

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Prospectus



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Welcome

On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors I would like to warmly welcome you to our school. I hope that this prospectus is informative and gives you an insight into the learning that takes place in our school and the values and vision which underpin it.

At St. Benedict's we are a Catholic community committed to providing a consistently safe, positive, rewarding and happy learning environment. We have high expectations for the children in our care and aim to encourage them to learn, develop and grow into responsible, spiritual young people within a climate of respect, warmth and understanding underpinned by the Gospel values. We are proud of the successes our children have achieved, both academically, and also in sporting and musical events. We provide an exciting curriculum that prepares children to become active members of society. We aim to inspire all of our pupils, to rise to the challenges that will enable them to develop the skills and personal qualities they need, in order to embrace the future with confidence and to become successful life-long learners.

Our school has strong links with our parish church, St. Simon Stock Parish, Walderslade which enhances the spiritual and moral development of the community we serve. Our Parish Priest, Father Joseph, helps and guides the children in their religious journey through Mass celebrations, penitential services, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and class talks.

We have an excellent, committed staff who are dedicated to each and every pupil and a wonderful group of governors who ensure the children are at the heart of all our decision making. We work in partnership with the parents who are very supportive and we have a thriving parent association (SBA).

We look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact the school directly with any queries you may have.

Mrs. S. McAlpine

Headteacher



Judged Outstanding in all areas

‘A unique, shining example of a Catholic community where everyone is welcomed, valued and encouraged, and pupils enjoy school and achieve well.’

Section 48 Inspection Report , 21st March 2023

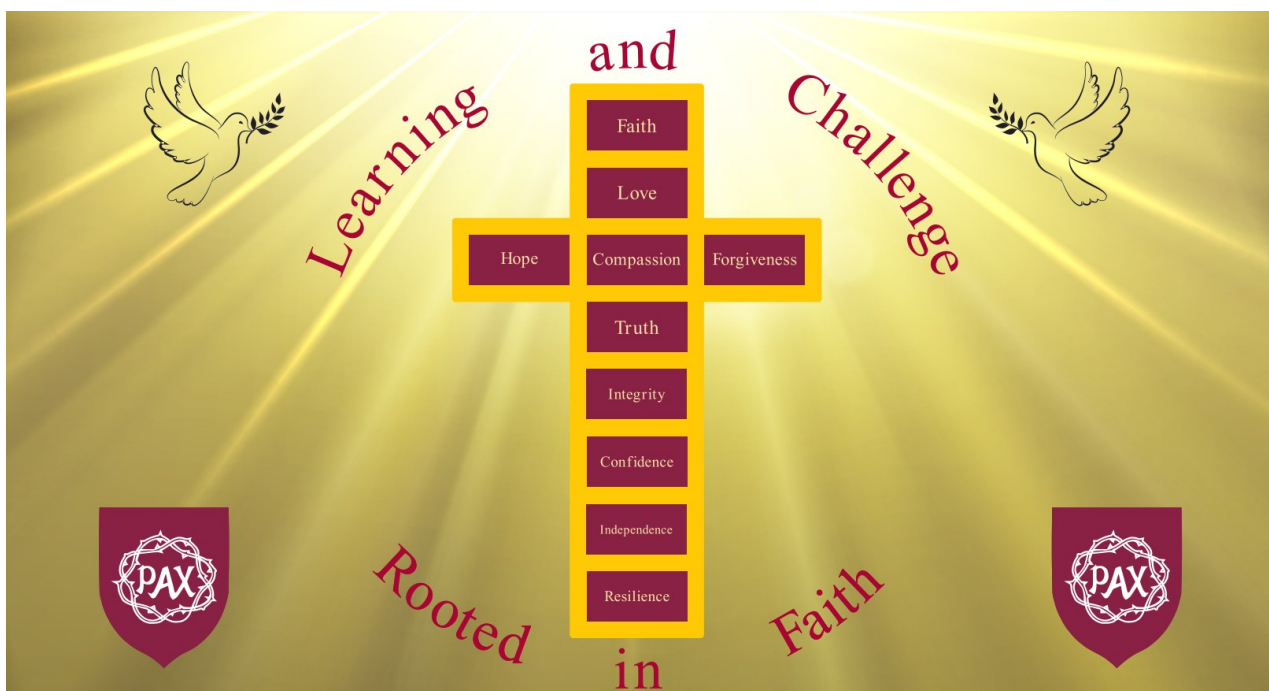


Our School

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School opened in September 1979.

Here at St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School, children are taught to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. They learn to work independently, to share and respect each other's needs as they work alongside their peers. They are nurtured throughout their years with us through our school values. We aim to instil in our children the importance of community so they are respectful and appreciative of those around them. We welcome applications from families of all faiths.

