

BLESSED JOHN DUCKETT RC PRIMARY



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



SCHOOL BROCHURE



BLESSED JOHN DUCKETT RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School opened 6th May 1988 by Keith Grimshaw, Director of Education.

The School caters for children 3-11 years in the primary range.

We hope that this school brochure will help you and your child to understand more about our School community.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*"Caring relationships
and the principles of
Catholic education
underpin the school's
work as a community of
faith and learning."*

OFSTED

Blessed John Duckett RCVA Primary School
Smith Street, Tow Law, County Durham, DL13 4AU

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MISSION STATEMENT

Blessed John Duckett School is a Catholic School and God's love is at the centre of our community.

We experience prayer and worship together, share and recognise pupils' understanding and deepening of the Christian faith.

By working together, we strive to meet the spiritual, pastoral and academic needs of our children and community.

We demonstrate our love by caring for God's world and the diverse people in it.

We aim for respect, fairness and justice in all we do.

"Pupils make good progress within an environment where they are nurtured and encouraged to have positive attitudes to learning and each other."

OFSTED

THE AIMS OF OUR SCHOOL

At Blessed John Duckett School, we aim to establish a secure environment in which children feel happy and are given the opportunities to reach their full potential, in a warm, Christian atmosphere.

We believe that children learn from good example and we encourage co-operation and self-discipline at all times. We encourage children to take responsibility for their own actions and to show a caring attitude towards others.

We aim to provide the children with a broad balanced curriculum and we use National Curriculum and foundation Stage guidelines as a basis for all our teaching. We see children as individuals, and as individuals we cater for their specific needs.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and young people. Our premises are kept to a high safety standard with secure access, regular inspections and risk assessments.

However, the safety of children is everyone's responsibility. If anyone has any concerns for a child or young person's wellbeing, they have a duty to pass on information to the designated person in school (Headteacher) in order to help keep that child safe. As a school we follow Durham's Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures and guidelines and all staff receive training relevant to their role at induction and throughout employment at the school.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Parents, Governors and other interested persons have a right of access to a range of documents, which are available in school or on the website.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We ask parents to support us within the classroom and on school visits. We very much welcome parents into school and we feel it important that links are maintained.

We endeavour to keep parents informed of events and activities through our fortnightly newsletter, The Bugle. We also keep parents up to date with their children's progress at school and there are open evenings to which parents are invited to come along and to chat with the class teacher.

We have an **open door** policy and staff and Headteacher are prepared to discuss any concerns informally at a reasonable time of the school day. If parents have a serious concern or indeed a complaint, please contact the school to make an appointment to discuss the matter.

If needed, full details are included in our Complaints Procedures, available from school or on our website.

"Parents and carers unanimously agree that their children are safe in school."

OFSTED

PASTORAL CARE , SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Catholic faith underpins everything we do in school. We regard every child and person as precious and unique. The care, support and respect we offer each child are the cornerstone to build on their life skills, developing an understanding of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today. All staff show an interest in pupils' achievement and development and there are systems within school to celebrate successes and achievements. Children's views are valued and they are given a voice within our School Council.

At Blessed John Duckett School we promote the dignity and equity of all people. To support this we have a range of policies, all of which may be viewed at school or on the website.

"Integrated opportunities to learn outside the classroom within the school's inspiring rural setting make learning relevant and stimulating, while powerfully promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development."

OFSTED



THE SCHOOL DAY

Morning Session

Early Years	9.00am - 12 Noon
KS 1	9.00am - 11.45am
KS 2	9.00am - 12.10pm

Afternoon Session

Early Years	12.30pm - 3.30pm
KS 1	1.00pm - 3.15pm
KS 2	1.00pm - 3.15pm

The children are discouraged from arriving at school too early, as teaching staff are not considered to be in Loco Parentis until 8.50am. Children will only be allowed into school in inclement weather.

Within early Years other arrangements may be made - please consult the Headteacher.

If a child is required for an appointment or any other reason during school time they **MUST** be collected from the school premises by a parent or a nominated adult by prior arrangement.

