



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

# *Prospectus*

2023 - 2024



*Seeing Christ In Ourselves and Others*



A Member Of  
**Bishop  
Hogarth**  
Catholic Education Trust

# Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Holy Family Catholic Primary School.

I am privileged to be the Head Teacher at this welcoming and caring school where everyone is encouraged to 'See Christ In Ourselves and Others' on a journey of learning, loving and laughing together.

At Holy Family, we very much see our school as a family. Among children and adults there is a real sense of belonging. We are a happy school, we are proud of all our children and they in turn, are proud to be part of our school family.

We promote Gospel values and virtues within school; every person is valued, nurtured and respected as an individual, made in the image of Christ. The promotion of these Gospel values also reinforces the British Values, equipping our pupils to be caring citizens.

We have the highest expectations of ourselves and of what our children can achieve. As a school we strive to inspire, enthuse and motivate all children to develop a lifelong love of learning and we believe that every child has the capacity to succeed. I would like our pupils to leave our school as confident, resilient learners who are fully equipped with all the skills necessary for 21<sup>st</sup> Century life and with memories that they and their families will treasure.

I hope that you will find the information useful and information. Please also take a look at our website for a small glimpse of what life is like in our wonderful school. The best way to learn more is by visiting and seeing our school at first hand. I am always happy to show prospective parents and visitors around.

Mrs Weatherall  
Head Teacher

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# Our Mission Statement & Vision

## Mission Statement

*'Seeing Christ In Ourselves and Others'*

Holy Family School aims to encourage all children to see Christ in themselves and others in a caring environment, which allows them the opportunities to develop to their full potential.

## School Vision

*'Our Vision is a school where children are nurtured, inspired, excel and are proud of their achievements.'*

In Holy Family School, we nurture the development of every child in a happy, caring and stimulating environment. We believe every child should have the best start in life and acquire these core abilities to read, to write, to be competent mathematicians and to be effective communicators.

Through excellence in teaching, we provide an enriching curriculum that engages our pupils, provides a diverse range of invaluable learning experiences and harnesses the use of technology to enhance their development.

Our pupils are inspired to learn, to reach their potential and to be proud of their achievements. We encourage each and every one of them to become independent, resilient and collaborative learners. As our pupils move through the school, they grow spiritually, emotionally and academically to become confident young people, who use their knowledge, skills and talents for the good of both themselves and others. We value our partnerships with parents and carers, parish, other schools, the wider community and we welcome their contribution to realising our vision.



*'My children love school. They are nurtured and believe in themselves.'*

Parental Questionnaire

# School Staff

**Head Teacher** Mrs J Weatherall

**Deputy Head Teacher** Mr M Shield

## Teachers

EYFS (Nursery)	-	Miss R Coleman
EYFS (Reception)	-	Miss C Wildsmith
Year 1	-	Miss V Smith & Mrs S Buchan
Year 2	-	Miss S Dove
Year 3	-	Miss K Ridley
Year 4	-	Mr B Thorpe
Year 5	-	Mr M Shield & Mrs M Mustard
Year 6	-	Miss L Elgie
Class Teacher	-	Mrs C Watmore
Trainee Teacher	-	Miss E Pawlett

## Teaching Assistants

Mrs J Allison  
Mrs P Backhouse  
Mrs H Crees  
Mrs L Lancaster  
Mrs K Metcalfe  
Mrs R Page  
Mr J Raper

## School Business Manager

Mrs B McLachlan

## Administrator

Mrs J Serginson

## Catering Staff & Sunrise Breakfast Club Staff

Mrs J Ridley & Miss M McAuley

## Caretaker & Cleaning Team

Mrs S King, Mrs G Bradley & Miss C Orchard

## Lunchtime Supervisors

Mrs J Lucas, Miss C Parker, Mrs J Roscoe, Mrs L Motson,  
Mrs G Bradley & Mrs A Freeman

## Sunset After School Club Staff

Mrs M McAuley & Mrs L Motson



# The School Day

- 7.45 am – Sunrise Breakfast Club
- 8.40 am – School Opens
- 9.00 am – Morning Registration
- 10.30 am – Morning Break
- 11.30 am – EYFS Lunch
- 12.00 pm – KS1 & KS2 Lunch
- 1.00 pm – Afternoon Registration
- 2.15 pm – Afternoon Break
- 3.25 pm – End of School for EYFS
- 3.30 pm – End of School for KS1 & KS2
- 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm – Sunset After School Club



## **Sunrise Breakfast Club**

The breakfast club is available each morning, during term time from 7.45 am. The cost is currently £5.00 per child per day, which includes breakfast of cereal, toast, fruit, yoghurt, juice, milk or water. During breakfast club the children are supervised at all times and they also have the option to take part in a number of fun activities. Staff also ensure that all children are taken to class for the start of the school day.