Vision – *St. Benedict's enables confident, independent, and resilient learners inspired by Gospel values to become Christ-like citizens.*



Mission – *Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith*



Welcome from the Parish

As the Priest of St. Simon Stock Parish in Walderslade, to which St. Benedict's School belongs, I would like to cordially welcome you to the school.

Be assured that your child is starting this year of education being carried by God through the commitment and dedication of the school team. I have experienced a very friendly atmosphere here at St. Benedict's. I hope that with your co-operation we will provide a solid and fruitful education for your child along with the strong Christian values that will prepare them adequately to face the next stage of their education.

Fr Joseph



Welcome from the St. Benedicts' Parent's Association (SBA)

We are a very active and enthusiastic association. All parents automatically become a member of the SBA as their child starts at St. Benedict's. We encourage you all to support the wide range of events which are organised from crafternoons to children's discos to our annual summer fayre. These all raise money to support projects within school and they also help us to maintain the strong community spirit we so enjoy here.

The SBA Committee

Welcome from the Governors

Welcome to St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School. Our school's Local Governance Committee consists of foundation and parent Governors as well as the Headteacher and Parish Priest. Our role is to offer support, advice and challenge to the headteacher and senior management team ensuring all children grow both academically and spiritually. We look forward to working with you in the years to come.

The Board of Governors



Parents

We are very proud of the relationship we have with the parents in our school. We are a strong community which benefits from mutual respect, trust and understanding. The good of the children is at the centre of every decision we make and all the work we do. We like to work together with parents to ensure that children fulfil their true potential.

We encourage parents to come and see staff if they have any concerns or worries about their child or if there is something we should know about such as a change in family circumstance or news that may impact on your child. We have an open door policy and parents are welcome to see teachers after school or to arrange a convenient appointment time.

The Headteacher is on the playground in the morning and afternoon to answer any questions or queries.

Three times a year, the teachers formally report to parents on the progress of children via a written report. Parents evenings also take place in the Autumn and Spring term. During the year, all children will take part in class assemblies, Masses and concerts which parents are invited to attend.

Our Home School Agreement sets out the responsibilities of parents, the school and children in detail. This is given to all parents when your child comes into the school.

There are several ways in which parents can support their child:

- Sharing books and listening to your child read.
- Supporting any homework set by the class teacher.
- Talking to your child about events helps to improve communication and vocabulary.

If you have any time to spare and would like to help us, we would be delighted to welcome you into the school, for example, to help out in Forest School.





The School Day

Breakfast Club

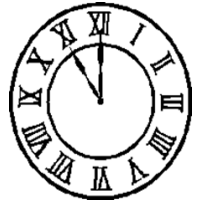
We offer a breakfast club from 7.30am. The cost is outlined on our school website.

Family Morning Prayer

Families may join us for morning prayer at 8:35am by our 'Garden of Memories'.

Parents and children are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

At 8:40am, the rest of the school can enter. Registration closes at 8:50am.



Breaktimes

The whole school has a fifteen minute break during the morning. Lunch is served at 12 noon. Lunch break finishes for the whole school at 1:00pm. The school day ends at 3:20pm and parents are asked to be prompt when collecting children.

After School Club

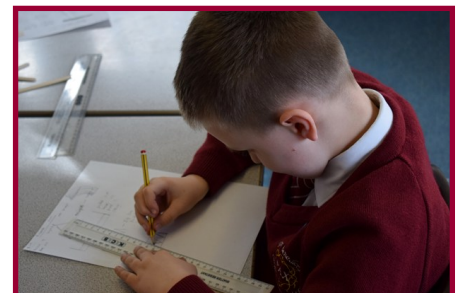
We are pleased to be able to offer our own After School Club which runs until 5.30pm. The children have access to a huge variety of games, crafts activities and toys, as well as being able to play in our extensive field and playground. A light dinner and drink are included. The cost is outlined on the website and forms are available from the office.

Curriculum

St. Benedict's is a Catholic School where we provide a Catholic Education in a Christian environment. Pupils and staff are challenged to achieve their potential: intellectually, socially and spiritually.

We aim to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that meets the needs of each individual child. We encourage children to work independently, to develop skills and establish concepts in order to have access to the National Curriculum and beyond. Curriculum overviews can be found on our website.

We build upon the children's own experiences so that they grow in confidence, self-esteem and respect for others.





Forest School

It is the mission of St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School to develop the whole child in an environment guided by our Gospel driven school values. To help fulfil our mission, we have an established Forest School.

During Forest School, all children are given the opportunity to access, experience and enjoy learning while working in the outside environment. We take the "classroom" outside and use the beautiful surroundings, weather and sounds to enhance their learning visually, orally and sensually. This holistic approach encourages children's imaginations, builds self-esteem and creates the desire to understand, learn and respect the natural world around them.

