



THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF SCHOOL

Dear Year 6 pupils,

A very warm welcome to St Wilfrid's Catholic School. Whether you come from a Catholic background, another faith, or no faith at all, we are delighted to welcome you into our school community.

As the Lay Chaplain, I have the privilege of supporting the spiritual life of our school, walking alongside students and staff as we grow together in kindness, service, and faith. St Wilfrid's is a place where everyone is valued, respected, and encouraged to be their best – not only academically, but as **Responsible** and thoughtful members of society.

Our Catholic ethos is at the heart of everything we do. It shapes our values, our relationships, and our sense of belonging. But it is a spirit that is open, inclusive, and rooted in love – a love that welcomes every person just as they are. As you begin or continue your journey with us, I pray that you will find St Wilfrid's to be a place of peace, joy, and friendship.

This week I'd like to tell you all a little bit about the Catholic life and community within our school, introduce you to the history of St Wilfrid, and ask you to reflect on your transition. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

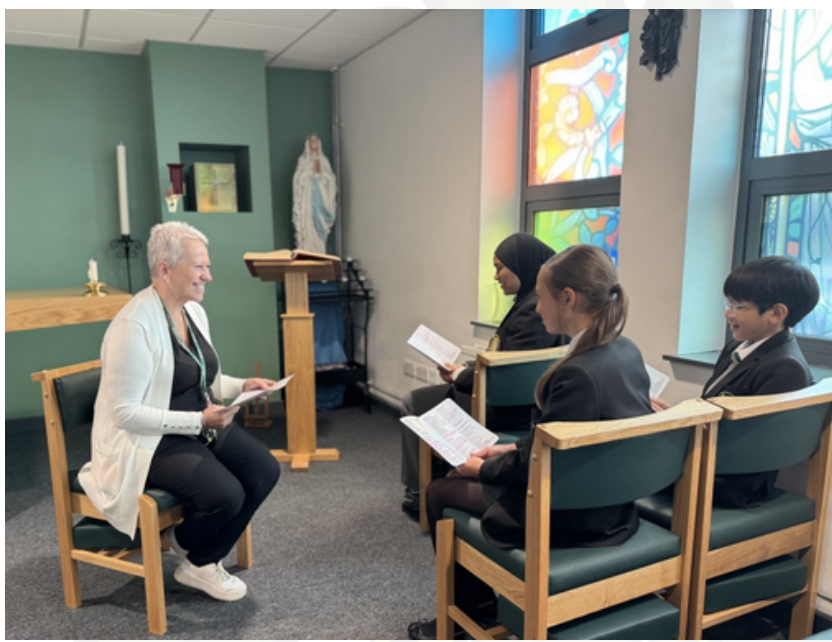
Please know that I am always here – for a conversation, a prayer, or simply to listen.

With every blessing,
Mrs. Gregory
Lay Chaplain





DEVELOPING FAITH IN SCHOOL



During the school year we have many opportunities to practise our faith. This includes welcome celebrations, weekly assemblies, and daily prayer with our tutors. Our school year follows the liturgical calendar.



Our chapel is located within Nichols Hall in the centre of our school building. The location of the chapel is meaningful to us, symbolising that at St Wilfrid's our faith is at the heart of all that we do.



Pupils have to opportunity to speak to a chaplain for support. You can also arrange a visit to the chapel if you would like to spend some time in our sacred space. There are many events throughout the school year that take place in the chapel.



In primary school you may have already heard of, or be part of, 'mini vinnies'. They are are the youngest branch of our Vincentian family tree. In St Wilfrid's there is the opportunity to become a Youth SVP and continue in this tradition.

Youth SVP members use their creativity, resources and energy to engage with local communities and take part in social action. Through voluntary work, Youth SVP members not only make a difference, but learn new skills, build lasting friendships and grow in faith.



DEVELOPING FAITH - WIDER SCHOOL LIFE

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

When you are in year seven you will have the opportunity to take part in one of our year group over night retreats. The two night stay at the Youth Village includes activities, games, prayer, competitions, and reflection.

We also offer a camping experience at the Summer Festival (God Camp). These are excellent occasions for socialising and team building with your friends from school.



CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FEDERATION

Flame is a bi-annual faith filled inspirational day at Wembley. The day is attended by many young people from across our diocese and beyond.

Flame is the largest Catholic youth event. The celebration is filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration and young people from across England and Wales; it's an event like no other!