## **Sunset After School Club**

The after school club is available each day, during term time from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Attendance is split into two sessions, 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm, then 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Children are welcome to stay for just one session or both sessions, as required. The cost is currently £5.00 per session includes a snack, organised games and activities.

## **Illness & Absence**

It is important that children arrive at school between 8.40 am and 8.55 am, so they are ready for the start of the school day at 9.00 am. Any children arriving after this time will receive a late mark in the register. If children are going to be absent from school due to illness, we do request that parents and carers contact school by telephone or email before 9.15 am, with the reason for absence.

## **School Meals**

School meals are provided by the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust catering service. The menu has a varied choice of meals which are designed to suit all diets. As meals are prepared in our own kitchen, we are able to cater for children who have allergies, special dietary or medical needs. We are always happy to discuss any child's specific requirements.

There is no charge for children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 as they currently qualify for Universal Infant Free School Meals, an initiative funded by the Government to provide each child with a school meal, free of charge, every day.

For Children in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6, school meals are charged at £2.20 per day (£11.00 per week). We do also have children who prefer to bring a packed lunch instead.

*'Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'*

Proverbs 22:6



## *Our Curriculum*

*Our aim is to provide our children with an engaging, exciting and empowering curriculum that equips them both for today and tomorrow.*

At Holy Family School, the curriculum is designed to promote an enjoyment of learning, which is 'knowledge rich', recognises children's prior learning, provides first hand learning experiences, allows the children to develop interpersonal skills, builds resilience and empowers them to become creative and critical thinkers. Every child is recognised as a unique individual, made in the image of God. We celebrate and welcome differences within our school community, with a vision to respect and care for all, to make positive friendships and prepare them for life beyond primary school. We believe that it is important for all of our children to learn about and be proud of Darlington and its heritage, getting involved in local festivals and activities to foster a pride for their local area and be positive citizens within it. We want our children to also be aware of the wider world beyond Darlington and the lives of others throughout the world.

We believe that childhood should be a happy, investigative and enquiring time in our lives, where there are no limits to curiosity and there is a thirst for new experiences and knowledge. We are guided by our Trust Virtues, which are Resilience, Honesty, Compassion, Justice, Confidence, Respect and Self-belief. These promote positive attitudes to learning and life and which reflect the values and skills needed to promote responsibility for their own future success and the social conscience to help others.

We want children to leave Holy Family with a strong sense of belonging to a tightly knit and happy community, where they have the confident and skills to make good decisions, self-evaluate, make connections and become lifelong learners.





# Catholic Life

## **RE**

‘Seeing Christ in Ourselves and Others’ is at the heart of our Religious Education. We follow the ‘Come and See’ programme from Reception Class to Year 6. The programme has been developed to respond to the need of children in their faith journey, to enable them to grow in their religious literacy and understanding in a way that is coherent with current educational principles

## **Collective Worship**

Mrs Weatherall plans and leads collective worship with the whole school every Monday morning. Each week, collective worship is linked to the Gospel readings from Sunday Mass, as well as relevant themes linking to our liturgical year and diocesan themes such as, Year of Mary and Oscar Romero. On other days each class plan and deliver collective worship for their peers, guided by their Teacher. Again, this links to the liturgical year as well as events of the week.

‘Special Mentions’ for children’s achievements and celebrations from the week take place during our Friday collective worship. Each class also take it in turns to lead a liturgy for the whole school. Families and parishioners are invited to come along

## **First Holy Communion**

The First Holy Communion programme is available to children in Year 4 within Holy Family Parish, who are baptised Roman Catholic. The programme is organised and led by Parish Catechists. School staff work in partnership with the Parish to help the children prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

The First Holy Communion programme was implemented in 2011 by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Preparation sessions and Masses for children and families are held throughout the year, with the First Holy Communion Mass and celebration usually taking place in the Summer term.





# Early Years Foundation Stage

From September 2023, we are delighted to confirm that the Early Years Foundation Stage provision at Holy Family School now includes a Nursery Class and a Reception Class.

The Nursery offers both funded and paid nursery places to children aged 3 years old and is open during term time only. All children aged 3 years old are able to access 15 hours free childcare each week. Some families may also be entitled to 30 hours free child care. Please see our Nursery Prospectus and website for more information.