The children are in a safe environment where they can succeed, create and use a variety of curriculum skills without them even realising it! Through exploration and discovery the children are able to enjoy and self-initiate their own learning.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a wide variety of after school and lunchtime clubs including: gymnastics, football, hockey, music, sewing, art, gardening to name a few. These are run throughout the year and each term children have the opportunity to change their club/s. Year 6 have the opportunity to go on a residential trip. This activity-based trip offers children a wealth of new experiences.





Charity Links



CAFOD Big Lent Walk



Missio



Year 6 Trip to Houses of Parliament



Poppy Appeal



Baptist Lui Ming Choi School, Hong Kong Link School



Medway Foodbank

Sport



Cross Country



Mini Youth Games



Rochester Cathedral



Young Voices at the O2



Annual Careers Fayre

Performance Opportunity



Central Theatre



Medway Music Festival Ukulele





Inclusion

St Benedict's is a diverse and inclusive school that provides a secure and accessible environment for all our children so they can flourish, progress and achieve to the best of their ability. Our School SENDCO, Mrs Stuart, supports children and families who have special educational needs. She works in collaboration with class teachers, teaching assistants and parents. Together, we focus on meeting the individual needs of the children to ensure barriers to learning are reduced and children make progress. We are supported by outside agencies.

We define 'More Able' children as those who are particularly able or excel in one or more academic subjects e.g. English, Maths, Science or Computing. 'Talented' describes learners who have the ability to excel in practical skills such as art, music, drama and P.E. They may also have particular strengths in their personal and interpersonal skills or leadership qualities. Once identified, the class teacher (supported by the More Able and Talented Lead) provides stretch and challenge in the classroom. The teacher ensures that every child achieves as highly as they can creating a culture of high expectations and aspirations within the school. Stretch and challenge may take the form of work at a higher level, opportunities for self-directed study, varied pace or higher-order questioning. We also have great links with secondary schools and provide challenge through participation in their workshops and masterclasses.

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

It is very important that children play an active role in the day-to-day running of our school developing leadership skills and sense of responsibility.

Here are some examples of leadership opportunities at St. Benedict's:

- Pupil Chaplaincy Team
- School council (Including Chair, Vice chair, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Eco-Stewards
- Librarians
- Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO)
- Sports Captains and Vice Captains
- Lunch Crew
- Sports Crew



Safeguarding

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School recognises the importance of providing a Christian ethos and environment within school that will help children to feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to. All those directly connected have an essential role to play in safeguarding our children. Our school safeguarding team comprises of Mrs McAlpine, Miss Howell, Mrs Read and Mrs Stuart who can be contacted via the school office should you require advice or support or wish to discuss any worries or concerns you may have about a child. We closely work with Medway and Kent Safeguarding Children Partnership and NSPCC.

Our school is committed to safeguarding all members of our community

We have a detailed Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and work hard to ensure that this is followed.

If you have a concern about a young person in school and believe that they may be suffering or are at risk of harm or abuse you should report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

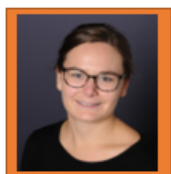
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):

Sarah McAlpine (Headteacher)



DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DDSL):

Becky Howell



Assistant
Headteacher

Claire Read



Assistant
Headteacher

Jayne Stuart

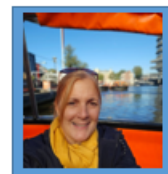


SENDCO



SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:

Lisa Brett



Behaviour

We have the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. Our environment allows all children to feel safe and secure, have their needs met and flourish as well-rounded individuals. Adults model positive behaviour in their interactions with each other and with the children, and older children set a great example to our youngest pupils.

There is a strong emphasis on self discipline and respect for all members of the school community. Children learn that school is a place where they live alongside many other people and this means sharing equipment, books and teacher's attention. Children are expected to always do their best. We teach children to be kind and thoughtful and not to hurt other children through their words or actions.

Our behaviour management system works across the school and provides clear guidelines for children with an emphasis on positive behaviour. Parents are expected to read and sign the Home School Agreement and return it to the Headteacher.



Attendance

Our attendance is always high, children want to come to school and parents trust that the staff will care for the children and contact them if it is deemed necessary. Children are expected to be in school every day. If your child is absent from school, please inform us via the 'Absence' tab in Arbor. Appointments should be made out of school hours. If your child has an emergency appointment during the day, a known adult will need to collect them and sign them out at the office. Holidays are not allowed during term time. A child will only be allowed time off from school in exceptional circumstances.



'Academies in Christ'
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark



ATTEND AND ACHIEVE

School isn't just a place to be – it's where you learn most, grow in confidence, build friendships and create your future.

Thrive under 5

Students who have **fewer** than 5 days off per year, statistically **thrive** within education.

