



The Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Unlocking Potential

★ Encouragement ★ Success ★ Effort ★ Enjoyment ★



Prospectus



Welcome to The Cathedral Catholic Primary School Prospectus

We have included information about everything you will need to know throughout your child's time here at The Cathedral Catholic Primary School, from their very first days, to our very popular Out of School Club.

A brochure has its limitations however, so I would encourage you to come and visit us if you have not already done so, and see our school in action. If there is anything that you would like to know that this document does not cover or if you would like to arrange to look round our school, we would be delighted to help.

Please contact us on **01524 64686** or **bursar@cathedral.lancs.sch.uk**

We look forward to working with you to provide the best possible education your children's future.

www.cathedral.lancs.sch.uk

MISSION STATEMENT

At The Cathedral Catholic School we are safe and cared for; we make Christ known and loved, using his example to strive for excellence in all we do.

In close partnership with parents and the parish of The Cathedral and St Thomas More, we aim to deliver an outstanding and distinctive Catholic education with Christ at it's heart. Each person's unique value is recognised and nurtured so that, through God's grace we can grow, learn and realise our full potential.

We use our gifts and talents for the glory of God and in the loving service of others, proclaiming the Gospel and striving for the values of the Kingdom of God.

We profess our faith proudly and recognise that we are called to a loving relationship with God through the sacraments, scripture and prayer.





HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am very proud to welcome you to the Cathedral Catholic Primary School which is a vibrant learning community situated in the heart of the beautiful historic city of Lancaster where our children live, learn and grow in God's love.

The school has 7 classrooms; one for each year group as well as a newly refurbished library and nurture room. The clear, bright corridors are used for displaying a variety of work. School meals are cooked on the premises and served in the large, multi-purpose hall.

We have established a school community that is committed, motivated and determined. We have one goal in common: to make The Cathedral Catholic Primary School an excellent school and a fabulous place to be. Our children are making good progress, they are happy and proud of this school. We very much hope that parents and guardians of the pupils entrusted to our care will become involved in the life of the school. Accordingly, we look forward to working with you, and the parishes, as we seek to foster and develop the intellectual, spiritual and social growth of our young people.

I hope you will visit our school and view some of the different activities undertaken by our pupils as well as getting a flavour of our rich and stimulating curriculum.

I look forward to meeting you,

Mrs Nicola Holt

Headteacher



THE CONTEXT OF OUR SCHOOL

The Cathedral is a voluntary aided Catholic primary school which serves the parishes of The Cathedral and St Thomas Moore. We seek to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values in our words and deeds, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeate every aspect of the school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. We also provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral support. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected.

The school's origins date back to 1897 when records show that lessons commenced in what is now the Diocesan Education Centre. Many changes have taken place since that time and the present school building is increasingly equipped to provide education for the twenty-first century. With our wonderful building comes the challenge and responsibility of creating a community with Christ at its centre. The Cathedral is a community where everyone is valued, nurtured and encouraged to fulfil their God-given potential.

We have worked hard over the last few years to ensure that our magnificent, historical building is fit for purpose and are confident that we can provide your child with the very best opportunities during their important first years at school.





SCHOOL DAY

The day starts at 8:45am when learning begins. Parents are welcome to bring their child onto the playground where teachers welcome them to a new day. At The Cathedral Catholic Primary School, we know that punctuality is very important and hope that you will support us by ensuring that your child arrives at school on time. On arrival children choose their lunch using the Parent Pay app and electronic registration takes place.

Foundation and Key Stage 1 have two 15 minutes breaks during the day which includes milk and snack time. Key Stage 2 have one 15 minute break in the morning. As a healthy school we encourage all children to think and eat healthily and therefore at break times children bring pieces of fruit or vegetables. We have made the decision not to allow sweets and biscuits at these times.

Lunchtime is staggered so all children have one hour in total.

At the end of the day we ask you to help us to ensure the safety of your child, by collecting them promptly at 3:15pm. It is important for us to know that all children have been collected safely so please let us know if you have arranged for someone else to collect your child.

WORKING WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

At The Cathedral Catholic Primary School, we place great value on the working relationship we have developed with our parents. We recognise the importance of working together and are interested in your views and opinions. We pride ourselves on being a listening school and would therefore always encourage you to share your concerns with us.

To keep you informed we use our school website and a weekly newsletter which provide updates and an overview of all the learning opportunities your child will meet. The school parent app is the place to find out about events, dates and news. It is available to install from the Appstore or Google Play. Ensure push notifications are turned on to receive all the latest news!

Links with the Parish are constantly developing with the sharing of mass, invitations to parishioners to attend school events and weekly parish newsletters available on our school website. Fr Stephen & Fr John Paul are regular visitors to school and this helps to strengthen the links between Parish and school. We are always striving to develop these further and welcome any new ideas.