Pupils in Nursery and Reception Class follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. There are 7 areas of learning with 3 prime areas.

These areas include:

- ★ **Communication & Language**
- ★ **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**
- ★ **Physical Development**
- ★ Literacy
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Understanding The World
- ★ Expressive Arts & Design

We see reading as a key to a wealth of future learning and we have starting points based upon quality books. These will also include books about major festivals and seasons of the year. These topics then develop following children's interests, observations and ongoing assessments. Child initiated themes are encouraged for exploration and investigation.



# SEND

At Holy Family, we are committed to supporting the needs of all pupils by providing an inclusive curriculum to ensure that all children are nurtured to reach and achieve their full potential. We aim to provide a supportive environment in order to promote learning, enable personal growth and development.

The individual needs of all children are at the core of the carefully planned curriculum and activities. Fully qualified and experienced Teachers and Teaching Assistants ensure that all pupils are provided with the appropriate level of support alongside their peers. Staff like to develop a close working relationship with children, their families and any supporting outside agencies that may also come into school to support a child's learning and development

## Safeguarding

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.

The Safeguarding Policy and procedures at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, which includes the Nursery, are in place to ensure children are educated in a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence.





# Uniform

We are very proud of our uniform at Holy Family School and children always look incredibly smart. Items of uniform with the school logo are available from our current uniform supplier, Elizabeth's Embroidery. Details of how to order is available on our website. Other items in school colours are also available from other regular retailers.

- ★ Dark Grey Trousers
- ★ Dark Grey Skirt
- ★ Pale Blue Polo Shirt
- ★ Royal Blue School Sweatshirt or Cardigan
- ★ Black Shoes
  
- ★ Dark Grey Shorts (Summer Uniform)
- ★ Pale Blue Gingham Dress (Summer Uniform)

## **PE Kit**

- ★ White T-shirt
- ★ Black Shorts
- ★ Pumps/Trainers
  
- ★ School Bag
- ★ Royal Blue School Reading Folder

# *Extra Curricular & Enrichment*

## **Homework**

Homework is set on a regular basis. Children in Reception Class, will bring home reading books, phonics work and mathematics tasks.

## **Reading**

We would like children to read as much as possible, a minimum of 3 nights per week and learn multiplication tables. On each class page on our website there are details of recommended reads and links to different online resources to help children learn in a fun and interactive way.

## **Activities & Events**

Children have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities across each year group, such as swimming, musical instrument tuition, the school choir and sporting activities. All children get the chance to participate in a wide variety of events which we regularly attend along with other Primary Schools from the Darlington area, such as cross country, golf, football, hockey, tennis, tag rugby, netball, athletics, dance and swimming. Throughout the school year, we always try to have a wide range of lunch time and after school activities to appeal to all interests, these have included dance, sports, film club, music, Spanish and journalism.

## **School Trips**

Each class also enjoys a variety of age appropriate school trips and excursions which are often linked to their topic work in school. These have included visits to Beamish Museum, Holy Island in Northumberland, Darlington Hippodrome Theatre, Bowes Museum, Hall Hill Farm plus an annual residential trip for pupils in Year 6.

## **School Council**

We have an active School Council at Holy Family School. The Council members include representatives from each class. They have regular meetings with staff members and work on initiatives that the whole school can also be involved in.

## **Mini Vinnies**

Our Mini Vinnies work extremely hard to turn concern into action. They follow the simple formula 'See, Think, Do!' They actively try and find people or groups in need and help them. Their recent work has included collecting for the local food banks to help different local community areas and they collected hats, gloves and scarfs for a charity for homeless people.

# Our Community

## **Information for Families**

We send a weekly newsletter to families which provides details of events, outings, clubs and other school news. Newsletters are sent by email, but are also available on the website and Class Dojo.

Other information is available on the school website, [www.holyfamily.bhcet.org.uk](http://www.holyfamily.bhcet.org.uk) and posts are also added to the school Facebook page [@hollyfamilyprimary](https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyprimary). Families are also welcome to contact the school office with any queries or questions.

## **Parents & Carers In Partnership**

We understand and value a strong home school partnership. We welcome the support and co-operation of parents and family members and have an open door policy to enable feedback. We encourage parents and carers to talk to children about their day, help them with any homework tasks, listen to them read their favourite books and assist us in upholding good behaviour in school. Families are always invited to attend regular open evenings to discuss progress as well as other social occasions. We also have a number of family members who volunteer their time to come and listen to children read or attend outings and school visits. We are always very grateful to everyone for being so generous with their time.

