



OUR LADY & ST. BEDE

CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Prospectus

Headteacher's Welcome



As Head Teacher of Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, I am delighted to welcome you to our school prospectus. Whether you are a pupil, prospective employee, parent, carer or visitor, we hope our school prospectus gives you a sense of what it means to be part of and belong to such a vibrant school community.

Our school has a distinct ethos centred upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Each child and adult has their own individual strengths, gifts and talents and our aim is to ensure that these are all developed to their full potential.

We recognise that excellent relationships between all stakeholders is fundamental to the success of Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, and as such, place great value on relationship development.

As such, as a school within Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, we are committed to partnership work at every level and as such seek to actively develop and nurture partnership work within and beyond the education sector to enhance the excellent educational offer our pupils receive and to provide a wealth of experiences and opportunities for the pupils we serve. We look for excellence in all aspects of learning and we expect high standards of achievement from all members of the community. This is reflected in our pupil's track record of securing extremely high standards across the curriculum and strong public examination performances which allow the pupils we serve to progress to a range of rewarding educational and workplace destinations.

While we endeavour to secure academic excellence for every young person in a caring and inclusive environment, we are firmly committed to the formation of the whole child. As such, we equip our pupils with valuable life skills and focus on developing faith, virtues, leadership and emotional and social character through curriculum and enrichment opportunities.

We believe Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy is more than a place where pupils learn – it's a place where pupils and adults grow. We encourage all members of our school community to follow their dreams and share their unique talents in a safe and supportive environment so that they can confidently go out and shape the greatness of society.

Finally, our prospectus is only a glimpse of what we feel makes our school distinctive and a place of excellence. If you would like any further information or would like to visit our unique school, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Every day is an open day at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

Best wishes

Mrs Mo Wilkinson (Head teacher)





Tropical Rainforests

"I know of no pleasure deeper than that which comes from contemplating the natural world and trying to understand it."

David Attenborough

WORLD AND CONTINENTS

KEEP TO THE LEFT

OUR

Mission Statement

“To know God is to know me.”

Formation of the whole child: Our community strives to shape us into a unique person, who is committed to reaching their full potential.

Formation of faith: Our community seeks to support each of us to be the best version of ourselves, supporting us to find our true selves and God through the practices of faith and virtues.

Formation of professional learners: Our community endeavours to ensure every lesson and opportunity allows us to learn about the world, whilst preparing us for our future, equipping us with the skills to lead a happy, healthy and successful life.



OUR

History



“Proud of our past focused on our future.”

In 1963, St Bede’s Senior Boys’ School moved to our present site on Bishopton Road West and a year later in 1964 St Mary’s Senior Girls moved from Major Street to a new school on the same Bishopton Road West site. In 1972 both schools came together as an 11 to 16 mixed comprehensive school under the name of Our Lady and St Bede to serve the Catholic population of Stockton. The school has operated as Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy since February 2015.

In 2019, as part of a Diocesan-wide plan, all schools in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle were directed to join four new Trusts. Bishop Hogarth in the south, Bishop Chadwick in the east, Bishop Bewick in the north, and Bishop Wilkinson in the west. Our Lady and St Bede is proud to be part of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust and committed to working in partnership with our schools, parishes, and the communities to achieve great things for the young people we serve.





OUR LADY & ST. BEDE

CATHOLIC ACADEMY





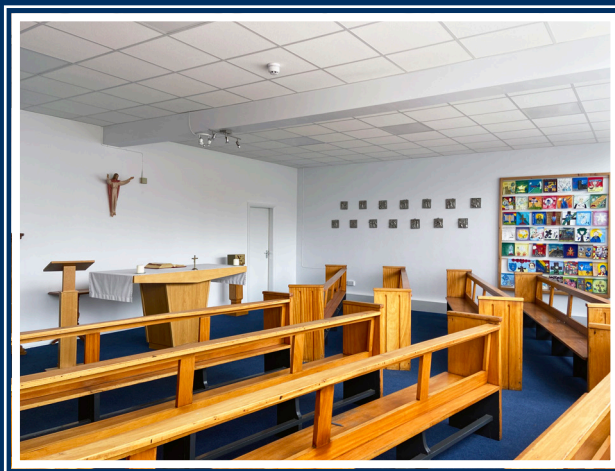
OUR

Catholic Distinctiveness

Parents choosing to send their child to Our Lady and St Bede are opting specifically for education within the setting of a Catholic school. We are part of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and, as such, we belong to the strong family of Catholic primary and secondary schools throughout the north east. This is a very supportive network of schools with whom we share the same ethos.

We are proud of our Catholic tradition and take very seriously our responsibility to nurture the faith in our young people and to support them on their spiritual journey through life. We have the huge responsibility of helping to prepare our pupils for this life and their life to come.

We are enriched by children and staff of other faiths and we are proud of our inclusive approach to spiritual development. We actively seek opportunities in RE, form time, and as part of the wider school life to explore how the varying faith traditions complement each other and strengthen us in our everyday lives.



OUR

Aims & Values



Throughout the five years at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, we understand the importance of personal development as well as academic achievements. Here in school, every pupil has the opportunity to live out our core virtues each day, which nurtures, guides and prepares them for the opportunities and challenges in their life ahead. Below are our eight virtues:

The community of Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy are constantly striving to have:

Respect for others and themselves, recognising that we are all created in the image of God and therefore must be **Compassionate** towards others, especially the vulnerable.

Confidence in their own abilities, knowing that their talents are gifts from God and **Resilience** to persevere when things become difficult.

Honesty in regards to the world around them and themselves and to take **Responsibility** for the times we may fall short of the mark.

Self belief in their uniqueness and worth, always underpinning their decisions with **Justice**, willing to stand in solidarity with those less fortunate than themselves.



