

Guide Inspire Succeed



St Bede's
Roman Catholic High School



We believe this is a place
that can make a difference

Thank you for your interest in St Bede's.

Our school has an enviable reputation within Blackburn with Darwen and across Lancashire for high academic standards, exemplary pupil behaviour and for providing outstanding opportunities for our young people to be inspired and succeed both in and outside the classroom.



Great schools are living communities with positive relationships at their heart. The success of St Bede's is founded on these relationships and the support of our parents and dedication of our staff, who are totally committed to the children they serve. Crucially, this is underpinned by our Catholic ethos, our values and our mission.

At St Bede's we seek to create an environment where pupils are happy, challenged and successful; we aim to give pupils the chance to thrive and excel, which we believe is best achieved in a partnership between parents, pupils and teachers. We are inspired by the Gospel where we are told: 'Everything is possible for one who believes.' (Mark 9:23)

D Callaghan
Headteacher



We believe in
setting high targets
and working hard
to achieve them





We believe in going the extra mile

Settling into School

Before your child begins school Miss O'Toole, your Primary Transition Co-ordinator, will visit your child in their primary school to speak with them and their class teacher. Your child will then participate in an induction programme here at St Bede's whilst still in Year 6. This will give them the opportunity to meet their new teachers and learn about the routine of the school before they begin in September.

Pastoral Care

All our staff are committed to ensuring that your child is happy at school. To enable this to happen we have a pastoral team that ensures your child is aware of the key people available to them to speak to if they have any concerns. Children are placed into one of four colleges: Arrowsmith, Plessington, Southworth and Rigby. Your child's college leader will be your main point of contact and will remain so throughout their time at the school. All brothers and sisters will be placed in the same college so that you need contact only one college leader.

Setting

Children are set based on a combination of your child's Key Stage 2 results and data, and discussions with their Year 6 teachers. Whilst studying for GCSEs, class sizes for maths and English will not usually exceed 25.

Learning Support

Our Learning Support Department ensures that any special requirements to obtain full access to the curriculum are met. Mrs Ormisher is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), who leads a large department of support staff who can provide either short or long term support for your child.

Freshly Prepared Food

Our catering team works hard to ensure that all children have access to freshly prepared, tasty and healthy food in our purpose-built dining hall.





We believe imagination
can take you everywhere

We place great importance on achievement in all areas of school life. In addition to our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) provision, St Bede's success in sport is very impressive, as is our reputation for creative and performing arts.

Mathematics

Our maths department aims to ensure that your child works to achieve their maximum potential and develop an understanding and appreciation of mathematical knowledge, concepts and skills through a variety of learning experiences. Pupils are banded and placed into sets within the department at differentiated levels, to allow each child to develop their potential. Throughout the year your child will be continually assessed through classwork, homework, module tests and an end of year test. All children are supported by their teachers.

Science

In science we study how God expresses his love for us through his material creation. Our aim is to appreciate the miracle of creation through the study of animals, plants, materials and physical processes. Our work in science fosters a sense of community and team spirit. Through our work we learn to respect each other's ideas and values. Your child will be taught science three times per week at Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 most pupils are taught five lessons per week. Lessons will cover aspects of biology, chemistry and physics with an integrated approach.

English

Our English department creatively provides your child with the fundamental literacy skills needed for life beyond St Bede's. We strive to guide your child as they gain an appreciation of a wide range of literature, whilst providing them with the confidence to express their own literary views. We adopt a collaborative view that regardless of your child's starting point, they can achieve their potential and beyond. We endeavour to enhance your child's learning through a range of engaging approaches, such as theatre trips and extra-curricular activities. Progress is continually assessed by our supportive teachers through classwork, homework and scheduled assessments.

Religious Education

The Religious Education department seeks to foster an interest in, and enthusiasm for, religious debate and enquiry and an appreciation of the significance of religion in contemporary society.

RE lessons enable your child to develop knowledge of religious belief, tradition and practice and the skills to critically analyse, evaluate and debate, with confidence. A variety of trips, visiting speakers and exhibitions are provided to enhance learning and complement the curriculum.

The RE department deliver a 'Values' curriculum and organise residential retreats. This provides a range of opportunities for personal reflection, exploration of faith and spirituality and the development of Gospel values within our school and society.

Computing

Computing is an exciting subject where students explore computers and programming, including games and mobile app development. Our computing department oversees St Bede's TV, the school magazine, and computer club.

Modern Foreign Languages

All pupils study Spanish as a language. Your child will be given the opportunity to join various trips and visits abroad during their time at the school.

Geography

Geography is a subject that is indispensable to understanding the modern world. Your child will study the relationship between the Earth and its peoples through the study of place, space and environment. The geography department organises field trips and visits.

History

History is taught in an exciting and innovative way at St Bede's, using inspiring re-enactments as well as more traditional classroom based teaching. There are many history trips and visits available for your child to take part in. In year 10 there is a trip to Europe.

Design and Technology

Design and technology enables your child to develop an investigative and analytical approach to their work and their environment. Design situations are set and they must follow a design process to solve problems. They will develop design, graphical and practical skills in the areas of graphical design and product design.



We believe in embracing new ideas and offering new opportunities

Music

The music department gives your child the opportunity to develop their musicianship. They will develop their creativity, personal learning and thinking skills by working in teams to perform their own compositions. As well as the more traditional instruments, we also have rock band instruments, drums, guitar, bass and keyboards.

The standard of musicianship in all our ensembles is very high. Your child will be given the opportunity to participate in singing group, wind band, orchestra and swing band. In addition, we also offer brass and woodwind tuition after school.