## **Fundraising**

In addition, we have an active group of volunteers who have made an enormous contribution to school for many years. All fundraising events are held for the benefit of the children, to promote their education and curriculum enrichment at all levels. Staff and family members work throughout the year and organise a range of events. These events provide ideal opportunities to get to know others, as well as raising funds for the school. We hope that families will make every effort to support us.

## **Charity Work**

Supporting the work of local and national charities is something that is also very important to us. We actively raise money and awareness of many charitable organisations, including, The Royal British Legion, Children In Need, the Anti-bullying Alliance, Macmillan Cancer Support and CAFOD



# Term Dates

## 2023/2024/2025 School Term Dates

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>School Closes</u>	<u>School Opens For Teaching</u>
Summer 2023	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2023
Autumn Half Term 2023	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 2023	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October, 2023
Christmas 2023	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2023	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024
Spring Half Term 2024	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2024	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2024
Easter 2024	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024
May Day 2024	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2024 <i>School is closed for May Bank Holiday on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024</i>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024
Summer Half Term	2024 Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2024
Summer 2024	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2024	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2024
Autumn Half Term 2024	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2024	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024
Christmas 2024	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2024	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025
Spring Half Term 2025	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025
May Day 2025	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2025 <i>School is closed for May Bank Holiday on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2025</i>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025
Summer Half Term 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2025	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2025
Summer 2025	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July, 2025	







## *Local Governing Body*

Chair	-	Mr A Graham
Vice-Chair	-	Mr P Springhall
BHCET CEO	-	Mr M Shorten
Head Teacher	-	Mrs J Weatherall
Foundation	-	Father K Dixon
Foundation	-	Mrs C Parkinson
Foundation	-	Ms M Donlon
Elected Staff Representative	-	Mr M Shield
Elected Parent Representative	-	Mr P Martin



Fire exit

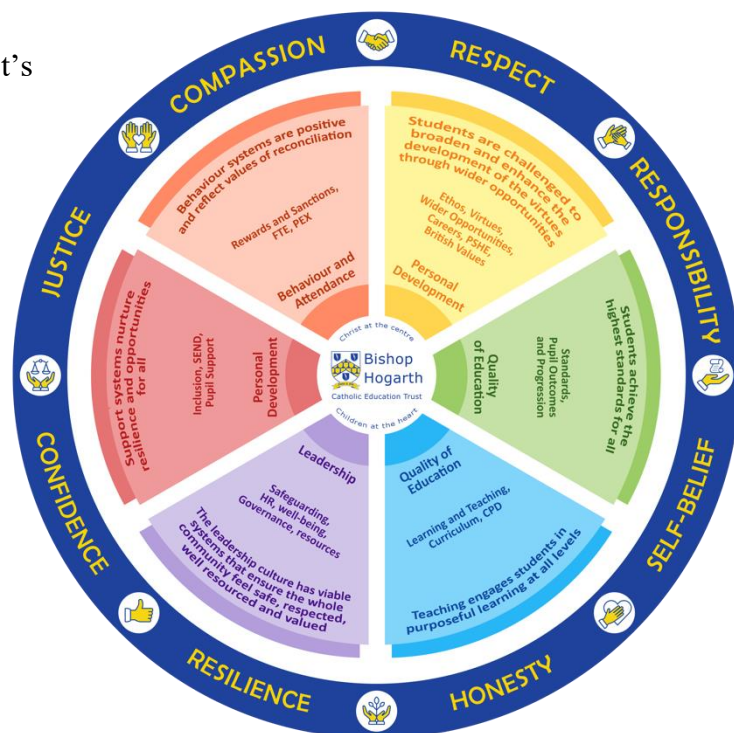
Holy Family  
Catholic Primary

# Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust

Holy Family Catholic Primary School is a proud member of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust family of schools.

At our core of everything we do are the Trust's Virtues, Vision and Values.

- Justice
- Compassion
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Self-belief
- Honesty
- Resilience
- Confidence



The aim of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust is to provide a practical and moral purpose to the furthering of education, giving strength and a collective responsibility for the educational welfare of pupils in our schools.

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust has overarching accountability and governance of a number of Academies. All members benefit from the strong ethos and quality governance. Research School status and strong links with the National College for Teaching and Leadership means that professional development of staff is central to the work of the Trust. Being members of the Trust has formalised the collaboration between schools sharing a vision to provide the best possible outcomes for all our children. This is an exciting time for all the schools involved and we provide a wealth of opportunities for students and staff across the Trust.

