



Welcome to
**Our Lady
& St. Thomas**
Catholic Primary School

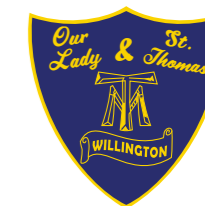
Prospectus
2024/25





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A very warm welcome to **Our Lady & St. Thomas Catholic Primary School**

I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of this exceptional school. OLST is a happy and positive school, where diversity is celebrated. This school is a special place; we are very ambitious and strive to provide the best educational experiences for all our pupils.

We have an amazing team of staff to support your child in their learning journey and we provide an innovative curriculum for our children to enjoy. Our highly experienced team are all talented, hardworking and dedicated individuals, committed to ensuring the best for your child.

'Pupils love coming to this friendly and inclusive school. They enjoy their lessons. They are polite, kind and courteous to each other and adults.' - Ofsted 2023

We will ensure your child receives an outstanding education and we're confident that every child thrives during their time here. We know your family will enjoy being part of our warm and welcoming school community.

All are welcome in our wonderful school. Please contact the school office so that we can arrange for you to come and look around.

Mrs Rath Veitch
Headteacher

Why choose our school?



Joining our school promises an extraordinary journey of inspiration and growth, where every child is empowered to flourish and reach their fullest potential. With our outstanding sport and music provision, students can explore their passions and talents, unlocking hidden potential and fostering a lifelong love for these enriching activities.

Our dedicated and knowledgeable staff are committed to nurturing each child holistically, ensuring they thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. At our school, we don't just focus on academic success; we strive to develop the whole child, instilling values of resilience, compassion, and honesty.

As a successful primary school, we have a proven track record of excellence, providing a solid foundation for future success. Join us and commence on an educational journey where every child is celebrated, inspired, and empowered to shine brightly in all aspects of their lives.



'The school has high expectations of pupils' behaviour and achievement. Pupils' behaviour is excellent both in lessons and around school'



Scan the QR code to view full Ofsted report



Our school day

Our school day runs from 8:45am-3:10pm.

Nursery hours are:

9:00am-12:00pm and 12:00pm-3:00pm FT (30 hours).
or 9:00am-12:00pm or 12:00pm-3:00pm if PT (15 hours).
Both options available.



Wraparound care

Breakfast Club:

Drop off is from 7:45am and the session costs £4. Breakfast is served between 7:45am and 8:15am.

After School Child Care:

Tea club runs from 3:15pm until 5:15pm and it is £4 per hour or £8 for the full session. Children will receive a snack during this session. Nursery are able to have wraparound until 4:15pm - £4 per hour

Children who receive free school meals and have a sibling will receive a discount - please enquire at office.



Our school uniform



The school uniform can be purchased from either our school uniform supplier, Tots to teams, or in any supermarket

School uniform is symbolic of a community to which we all belong, and our children are encouraged to feel pride to wear it.

Our uniform:

- Blue cardigan or jumper.
- White or pale blue polo shirt or school shirt.
- Grey/black skirt or trousers.
- Blue gingham dresses or grey/black shorts (summer).

No jewellery allowed as this poses a health and safety risk

PE uniform:

- Pale blue or white t-shirt.
- Royal blue or black shorts.
- School hoodie and tracksuit or blue hoodie and tracksuit bottoms.
- Suitable footwear.

To order our school uniform please scan the QR code.



Our curriculum



An ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum is planned and taught in a happy and stimulating environment, in accordance with the National Curriculum requirements. Independent and collaborative skills are encouraged in all year groups and computing is readily used and embedded across the whole curriculum.

It is a priority of the school to ensure that the basic skills of reading, writing, communication and maths are taught not only as separate subjects but as often as possible through a cross-curricular approach.

The curriculum we offer is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. It is rich, varied, creative and meets the needs of individual learners exceedingly well. Our curriculum has provided the opportunity for a topic-based approach for our foundation subjects.

Our outdoor curriculum provides adventurous learning experiences that offer opportunities for classroom learning to be brought to life. We also enrich our curriculum with educational visits that are linked to topics and bring in subject specialists such as artists, poets, story tellers and STEM practitioners to enthuse and inspire our children.



“Pupils carry out a range of leadership roles such as school councillors, mathematics and art ambassadors confidently, these roles help to develop pupils’ character.”

Ofsted



“Pupils love coming to this friendly and inclusive school.”

