



ST GREGORY'S

Catholic Primary School

SHINING IN LITTLE WAYS FOR ALL TO SEE

"Let your light shine before others." – Matthew 5:16

Belong
Believe
Achieve
Together

The St Gregory's Way

Faith • Community • Opportunity

Headteacher Newsletter | September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful first week back we have had at St Gregory's! It has been a real joy to welcome our children and families back through the gates and to see our school full of life again. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Nursery and Reception children, pupils joining us in other year groups and our new members of staff. The children have returned with enthusiasm, positivity and a real sense of pride in their school. Thank you for everything you have done to help make the beginning of 2026/27 such a positive one.

With very best wishes,

Miss. Shaughnessy Headteacher



Walking the St Gregory's Way

At the heart of all we do are our SHINE values:



We teach, **catch and seek** opportunities for our children to live out these values every day. **You belong. You matter. You have something to contribute.**

Attendance Matters Every Day Counts

Our expectation is that children attend every day that they are well enough to do so and arrive on time, ready to learn.

- School starts at **8:45am**
- Please follow our usual absence reporting procedures
- We will contact families early if we notice emerging patterns

Every child. Every day. Whenever they are well enough to be here.



St Gregory's Feast Day

We have celebrated St Gregory's Feast Day with a special Celebration of the Word.

We reflected on his example and how we can let our light shine through the little things we do.

Our SHINE programme for the year ahead will give children opportunities to participate, lead and serve through House groups, Mini Vinnies, School Council, prayer roles, choir, clubs and more.

Small actions make a big difference.



Looking Smart and Feeling Proud

It has been wonderful to see our children looking so smart and taking such pride in their appearance.

This year, we have introduced shirts and ties for all pupils, alongside our new optional school blazer.

Thank you to our families for supporting our updated uniform. Uniform is about more than appearance – it creates a shared sense of identity, belonging and pride in being part of the St Gregory's family.



Back to Learning

Our classrooms have been busy this week as children have settled into routines, with a particular focus on the basic skills which underpin successful learning:

- Reading & Phonics
- Handwriting & Presentation
- Spelling
- Number Fluency
- Positive Learning Habits

Curriculum Newsletters were shared with families on Friday, giving you an overview of what your child will be learning this term. Please read for information.

Safeguarding at Home Time

Please wait for the class teacher to dismiss your child directly to you.

Do not take your child from the line before the teacher has released them.

Please give our staff that extra moment to see, check and dismiss.

Allergies & Medical Diets

Please ensure all allergy and medical information is up to date. If your child requires a medical diet or has been prescribed emergency medication, please make sure school has the appropriate information and medication. Please do not send nuts into school and children should not share food. If you are unsure, please contact the school office.

Please Check Arbor

Log in to Arbor and check:

- Contact details
- Medical information
- Collection arrangements
- Three emergency contacts
- Permissions and consents

Please check photo and video permissions and ensure your choices reflect what you are happy for us to use.

Year 6 – Walking Home

Please check that the permission you have provided is correct:

- Walk home independently; or
- Leave independently to the gate

Arrangements after clubs are different. Please refer to our policy and communications.



School Water Bottles

No water bottles from home should be brought to school or used in school.

We have provided every child with a school water bottle as part of our commitment to equity and poverty-proofing. If you would prefer your child not to use a school bottle, children can use the cups that are available at lunchtime (the same cups children have used for years) and we also have cups in classrooms and water fountains available throughout the school.

Providing a bottle for everyone removes a potential cost and ensures every child has one available.



Supporting Our Families

We recognise that the cost of the school day can be challenging. If you are finding things difficult, please talk to us. We would always rather know and explore whether support is available than have a child miss out. Any conversation will be handled sensitively and discreetly.

I – Include Everyone

Keeping Everyone Safe at the School Gates

Please park legally and considerately, keeping entrances, junctions and School Keep Clear markings clear. Where possible, walk, cycle or scoot to school to help reduce congestion. A few extra minutes can make a big difference to children's safety.

E – Ensure Safety



Dates & Reminders

Mon 7 Sept – Year 3 swimming begins

Thurs 24 Sept (5–7pm) – St Joseph's Catholic Academy Year 6 Open Evening

Thurs 1 Oct (4–6pm) – St Wilfrid's RC College Year 6 Open Evening

Fri 23 Oct – End of Autumn 1

Mon 26 – Fri 30 Oct – Half-term holiday

Mon 2 Nov – Children return for Autumn 2



Caught Walking the St Gregory's Way

We celebrate children who show our SHINE values – the child who helps without being asked, includes someone who is alone, perseveres, shows respect, serves others or keeps someone safe. These are the little things through which our children SHINE.



Thank You

Thank you for getting children back into routines, preparing uniforms, supporting good attendance, checking Arbor, working with us at the school gates and, most importantly, entrusting your children to our care. There is so much to look forward to this year – learning, worship, leadership, clubs, trips, service and countless opportunities for our children to shine.

Shining in Little Ways for All to See





St Gregory's SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1
2026



Shining in Little Ways for All to See

SHOW RESPECT



HELP EACH OTHER



INCLUDE EVERYONE



NEVER GIVE UP



ENSURE SAFETY

MEET OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
We are here to keep our children safe, listened to and supported.



Emma Shaughnessy

Headteacher &
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)



Tracey Watson

Deputy Headteacher &
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Joanne Douglas

SENCO &
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Dave Vasey

Caretaker &
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Natalie Hall

Safeguarding
Link Governor



WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have any concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team.