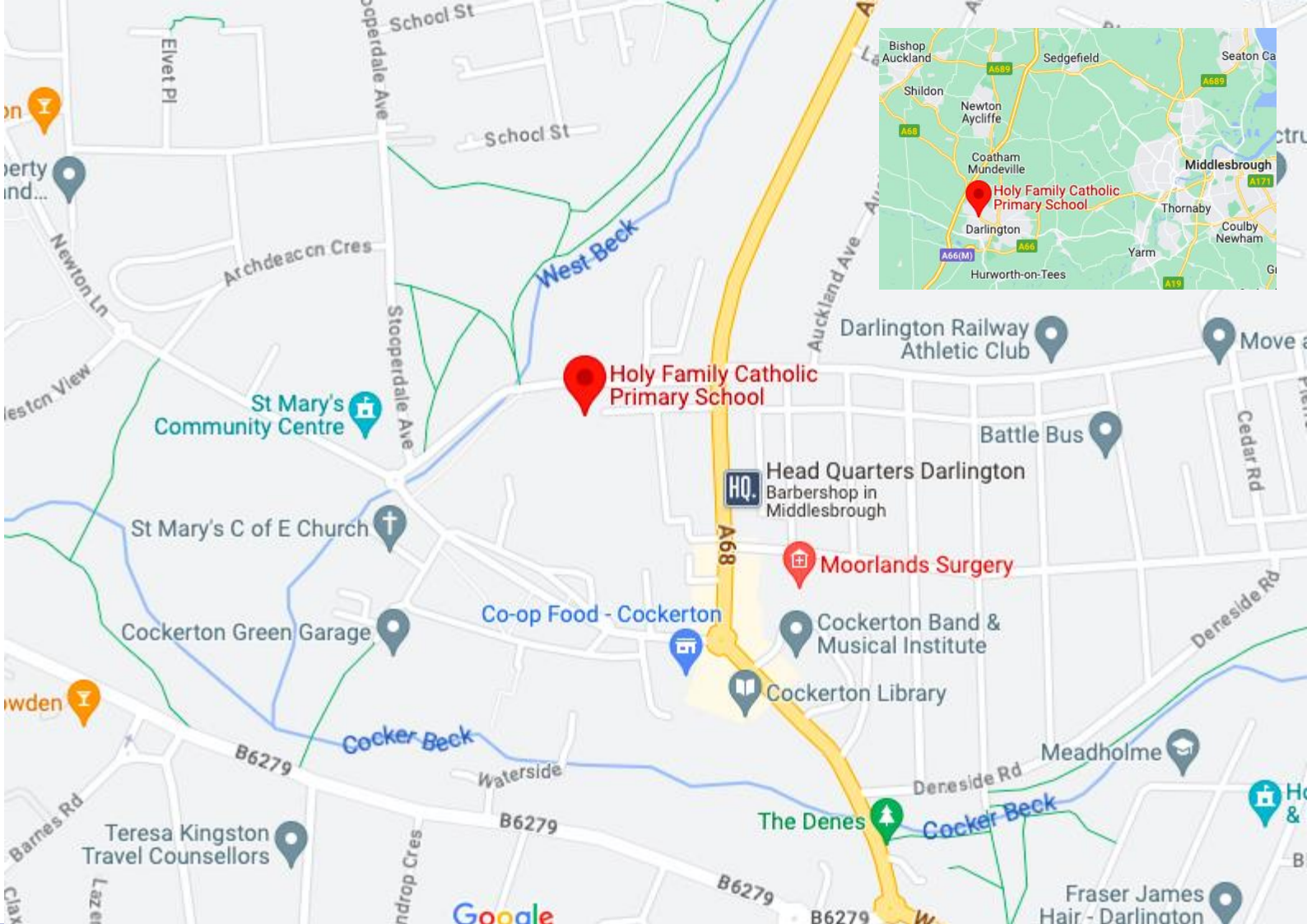
Our schools will be places of excellence – providing service and witness to children, their families and the wider Catholic community, adding value as a family of schools and enriching the learning and experience of all our young people so they may achieve their full potential.



Mr M Shorten  
Chief Executive Officer

*'Christ at the centre. Children at the heart.'*

BHCET



# Holy Family Catholic Primary School

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[www.holyfamily.bhcet.org.uk](http://www.holyfamily.bhcet.org.uk)



[@holyfamilyprimary](https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyprimary)



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