ACTIVITY CLUB

If parents work, it is possible for children to be dropped off at school at 8.30am and collected at 4.30pm. The provision of the after school club is subject to uptake, and there is a charge for the service. If this would be of interest to you, please contact the School Office or Headteacher.

LATENESS

If a child arrives after 9.05am he/she will be marked as 'late' in the register. This may affect their termly attendance record. It may also mean that children will be unable to achieve a full attendance award. If a child arrives in school after 9.30am, he/she will be marked absent for the morning session. Continued lateness may also trigger a visit from the Education Welfare Officer.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

If your child is ill, please keep him/her at home until he/she is fully recovered.

It is important that parents contact the school on the child's **first day** of absence to confirm the reason for not attending school and that this is supported by a note upon the child's return.

If the school is not informed of the reason for a child not attending, then each absentee's parent/guardian will be contacted by telephone at approximately 9.30am ensuring that there is a sound reason for the absence.

The school has a computerised attendance system and it is essential that all absence is reported to school. Any unexplained absence will be termed as 'unauthorised'. School absence is monitored by Durham County's education Welfare Officers who may visit the family home if absence becomes a concern.

Anyone taking a family holiday or is looking to take their child out of school during term time is asked to complete a request form for 'authorised absence' in advance. Please

note that holidays can only be authorised in **exceptional** circumstances and **if** previous attendance is above **95%**. For further information please refer to the Attendance Policy, available in school or on the website.

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Most children transfer at 11+ to St John's School and Sixth form College, Bishop Auckland and Wolsingham Comprehensive though some may transfer to other comprehensive schools.

Links are well-established with these schools, and liaison is also maintained with other secondary schools, to which children may transfer.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We hope to encourage self-discipline in the children and to make them responsible for their own actions. A 'House System' exists and special awards are given weekly, in order to encourage high standards of behaviour and performance, as well as promoting a feeling of co-operation amongst the pupils.

Full details are set out in our policy guidelines which may be viewed in school. or on the website.

ACCESSIBILITY

Blessed John Duckett School has a long-standing commitment to equality of opportunity. We work together to meet the needs of our children and community and celebrate in all its diversity. Where this exists, all staff and learners work in a more rewarding and less stressful environment, one free from prejudice and harassment and one more likely to enhance performance and achievement.



MORE ABLE AND TALENTED

These pupils have a range of differing needs and attainment may be varied - some may show evidence of high attainment across a wide range of subjects, or demonstrate high levels of attainment in particular subjects or aspects of their work. These needs are identified through the continuous monitoring and evaluation of our children.

SPECIAL NEEDS

At Blessed John Duckett, we aim to make sure that all children's educational needs are identified, assessed and provided for as early as possible.

We aim to work in partnership with parents involving them at every stage.

We aim to provide and maintain educational provision which supports the needs of all children in the school.



HEALTH AND WELFARE

We rely on parents to inform us if head lice are discovered, so that we may advise on how to deal with them.

Likewise, if your child contracts an infectious disease, the school should be informed.

Please make sure that you complete an Emergency Contact Form so that we can get in touch if your child is ill and needs to be sent home. It is also necessary to inform us if any changes occur to information previously held e.g. mobile phone numbers.

If your child is not well enough to participate fully in the school day, they should remain at home, as it is unfair to your child and others around them.

MEDICINES

In some cases doctors prescribe medicines and say a child is fit for school. In this event, written permission must be given for medicine to be administered and the exact amount of medicine be sent to school. Medicines which are not prescribed by a doctor, and do not



bear the child's name on the label cannot be administered by school staff. Please see full details in 'Administration of Medication in Schools Policy' document available in school or on the website.

SCHOOL MEALS

Our kitchen staff provide good, nutritional meals which, on occasion are supplemented with produce the children have grown in the school garden. Children pre-order their meals so that they get their preferred choice; and we regularly invite parents into school to amply our lunches.

Children may bring a packed lunch provided it is healthy, but drinks are not allowed as all children are provided with chilled filtered water. If a child wishes to transfer from school meals to packed lunches, or vice versa, written notice must be given and may change at the beginning of a new menu cycle.

