choir, RM Maths, Netball and Play leaders are just some of the many clubs and activities provided during the year.

Children's University

Children can aspire to gain as many credits as possible for the extra curricular programmes in which they take part. If they gain a sufficient total at the end of each Key Stage, they 'graduate' at a special ceremony which recognises their achievement. They receive a diploma presented at a local University.

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Home School Agreement

Parents and school will try to:

The standard of education

- Encourage children to work hard and take pride in their achievements. School will support all children, implementing any special needs which may be required to help them reach their full potential.

The ethos of the school

- Work for a secure, supportive Catholic environment where individual needs are paramount and children and the school community strive to learn and love together.

Regular and punctual attendance

- Encourage children in prompt and regular attendance.

Discipline and behaviour

- Encourage children to keep school rules, be polite and help to prepare them to take their place in the community. In turn, staff will listen to the children and treat them fairly.

Homework

- Support children in learning at home.

The information school and parents will give one another

- Meet at parents' evenings, discuss progress, attend school events and keep one another informed.

More information is contained in the current edition of the school prospectus. We hold Termly parents' meetings and issue an annual written report about our school.

Signed on behalf of St Benedict's School Headteacher

Signed Parent/Guardian

Signed Pupil

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Photographic/Video Consent Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Name of Child.....

Throughout each school year a range of photographs are taken in school. We may use these images in our school displays, school prospectus or in other printed publications that we produce, as well as on the website we are developing. We may also take video or webcam recordings for school-to-school conferences, monitoring, or other educational use.

From time to time the media will take photographs or film footage of events within school. Pupils may appear in these images, which may appear in local or national newspapers, or on televised news programmes.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission before we can photograph or make any recordings of your child. Please answer questions 1 to 4 below, then sign and date the form where shown.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Please circle your answer.

1. May we use your child's photograph (unidentified), in displays, in the school prospectus and other printed publications that we produce for promotional purposes?
Yes/No
2. May we use your child's image (unidentified) on our website? Yes/No
3. May we record your child's image (unidentified) on video or webcam? Yes/No
4. Do you consent to your child being photographed or filmed in press events by the school? Yes/No
5. Do you consent to your child's name being published with a press Photograph? Yes/No
6. Do you consent to your child's image being published on our Twitter account? Yes/No

Please note that websites can be viewed throughout the world and not just in the United Kingdom, where UK law applies.

Please also note that the conditions for use of these photographs are on the back of this form.

I have read and understood the conditions of use on the back of this form.

Parent's/guardian's signature.....

Date.....

Name

(in block capitals):.....

Conditions of school use

1. This form is valid for the time your child attends St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, from the date you sign it. It is your responsibility to let us know if you want to withdraw or change your agreement at any time.
2. We, the school, will not use the personal details or full names (which means first name and surname) of any child in a photographic image on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in any of our other printed publications or displays.
3. We do not include personal e-mail or postal addresses, or telephone or fax numbers on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in other printed publications.
4. If we use photographs of individual pupils, we will not use the name of that child in the accompanying text or video caption, unless we have your agreement.
5. If we name a pupil in the text, we will not use a photograph of that child to accompany the article.
6. We may include pictures of pupils and teachers that have been drawn by the pupils.
7. We may use group or class photographs or footage with very general labels, such as "science lesson" or "making Christmas decorations" or an alphabetical list of names.
8. We will only use images of pupils who are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of such images being used inappropriately.
9. As a child's parents/guardian, we agree that if we take photographs or video recordings of our children which include other pupils, we will use these for personal and family use only. I/we understand that where consent has not been obtained from the other parents for any other use, we could be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 if we used our recordings for any wider purpose.