At St Wilfrid's we take a number of pupils on this event, our 2025 flame convoy was incredibly successful.





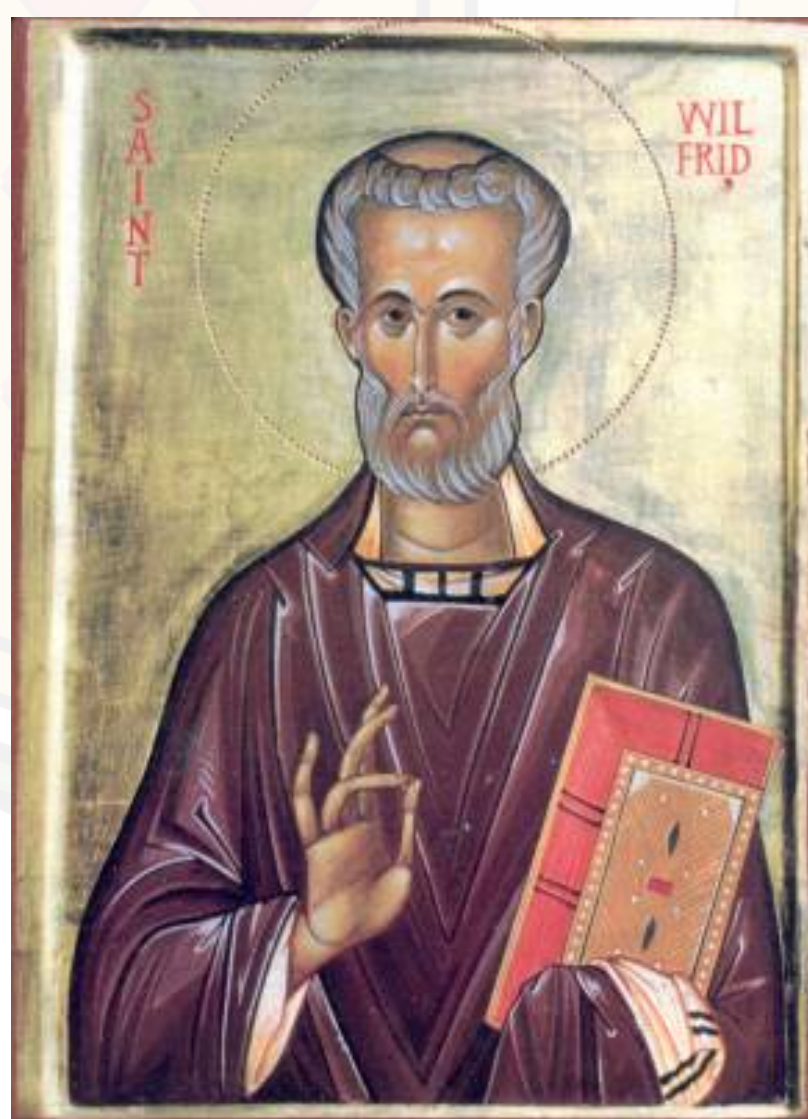
HISTORY OF ST WILFRID

Wilfrid was a passionate and influential English saint.

Born in Northumberland to a wealthy family, he pursued his faith from a young age, studying under St. Aidan in Lindisfarne. His travels took him to Rome and France, where he embraced Roman church traditions.

A brilliant builder and leader, Wilfrid designed the grand abbey at Ripon and played a key role in adopting the Roman method for calculating Easter at the Synod of Whitby. As Bishop of York, he built magnificent churches, founded monasteries, and helped convert Sussex to Christianity.

Despite his achievements, Wilfrid faced exile and danger, even traveling to Rome for justice. He spent his final years at Ripon and Hexham, leaving a lasting legacy as a visionary leader, builder, and champion of faith.



ST. WILFRID (634-709)