The office staff must see evidence of income support in order for pupils to be entitled to free school meals.

THE CURRICULUM



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To meet the needs of all the children in our care, we aim to develop an atmosphere of Catholic values, practices and knowledge.

Children are actively involved in collective worship, taking part in class assemblies, school masses and liturgy services. Parents and carers are always welcome to attend.

We begin and end each school day with an act of worship to meet the spiritual needs of each child. Collective worship can take place in individual classrooms or as a whole school activity.

Our religious education presents an engaging and comprehensive curriculum which is the basis of the knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Our curriculum follows the programme of *Come and See* and is taught through the process of 'explore, reveal and respond'. Key Stage 2 also follows the *Sacramental programme* and we encourage families and the parish community to be involved in our Sacramental preparation.

Parents may withdraw their child from the teaching of religious education and the daily act of worship if they so wish.



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

Education in relationships and sex is delivered mainly through our RE curriculum and is based on the teachings of the Church. Learning is supported through other subject areas such as Science, PE, PSHE and our 'Statements to Live By' programme.

We aim to answer children's questions in a sensitive manner at the appropriate level of the children's understanding.

Teachers are asked to answer questions honestly, taking care that, especially in the case of younger children, answers are simple and straightforward and do not give rise to confusion or anxiety.

All children will be encouraged to refer to their parents for further information and, should it be though necessary by the Headteacher, parents may be contacted.

Our school nurse is available to discuss any health problems or concerns that parents may have with their children. Contact details are available from school.



EARLY YEARS

Our Early Years Unit caters for children between three and five years old. The Early Years Coordinator is a full-time, qualified teacher and she is supported by experienced teaching assistants, all of whom are qualified and DBS checked. Although children attend nursery officially the term after their third birthday, we do invite them in for an induction period as soon as they are three.

The nursery children attend 5 three hour sessions. They have a separate entrance and learn through appropriate play experiences.

There are opportunities for the children to move about within the whole area, sharing equipment and experiences.

The unit gives children the best possible start to school life. For further information please ask for a copy of our Early Years brochure.

Please note that if your child has a place in the Nursery this does not mean that he/she will automatically get a place in school.



PE

We believe that physical education, experienced in a safe, engaging and supportive environment, is a significant factor in developing our children's physical competence and confidence.

We promote physical skilfulness, physical development and knowledge of the body in action through practise of fundamental movement skills, team games, dance, gymnastics, athletics, swimming and outdoor and adventure. We aim to give a stimulating, enjoyable and appropriately challenging learning experience.

Children are given the opportunity throughout the school to take part in competitions both at intra-school level and against other schools to encourage co-operation, problem solving skills and creative thinking to build good sportsmanship. We also provide a range of after school clubs that aim to consolidate, and strengthen what is learned in class.

Our children are also encouraged to appreciate the importance of a healthy lifestyle and be aware of the factors that affect health and fitness. We are lucky enough to live in a beautiful rural environment and we take full advantage of this by getting out into the fresh air and enjoying the outdoors.

THE CURRICULUM



ENGLISH

The ability to use language effectively is at the heart of all learning.

Speaking and Listening

Giving, receiving and following instructions accurately, listening to points of view, expressing an opinion, sharing ideas, explaining, reporting and recounting are vital to successful language development and are skills essential to every area of the curriculum. Children are encouraged to speak confidently and to extend a fluency in language, through discussion, drama and role play.

Reading

At Blessed John Duckett, we ensure that all children experience many different kinds of books, story books, poetry, fiction and information. Our aim is that children develop a confident, interested and enthusiastic approach to books and reading. They are given the opportunity to become fluent and independent readers. We use a variety of books, schemes and approaches in the teaching of reading to meet the individual needs of the child. We believe it is important for parents to support their child through reading in the home.

Phonics

There is an emphasis on phonics in the early stages of teaching children to read in order to help them understand that letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words.

Writing

Some children will enjoy writing stories for their own sake; others find it easier if there is a purpose and/or an audience. To this end, it is our job to provide opportunities for children to select their own topics for writing, to write in a variety of forms, and to read, write, talk and listen to each other as well as the teacher. It is our aim that children appreciate and enjoy language and literature.