Within school we also have very supportive parents who contribute greatly to the life of our school through their work with the PTA. In working together, parents and staff help to ensure that children have every opportunity to develop their learning. Over the years successful fund raising has also helped with the purchase of essential equipment and resources which have greatly benefited the education of many. Recent purchases have included iPads, laptops and charging trolleys, library furniture and the playground equipment for both playgrounds. As a parent of the school, you are automatically a member of the PTA and your views and suggestions are welcome.

The school enjoys close links with the local community. Fire, police and health services regularly visit school to talk about personal health and safety. Children are involved in local initiatives and represent the school at a variety of events during the course of the school year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We expect all children to wear school uniform. The majority of our uniform is available for you to order from the Uniform and Leisurewear Company, Common Garden Street, Lancaster. The tartan school skirt is only available from the school office.

- The only jewellery allowed in school is a digital / analogue wrist watch. Rec/Key Stage 1 children must not wear any jewellery. Key Stage 2 children may wear a PAIR of small, plain studs.
- Please ensure that your child's hair style / colour is appropriate for school. Bright colours, shaven patterns or gelled styles are not suitable for school. Hair past shoulder-length should be tied back.
- Black shoes with either velcro, buckle or laces.
- Please label all clothing clearly. Thank you

Uniform list:

- tartan skirt (black socks / tights)
- black trousers
- White shirt & school tie
- Jumper / cardigan with logo (sleeveless jumper also available)
- black shorts for PE
- white t-shirt for PE
- black tracksuit bottoms for PE
- black school pumps
- PE hoodie (optional)
- School 'book bag'
- Yellow gingham summer dress (optional, seasonal)
- Boys - black shorts (optional, seasonal)





EARLY YEARS

At The Cathedral Catholic Primary school we welcome up to 30 children each year into our newly refurbished indoor and outdoor reception classrooms. We value each and every child and recognise their unique gifts and talents.

Our indoor classroom has areas of continuous provision which the children can access independently including, painting, playdough, role play, book area, small world and construction as well as writing, maths and puppet play. Our outdoor classroom has a sensory garden with fragrant herbs, a water feature, a greenhouse and peaceful seating area. There is also a wicker house for role play, sand area, water area and a large construction area with crates, tyres and wooden logs. Children can use their imagination to create an airport, a train station or a flying car-the possibilities are endless!

We keep our timetable very flexible, especially in the first half term when everything is new to the children. This enables us to follow their interests and ensure that they are fully engrossed in their play and learning. The EYFS framework enables us to tailor the curriculum to meet their needs, make careful observations of their achievements and set targets to support and extend children's learning appropriately. This ensures that our children reach their potential and develop a love of learning.



Children are taught phonics from the very start of term and through fun, playful learning they quickly pick up the letters and sounds necessary to help them learn to read and write. We have an array of home readers which meet their developing phonics levels as well as a very well-resourced library to encourage the whole family to share books and stories together.

We are well staffed with a caring Early Years team who value the contribution that parents make. We acknowledge that you are the child's first and most enduring educators and strive to work in partnership with you whilst your child is in our care. We have a strong induction programme which ensures your child will get to know us long before they start school.

Once your child starts school you are all welcome to join us for fund raising days, themed activity days, concerts including a Harvest Festival, class worship assemblies, the Nativity play, Easter celebrations and Sports Day.



INCLUSION

At The Cathedral Catholic Primary School, we are committed to inclusion and equal opportunities. We are proud of how we work closely with parents and other agencies in order to ensure that all pupils are able to successfully access the curriculum.

Our school population includes a wide range of different community groups and we are dedicated to ensuring that our school is a place where everyone feels welcome, cared for and encouraged, so that all children can learn. Our consistently high expectations and inclusive teaching practices ensure that The Cathedral School is a place where children feel confident and can achieve their best.

Our pupils have a range of different abilities and interests, beliefs and aspirations. Many of our pupils also speak other languages and are learning to speak English. At The Cathedral, we want all of our pupils to succeed and thoroughly enjoy their education. The staff at The Cathedral are experienced in teaching pupils with a wide range of abilities and are trained to use a variety of different techniques and intervention programmes to ensure all children can access the curriculum fully.

We welcome the involvement of parents and carers in decision making and we want to work closely with them so that our pupils can always give nothing but the best!

The Cathedral School encourages all children to have a voice in their learning environment, we ask children for their opinion if there are changes to be made within the school.





CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

At The Cathedral Catholic we place the curriculum at the heart of the school. Learning is at the centre of everything we do - it involves, and is participated in, by everyone in our whole community.

We strive to provide a rich, broad and balanced curriculum and have a strong commitment to guiding and supporting all children to succeed whatever their background or ability.

We have a commitment to providing engaging learning, which develops and challenges children, exciting their imagination.