Ofsted

Special educational needs and disabilities

At OLST we value all pupils. We believe that our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have an equal right to an education that enables them to develop fully. Through our high quality assess, plan, do & review procedures, we aim to:

- Provide early identification of SEND including access to high quality Speech and Language Support in the Early Years.
- Ensure all children have access to a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum through quality-first, inclusive teaching.
- Build positive partnerships between school and families as a key role in supporting the child.
- Regularly monitor the progress of pupils and review outcomes.
- Create SEND support plans that are tailored to the child's needs.
- Place the child at the centre of all discussions and decisions.
- Work cooperatively with external agencies including the local authority to ensure a multi-professional approach.
- Constantly develop the learning environment to meet the changing needs of pupils.
- Provide relevant training to staff members supporting pupils with SEND.
- Have effective transition procedures to ensure continuity and support when moving through the school.



Key Contact
Ms Teresa Graham
SENDCo

To find out more
please scan
the QR code





BISHOP HOGARTH
Catholic Education Trust

Our Trust

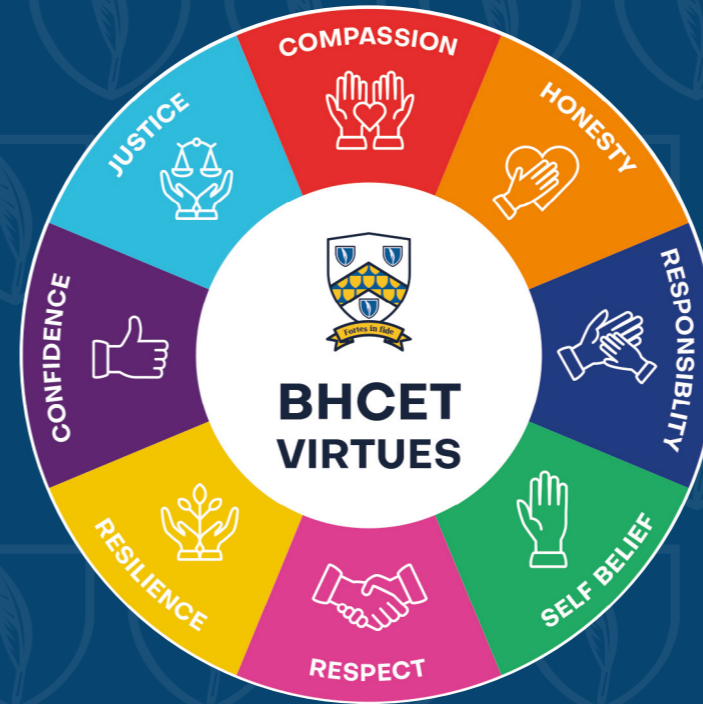
Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust is a family of 35 schools across County Durham, Darlington, Hartlepool, and Stockton-On-Tees.

Our mission is to provide the highest quality education, fostering a collaborative environment where resources and best practices are shared among our schools.

We are committed to the educational welfare of our pupils. This is why we place Christ at the centre and children at the heart.



A Proud Member of
BISHOP HOGARTH
Catholic Education Trust



**WATCH
OUR VIDEO**

JUSTICE & COMPASSION

We value fairness and empathy, treating others with kindness and understanding.

HONESTY & RESPONSIBILITY

We prioritise truthfulness and accountability, taking ownership of our actions and decisions.

CONFIDENCE & RESILIENCE

We foster courage and adaptability, empowering individuals to face challenges and overcome setbacks.

RESPECT & SELF BELIEF

We embrace diversity and individuality, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and confident.

Scan the QR code to view our [school locations](#) map





Apply for a place

at Our Lady & St. Thomas



Starting primary school is a very important time for you and your child and at OLST, we aim to make this a happy experience for everyone. Children can start school in our reception class in the September of the academic year in which they will be five years old.

To gain a place at OLST, you will need to apply through Durham County Council's website. Please click the link for more information or scan the QR code. Alternatively, you can contact the school office. <https://olst.bhcet.org.uk/information/admissions-policy>



If your child is not already attending our school Nursery, they will be invited to spend some informal sessions with their new teacher and other children from the class in the summer term in order to familiarise themselves with the school environment. An information evening for our new Reception class parents is also held in the summer term.

For mid-year admissions, at other times of the year or for year groups other than Reception, please go through Durham County Council (<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2197/Apply-to-change-school-during-the-school-year>). We highly recommend contacting the school in the first instance for a visit.

Nursery Admissions

At OLST, we offer a wonderful nursery setting for three year olds. The nursery is open from 9:00am – 3:00pm (term time only) and can be a mix of both government funded hours and private payment. Please visit our website for more information.

You are unique, talented and loved by God



Our Lady & St. Thomas Catholic Primary School

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 **office@olst.bhcet.org.uk**

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



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