OUR

Outstanding Community

Ofsted and Diocesan Inspection

Our Lady and St Bede was judged 'Outstanding' in all areas in the most recent Ofsted and Diocesan Section 48 inspections.

Both reports are full of praise for the school in all judgment areas. You can download a full copy of both reports from our website.

Through setting high expectations and standards, pupils understand the importance of working hard and actively contributing in a positive way to our school community.

Their ambition translates into the school consistently positioning itself as one of the top-performing schools in the region and pupils fulfilling their aspirations in terms of further education and career progression.





“You’d like to say ‘Thank you’ to the staff at this school.”
“This man has a passion for his work and his staff are proud to work for him.”


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



OUR

Learning Community

At Our Lady and St Bede, we have high expectations and a clear focus on achievement. Through setting high expectations, pupils understand the importance of trying their best and working hard.

Our expert teachers ignite a love of learning in our pupils and secure engagement through their enthusiasm and passion for their subject areas. Through careful sequencing of subject content and skills transfer, our young people engage and build on prior knowledge, allowing them to progress and develop as learners.

We recognise that all children are unique, with their own God given talents. Our curriculum design reflects the diversity of our learners and is designed to provide academic, creative, technological, and active learning for all. Our balanced curriculum offer is delivered by high-quality teachers and, in return, we expect a high standard of learning in the classroom.

Curriculum Structure

We run a two-week timetable, 25 hours a week of 1-hour lessons, 5 hours a day.

Our teaching class arrangements are a balance between classes that are set, based on academic achievement, and mixed ability classes. Pupils can move between sets based on their hard work and progress. Throughout Years 7, 8, and 9 pupils are gradually taught in more class sets, in preparation for the GCSE examinations.

In Year 7, pupils are set in Mathematics based on Teacher assessments from the feeder Primary school and baseline assessments conducted in the autumn term. For all other lessons, Year 7 pupils are assigned to tutor classes, named after our feeder parishes. All tutor groups have an equal mix of pupils of all ability levels.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 study the following subjects over a fortnight:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics, English and Science
- Modern Foreign Languages and Physical Education
- Design Technology, Art, Geography and History, Music and Drama
- Computer Science and Holistic Development

In Year 10 and Year 11, pupils begin to study a more refined curriculum, tailored to meet their interests and needs. All pupils study for a GCSE in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Religious Education. Pupils also study one of the following Science combinations: either Triple Science (3 separate GCSEs in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology) or Dual Science (pupils still study Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and are awarded 2 GCSEs). We encourage pupils to study a Modern Foreign Language.

Pupils then select three options, their first currently being a guided EBacc option choice and their second and third being from a selection of high-quality GCSE courses including: Fine Art, 3D Design, Photography, Textiles, Computer Science or BTEC Digital Information Technology, French, Spanish, History, Geography, Physical Education or Cambridge National Sports Studies, Health & Social Care, Music and Drama.

Pupils in Key Stage 4 are allocated over a fortnight:

- Religious Education and each of their options (note: Triple Science counts for one option choice)
- English (Language and Literature)
- Maths
- Science
- Physical Education (not examined)
- 1 hour of Holistic Development & RSE (not examined)







Wider Curriculum and Enrichment Opportunities

We encourage all pupils at Our Lady and St Bede to become involved in our wider curriculum.

There is so much more to gain from school life in addition to examination success. We want all of our pupils to develop into confident, happy, responsible, well-rounded individuals, armed with a wealth of experience to help them achieve and enjoy success in life.

We believe that an outdoor adventure environment and residential experiences provide a powerful framework for developing children. The aim of each course is not only to introduce pupils to new skills through a variety of activities but also to develop the whole child. Experiences focus on the development of new interests, encouraging a sense of adventure, self-reliance, and team-building.

Residential experiences and opportunities, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Retreats, and international visits, allow pupils to develop the concepts of responsibility, self-awareness, trust, cooperation, and promote cultural awareness. During the week there are a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for students during lunchtime and after school. These range from film club to chess, from the choir to swimming, and from drama to poetry reading. Alongside these, the school runs a large range of sporting opportunities including strong representation at Stockton and wider regional events.

Special Educational Needs

Pupils with additional learning needs are a valued and integrated part of our community.

At Our Lady and St Bede, we offer a fully inclusive educational offer to all our pupils with SEN. Our Learning Support Team works tirelessly to support any child with special educational needs and aims to create a mutually supportive environment in which all pupils can develop their full potential.

We endeavour to support all our pupils according to their needs and support is as flexible to need as possible.

OUR

Caring & Supportive Community

We pride ourselves on being a caring school. When people visit Our Lady and St Bede they talk about how friendly, warm, and welcoming our school is and how the behaviour of our pupils is exemplary. Order and respect underpin our culture and all our daily encounters with one another. We aim to maintain an environment where every child feels safe, happy and where everyone can succeed. Our experienced pastoral team provides support, guidance, and advice to pupils when they need it and are on hand to support pupils when they are going through difficult times.

Primary School Transition

While most children make a seamless transition from primary to secondary school, we recognise that some children need more support and time to adapt to change. Our structured programme of primary transition provides children with a series of resources, visits, and activities that pave the way for a successful adjustment from a small primary to the hustle and bustle of a 'big school.'

Our Lady and St Bede is part of a Family of Schools serving young people of the Catholic faith, other faiths, and no faith from across the area. Our Family of Schools consists of:

St Bede's Catholic Academy, Newtown
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Parkfield
St Gregory's Catholic Academy, Roseworth
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Fairfield

Pupils are also welcomed from other primary schools across the area. We liaise very closely and listen to what our primary colleagues tell us about your children.

This in turn helps us to respond effectively to their needs, ensuring that all children will be happy and settled in their new school environment.







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OUR LADY & ST. BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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