In striving to achieve this we provide varied learning opportunities: out-of-doors, through play, in small groups, through art, music and sport, from each other, from adults, with parents, grandparents, formally and informally, by listening, by watching, and by doing.

We want our children to develop spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and academically. Most importantly we want them to take pride in their learning and as independent learners take responsibility for their own learning as they develop their relationship with God. Our daily practice of our learning and teaching policy demonstrates our commitment to raising standards and giving all children the opportunity to realise their full potential.

RE AND SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Catholic life of The Cathedral Catholic Primary School is rich in opportunities for children to encounter God and to deepen their relationship with Him as a loving, compassionate Father. On this page we aim to share with you and celebrate many of the elements which make our Catholic school so special and unique.

Curriculum RE encourages children to develop an enquiring mind about our purpose in the World and we explore topics based on our own experience. We meet Jesus in stories from scripture and discover a friend for life by talking to him in our own prayer and collective worship. We enjoy actively participating in drama for assemblies and liturgies throughout the church's calendar.

We encourage multi-cultural interests through looking at other world faiths and customs. Every person is valued and feels part of a caring community in school, within the parish and the worldwide family of God. This learning for life about living in God's world is the reason for our school's existence and creates our distinctive Christian ethos.

We value the role of parents as the first educators of their child and encourage a partnership between home, parish and school. We are involved in a parish/school partnership programme in preparation for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Parents are invited to learn alongside their children under the guidance of the Parish Priest. Through this involvement we aim to make the sacraments meaningful and deepen the faith of the whole family and a feeling of belonging to parish community.



ENHANCING AND EXTENDING THE CURRICULUM

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Year 4 children are invited to spend 2 nights at Castlerigg Manor. Set in Keswick, in the heart of the Lake District, it's a safe and unique environment where young people enjoy time out from the norm, to reflect on life and faith. Children have the chance to put the world of mobile phones and social media aside, enjoy the company of their peers, and grow in confidence and self-esteem.

Year 5 children have the opportunity to visit Borwick Hall for a week of Outdoor & Adventurous Activities during the Spring term. They are encouraged to challenge themselves and support each other as they canoe, climb, walk, scramble, and learn basic survival skills.

Year 6 residential is to a city which will include cultural visits such as the theatre or art galleries.

These residential visits are always remembered by the children as highlights of their life in primary school. All staff organising residential visits follow the guidance given by the LEA and adhere to the school's policy. Risk assessments are always carried out thoroughly prior to any educational visit by the party leaders and party members.

DAY VISITS / VISITORS

All classes arrange at least one visit / visitor per term to enhance or extend the curriculum for the class. Details of visits are always provided and adequate levels of supervision are always assured. We must seek voluntary contributions from parents to cover the cost of these visits.



HOME LEARNING

At The Cathedral Catholic Primary School, we view homework as an extension of the learning which takes place in school. Currently all children are asked to spend some time investigating, learning or practising the skills they are developing.

At Key Stage 2, children have a project book that they complete topic related home learning in. This changes on a half termly basis and includes activities that children can complete alongside people at home. The amount of pieces expected increases with age. These books are also used during Project book time on Friday in the school day. Children are given spellings online on a weekly basis and in their reading journals to learn.

At KS1 and Reception the emphasis is on reading, phonics and maths skills using an online system.

All children have a reading book that is brought home in their book bag. There is an expectation that parents listen to their child read every night in Reception and Y1-Y3, moving to more independent reading in Y4-Y6.





SCHOOL MEALS

All school meals are prepared and cooked on site. Lancashire County Council develop menus which meet the School Food Standards.

These menus aim to help children enjoy healthy balanced meals containing lower fat, protein items and plenty of starchy carbohydrates, accompanied by lots of seasonal vegetables, salad and fruit. Using healthier ingredients for the recipes and ideas from children the menus have been developed to meet the Government's School Food Standards.

Our children have the opportunity, through the School Council, to influence the menu and each day have the choice of 3 meals.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a free lunch under the Universal Infant Free School Meal Grant. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals or Pupil Premium, they will also receive a school meal each day. If you pay for school meals, the cost is competitive at £2.30 per day.

We have a system whereby the children can choose their own meals in the morning. This is working extremely well and allows us to discuss the different options with the children, encouraging them to try new foods.





WRAP AROUND CHILD CARE

The Cathedral Catholic Primary school has a before and after school club that is run by school. This provides a safe and engaging environment for parents' peace of mind. Activities are always varied so that children will always be entertained.

As a parent/carer your choice of childcare is a very important decision. At our breakfast and after school clubs you can be sure that your child will be in a safe, caring and fun environment with qualified & experienced staff that enjoy delivering play activities and opportunities.

All of our staff are passionate about playwork, fully DBS checked and are committed to providing the best possible individual care and excellent activities/workshops that inspire children's imagination. We aim to provide opportunities for children to develop positive relationships and friendships and above all have fun learning something new.