As a child's writing develops particular attention is given to punctuation and vocabulary. Correct spelling is very important and encouraged from the beginning of a child's learning. Children are also encouraged to produce written work of a high standard with clarity and style and are therefore taught correct letter formation, following a cohesive pattern throughout the school.

MATHEMATICS

We aim to provide a high-quality mathematics education for understanding the world, to foster positive attitudes, to develop the ability to reason mathematically, to cultivate an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, to promote enthusiasm and to encourage enjoyment and curiosity in order to enable children to become fluent in applying their mathematical knowledge to **solving** real life **problems** and meaningful investigations.

We identify and respond to the opportunities that exist for developing mathematics throughout the curriculum:

- Number
- Measurement
- Geometry
- Statistics (KS 2)
- Ratio and proportion (Yr 6)
- Algebra (Yr 6)

SCIENCE

At Blessed John Duckett, we believe that the most important aspect of science in the primary school is that children develop an enquiring mind and that they can approach problems or investigations in a scientific way through the disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.

This requires the development of specific skills, abilities and processes which can be learned through direct experience.

By experiencing a range of scientific investigation, children will develop careful observation and learn to use all of their senses. They will be able to estimate, measure, sort and classify, record and interpret findings, hypothesise and construct fair tests. A developed understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science will help pupils to answer scientific questions about the world around them, and provide the knowledge to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

THE CURRICULUM



COMPUTING

We believe that a high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with mathematics, science, and design technology, providing insights into both natural and artificial systems and as such is taught in a cross curricular way.

The core of computing is **computer science**, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become **digitally literate** – able to use, express themselves and develop their ideas through information and communication technology.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Design and technology is very much a practical subject whereby pupils are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination in order to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a range of contexts. Pupils will draw on the skills and knowledge that they have learnt in other subjects, such as Mathematics and Science, to help them to determine solutions as well as learning how to work with a variety of tools and materials. Through the design and make process, they will evaluate and refine their ideas and take time to consider aspects of past and present design features in everyday life.



MUSIC

We hope to inspire a love of music at the very beginning of our pupils' journey through school, as we believe a good music curriculum can raise self-confidence, develop creativity and generate a sense of achievement.

Music is explored over a range of subject areas giving pupils an opportunity to learn songs of increasing complexity, experience beat and rhythm and use of tuned and untuned instruments. Children are also offered the opportunity to learn violin with a trained violin teacher.

We love to gather together to celebrate and share our creative talents, and we regularly perform collaboratively and solo to parents through Christmas plays, assemblies and masses.



ART

At Blessed John Duckett our aim is to engage, inspire and challenge pupils through our art curriculum. Our art projects are often stimulated by our termly topic where pupils respond to ideas, stories, traditions and cultures that they have learned about in other subjects. They are also encouraged to bring in ideas from their own experiences and interests.

Children are taught a range of techniques and skills which help them become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and craft using a variety of equipment and styles.

We encourage our children to think critically about the work they have produced through sketch books, collaborative work and experimentation.

Children build on their knowledge of art by learning about artists from the past and present, craft makers, and designers to gain a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

THE CURRICULUM



GEOGRAPHY

Our geography curriculum is designed to develop a curiosity and fascination about the world. Children will develop their knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. Children will learn about the formation of landscapes and environments and look closely at maps, plans and globes at different complexity scales.



HISTORY

We aim to help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. History lessons will inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past and equip our pupils to ask questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop perspective and judgement. The history curriculum will help pupils to understand people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and our own local history.



MFL

Learning a foreign language provides an insight into a different culture, which is very important in today's multicultural society. The teaching of MFL fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world; enabling pupils to express their thoughts and ideas in another language as well as understand and respond to speakers, both orally and in writing. Language teaching equips pupils to study and work in other countries by encouraging them to speak confidently, write imaginatively and read fluently.



"Blessed John Duckett is a good Catholic primary school. The school is appreciated by pupils, strongly supported by parents and plays a very important place in the life of the parish and the town of Tow Law."

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