 BETTER PROGRESS Excellent attendance leads to stronger learning and higher achievement.	 CONFIDENCE GROWS Being in school regularly builds confidence and resilience.	 STRONGER CONNECTIONS Attend, belong, and build positive relationships.	 MORE OPPORTUNITIES Good attendance opens doors to more choices and brighter futures.
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Every lesson counts.
Every day shapes your future.
Thrive under 5. Be here. Succeed.



School Uniform

St. Benedict's Catholic School is proud of its children and of their appearance— school uniform is compulsory.

Our school's uniform

- Maroon jumper or cardigan with school logo (from Uniform Base)
- Regular classic fit, A-line grey skirt or pinafore dress (not black or charcoal)
- Grey trousers (not black or charcoal)
- White blouse or shirt
- School tie
- Black or grey tights
- Black or grey socks
- Black sensible school shoes (no boots or shoes with high heels)
- Maroon gingham dress (not culottes) with white socks and sandals (Summer Term)

P.E. Kit

- White t-shirt with school logo from Uniformbase or plain white t-shirt with no logo
- Navy shorts
- Navy tracksuit for Winter Term
- Black plimsolls / any trainers for outdoor activity

Additional Uniform requirements

Reception, Year One and Year 2 require a Forest School Kit

- Waterproof gloves
- Waterproof jacket AND waterproof trousers (**All in one waterproof is best)
- Fleece/sweatshirt
- Long trousers in all seasons
- Long sleeve T-shirt
- Wellies
- Sun hat/woolly hat
- Spare socks
- At least 4 layers - ie. vest+shirt+fleece+waterproof (+coat+extra socks in winter)



Jewellery, hair and other expectations

- No jewellery (only a watch) including earrings are allowed for health and safety reasons.
- If a child's ears have very recently been pierced, then a child may wear their studs provided they have been covered with tape (by a parent) before coming to school.
- Hair that can be tied back, should be tied back.
- Gel should not be worn
- No hair dye, no indentations.
- Hair extensions should match the child's hair colour exactly.
- Fancy bands, large or numerous bows, clips or beads should not be worn.
- Hair clips and hair bands should match school colours (maroon, white or grey) and be small in size.
- Make up (including nail varnish) must not be worn in school.
- Tattoos and transfers stickers are not permitted.
- Items which are not allowed will be taken from children and returned to parents.

Please note

- All uniform must be clearly labelled.
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Children should be able to do up their own laces and fasten their shoes.
- Heeled shoes are not to be worn in school. Sandals (summer term) without toe cover or ankle strap are not allowed.
- Trainers are only allowed for P.E. lessons.
- Only Year 6 are allowed to bring their own choice of school bags. Every other child should have a bookbag. These can be purchased from the office via Arbor.

Where to purchase it

- Parents and carers can obtain all uniform items from the majority of high street retailers that stock school uniform, as well as at all of the major supermarkets.
- Our logo items (school tie/ P.E. t-shirt/ cardigan or jumper) can be purchased from UniformBase, 11 Railway St, Chatham ME4 4HU.
- School book bags and water bottles can be purchased online via Arbor and collected from the school office.
- Second hand uniform can be obtained from the school by contacting office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk
- If you are experiencing difficulties obtaining uniform due to financial difficulties, please contact the email address above.



Parking

Parents and visitors must not use the school car park during the school day unless permission is granted by the Headteacher. The zigzag lines outside the school gates are mandatory.

Parents who park on these lines before and after school are liable to receive a parking ticket from Medway Council or the Police. These rules have been made for the safety of your children.

Parking around school can be busy, so please be respectful of our neighbours' drives and we encourage children to walk to school as often as possible.

If parents are dropping off for breakfast club, the car park can be accessed between 7:30—8am.

School Dinners

School lunches are provided by Caterlink and payment is made via Arbor. Children may bring a packed lunch from home. We are a healthy school and have a policy of no nuts due to allergies.

Currently, all children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a 'universal infant free school meal' but if you believe your child may be entitled to a free school meal according to the government-set criteria please enquire at the school office.

Children whose families qualify for Pupil Premium funding are also entitled to a free school dinner.

Medical

If children have slight accidents in school they are treated by a trained first aider. If an accident appears to be serious, parents will be notified should hospital treatment be necessary. Parents may be notified by phone/Arbor if a child has a bump to the head. All accidents are recorded in the accident book.

If your child becomes unwell, we will let you know and ask you to come to school if necessary. It is therefore very important that the school has at least two telephone numbers where parents or carers may be contacted during school hours. If this changes, we must be notified immediately.



Contact Details

Address: Lambourn Way, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8PU
Telephone: 01634 669700
Email: office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk
Twitter: @StBenedictsRCPS
Instagram: @St.BenedictsRCPS



At St. Benedict's our doors are always open. We invite you to visit us, feel the warmth of our faith-filled school family and see first hand how we inspire our children to grow in love and learning.

We look forward to welcoming your family into ours.