A BOLD AND VISIONARY SAINT

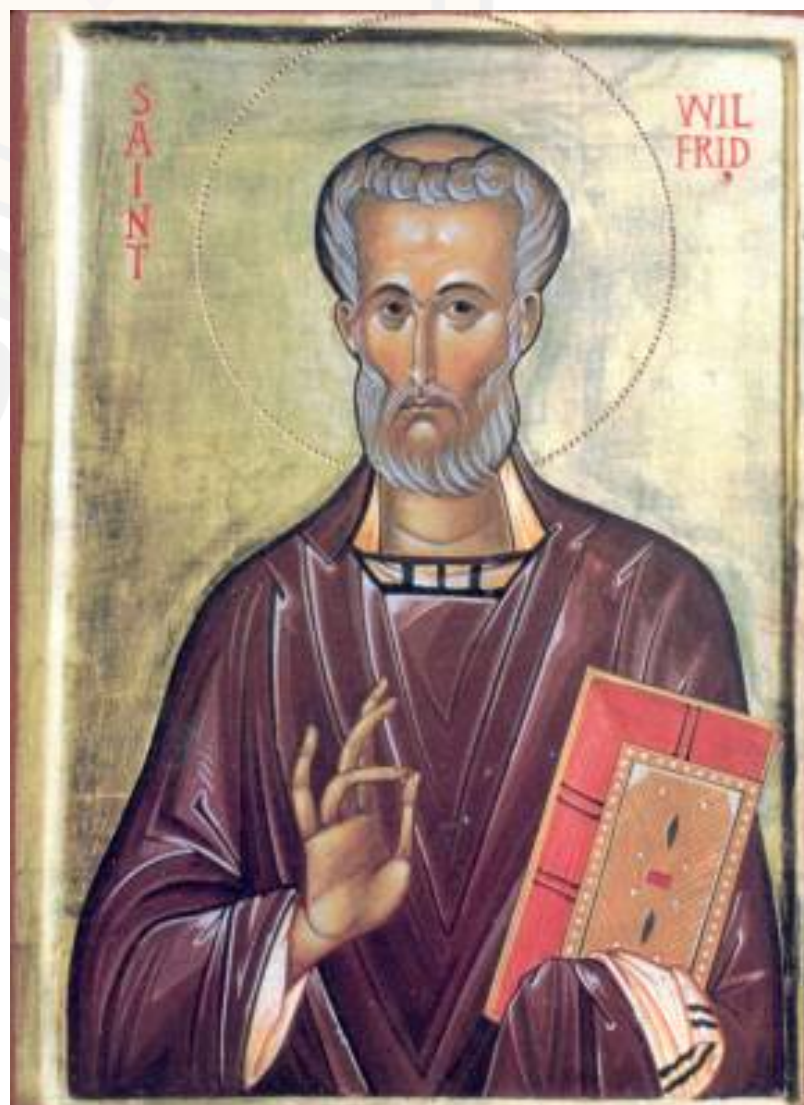
ST WILFRID'S FEAST DAY IS CELEBRATED ON
OCTOBER 12TH.



Now that you have read all about St Wilfrid. Can you try to answer the questions below? For some questions you may have to look up the answers. Bring along your answers on Transition Day to share with Mrs Gregory!

1. When and where was St. Wilfrid born?
2. What religious position did St. Wilfrid hold during his lifetime?
3. St. Wilfrid is famous for helping to bring which Christian tradition to England?
4. Describe one major conflict St. Wilfrid had with other church leaders.
5. What role did St. Wilfrid play at the Synod of Whitby?
6. Name one monastery or church that St. Wilfrid helped to found or rebuild.
7. How did St. Wilfrid's travels influence the English Church?
8. What qualities or characteristics was St. Wilfrid known for?
9. How did St. Wilfrid contribute to the spread of Christianity in northern England?
10. When did St. Wilfrid die, and what legacy did he leave behind?

ST WILFRID





OUR WELCOME PRAYER

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, We welcome Year 6 as they begin their journey here in our school community.

May St Wilfrid, walk with them building excitement in their hearts, and courage to embrace the learning that lies ahead.

Please help us to be Respectful, Responsible, and Resilient, To smile, say hello, and include others in our games and activities.

May our classrooms, social spaces, and hearts always be open to everyone – no matter where they come from or what they believe.

We pray they find friendship and support while discovering new talents and a deep sense of belonging.

Let this transition be filled with welcome and warmth, as we all walk together in respect, unity and faith.

St Wilfrid, pray for us as we grow in faith, learning, and support for one another.

AMEN

St Wilfrid, servant of God, pray for us.





REFLECTION TASK

This week we've introduced you to the Catholic life and ethos of our school. We welcome all faiths and none. We would like to ask you to take some time to reflect on your journey of Transition into our school community.

If you wish you could use the space below to write a prayer, or you could write down your thoughts and feelings about the Transition process. Try to reflect on your hopes and wishes for your own future and think about how we at St Wilfrid's can support you in everyday excellence.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick orange border occupies the lower half of the page. This box is intended for students to write their reflections or prayers. The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the school's coat of arms.