No concern is too small to share.



If a child is in
immediate danger,
always call **999**.



CHECK ARBOR TODAY

Please log in and check that we have:

- ✓ at least THREE emergency contacts for your child
- ✓ up-to-date telephone numbers, email addresses and home address
- ✓ up-to-date medical information
- ✓ up-to-date allergies and dietary needs

It is essential that we can contact someone quickly if needed.



ALLERGY SAFETY

Keeping children with allergies safe is a shared responsibility.

- ✓ Please make sure we have up-to-date allergy information.
- ✓ Do not send food into school for children to share unless this has been agreed.

We follow the principles of Benedict's Law to ensure consistent allergy awareness and emergency preparedness.



SAFE DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

- ✓ Do not park on yellow zig-zag markings.
- ✓ Keep entrances and access points clear.
- ✓ Do not stop where your vehicle restricts visibility.
- ✓ Be considerate of our neighbours.

Convenience should never come before a child's safety.

OUR SCHOOL YARD

For everyone's safety, please remember:

- No dogs on site.
- Please keep gates clear.
- No playing on the Trim Trail.
- Bikes and scooters must not be ridden on the yard.



AI, GAMING & SOCIAL MEDIA

- ✓ Check age ratings, parental controls and privacy settings.
- ✓ Check group chats and who your child is communicating with.
- ✓ Talk to your child about AI and remind them that information, images and conversations are not always accurate or safe.
- ✓ Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult if anything online worries or upsets them.



YEAR 6 WALKING HOME

- ✓ Year 6 may walk home after the normal school day with parental permission.
- ✗ Children must not walk home independently following an after-school club.
- ✓ Please tell us if your child's collection arrangements change.



PARENT / PUPIL CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Parent and Pupil Code of Conduct sets out how we all work together to keep our school a safe, respectful and welcoming place for everyone.

- ✓ It outlines the behaviours we expect from adults and pupils.
- ✓ It supports positive relationships and helps us to deal with concerns fairly.
- ✓ A copy of our updated Code of Conduct will be sent home with your child at the beginning of term.

Please give consent on Arbor to confirm that you agree to follow our Code of Conduct.



NEED SOME HELP?

Family life can sometimes be difficult. Please talk to us early – we can listen, offer support and help connect you with the right services.

You can speak to any member of our safeguarding team in confidence.

We are here to help.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Our emergency and lockdown procedures have been reviewed and updated.

Staff are trained and pupils practise what to do, so everyone knows how to respond calmly and safely.

Further information will be shared with pupils at the start of term.



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.
WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR CHILDREN
BELONG, THRIVE AND ACHIEVE.



SCHOOL TELEPHONE:
0191 455 2909



SCHOOL WEBSITE:
www.st-gregorys.co.uk



MORE INFORMATION:
Speak to a member of our
Safeguarding Team

Belong, Thrive, Achieve
Shining in Little Ways for All to See
(Matthew 5:16)



RECEPTION PLACES 2027 OPEN EVENINGS

*Come along and find out more
about our wonderful school:*

9.15 am Tuesday 22 September 2026

9.15 am Tuesday 13 October 2026

9.15 am Tuesday 10 November 2026

*To book a place visit -
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/xHJuvMgqU8>*

We look forward to meeting you !

*We welcome children of all faiths and
beliefs.*



www.st-gregorys.co.uk



0191 455 2909



office@st-gregorys.co.uk



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



Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



St Gregory's ALLERGY INFORMATION



Please Help Us
KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

BENEDICT'S LAW – NEW ALLERGY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Benedict's Law is now part of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

From September 2026, schools in England have strengthened statutory responsibilities for allergy safety.

Schools must have a dedicated allergy safety policy, provide allergy awareness and emergency-response training for staff, make appropriate arrangements for pupils with allergies and be prepared to respond effectively to anaphylaxis.

These changes are all about one thing: keeping children safe.



WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need accurate, up-to-date information about your child's allergies and medical needs.

- ✓ So we can plan safely for meals, activities and educational visits
- ✓ So we can put the right support in place in school
- ✓ So staff know how to help your child
- ✓ So we can respond quickly and effectively in an emergency

Please update us even if you think we already know.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

To help us keep your child safe, please make sure you provide and keep up to date:



Any allergies / allergens
(food, drink, medication, environmental)



Symptoms and previous reactions
(what happened and how serious)



Severity
(mild, moderate, severe, risk of anaphylaxis)



Medication required
(daily medication and how / when it is used)



Adrenaline auto-injector
(is one prescribed? If yes, please provide details)



Emergency contact details
(name, relationship and up-to-date phone numbers)



Any other medical conditions
that may affect your child



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Please keep us informed of any changes to your child's allergies or medical needs as soon as possible.
- Ensure any prescribed medication, including adrenaline auto-injectors, is in date and provided to school.
- School-held emergency adrenaline auto-injectors are not a replacement for your child's own prescribed device.
- Our staff receive regular training so we can recognise allergic reactions and respond quickly and effectively.



PLEASE CHECK AND UPDATE ON ARBOR

Please log in to Arbor to:

- ✓ Check your child's allergy information
- ✓ Update any details if needed
- ✓ Confirm or update the information we hold

Thank you for helping us to keep every child safe.



Keeping your information up to date on Arbor helps us to plan safely and act **quickly in an emergency.**



Belong, Thrive, Achieve
Shining in Little Ways for All to See
Matthew 5:16



SCHOOL TELEPHONE
0191 455 2909



SCHOOL WEBSITE
www.st-gregorys.co.uk