Drama

Drama is a creative and demanding subject that allows your child to access a series of practical skills and techniques to help them discover more about themselves and the world in which they live. The department has a state of the art drama studio to work from. Your child will be given the opportunity to take part in school productions. This year there will be a Christmas showcase.

Art

The art department strives to provide a broad based practical art education, whilst cultivating virtues based on Christian principles in preparation for adult life. Your child will study many topics such as fine art, textiles, drawing, graffiti, ceramics and digital photography. The styles of various artists such as Van Gogh and Escher will be studied. The art department organises trips and visits including places as far afield as Paris and Barcelona.

Sport

At St Bede's we have a proud history of excellence in sport. Pupils develop skills and play a variety of sports from Year 7, including: football, cricket, table tennis, gymnastics, badminton and netball.



We believe that we can achieve more, together

At St Bede's we highly value the relationship that we have with Parents and Carers. At our Parent's Evenings we carry out surveys to find out their opinions on various issues so that we can build on our strengths and ensure we are effective on meeting challenges. The comments and graphs below represent a selection of views from Parents and Carers across all year groups. To view a full breakdown of the data collected please visit the school website www.stbedesblackburn.com

"My son enjoys being a student at St Bede's. he has gained a lot and grown in confidence"

"Having my child in this school makes me proud wherever I go"

"My child has responded well during his time at the school"

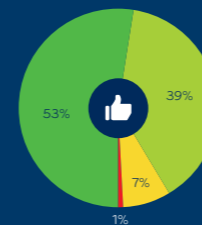
"Fabulous school with fabulous staff – Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication"

"Love the school! Cared for so well"

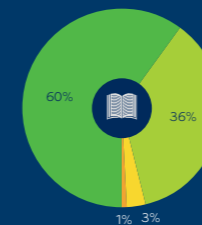
"So happy with my child's progress"



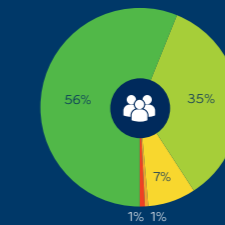
My child is happy at this school



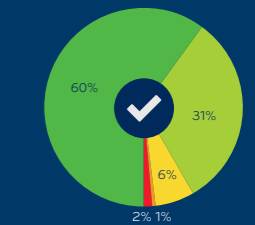
My child is taught well at this school



The school is well led and managed



I would recommend this school to another parent



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Don't know
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree

Our Class of 2020



Abigail

“My time at St Bede’s was amazing. I have been tutored and supported by the most friendly teachers, met life-long friends and achieved the role of becoming head girl. Whilst at school I have had many positive experiences with some of these being representing my school in Paris for the netball team where we came second, receiving support and guidance in the lead up to my exams that unfortunately I didn’t get to sit and being presented with ‘Sportswoman of the Year in 2019’.

To the new year 7’s joining the school in September remember to be yourself, try your hardest, seek help if you need it and believe in everything you do as all things are possible. Just remember... ‘If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it.’

Jani

“I am truly thankful for the range of extra-curricular activities, especially the various lessons and rehearsals the music department offers. Some of my fondest memories of high school were rehearsing with my band and putting on gigs in school, to then evolve to performing in and around Blackburn, Darwen, Bolton and Manchester. I can confidently say that this would have been impossible without the help of the impeccable music staff, who gave up their time for our benefit.

St Bede’s has a supportive environment for students and staff are encouraging and understanding, allowing you to confide in them if need be.”



Lilli

"I feel that my time at St Bede's has prepared me excellently for college to take my A-Levels. My teachers always offered a high level of support whenever I felt as though I needed it and gave me confidence to reach my full potential."



Alex

"I have many fond memories throughout my time at St Bedes that have made my school experience very enjoyable. The wide choice of extracurricular activities has played a vital role in this and I think that the facilities and equipment that St Bedes have to offer helped to reinforce my interest in these clubs. Not only this but the general positive school environment has encouraged me to move out of my comfort zone and push myself. Given that in the future I would like to be a design engineer, I believe that the knowledge and guidance that has been offered to me by all staff members will allow me to fulfil it. All of my teachers have ensured that my learning was their full priority enabling me to succeed in all aspects of school- academic and non academic. When joining St Bedes, take full advantage of all opportunities given to you and know that you are surrounded by caring and supportive pupils and teachers."



Robyn

"St Bedes has prepared me for the future, teaching me values inside and outside the classroom. My experience at St Bedes has encouraged me to be the best person I could be, through my work and my personality throughout my school career."



Admissions Policy and Procedure 2021-2022



St Bede's High School, Blackburn is an 11-16 co-education Catholic secondary school under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford. As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions.

The co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. For the school year commencing September 2021, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 210.

Applications for admission to the school for September 2021 should be made on the common application form enclosed with the Local Authority's brochure or on-line. Your application must be submitted by the National closing date for school admission applications, namely 31 October.

Letters informing parent(s)/carer(s) of whether or not their child has been allocated a place at St Bede's will be sent out by the Local Authority in March 2021. Parent(s)/carer(s) of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative school place by the Local Authority.

ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL will be made by the Governing Body. Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan/Statement for Special Educational Need naming St Bede's will be given priority above all other children. All preferences listed on the Local Authority Preference Form will be considered on an equal basis with the following set of ADMISSIONS CRITERIA forming a priority order where there are more applications for admissions than the school has places available

1. Looked after Children and previously Looked after Children (see note a).
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of application and admission (see note f).
3. Baptised Catholic children from the following Partner Primary Schools: St. Paul's, Feniscowles, St. Peter's, Mill Hill, St. Edward's, Darwen, St. Joseph's, Darwen and Feniscowles Primary School.
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
5. Non Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of application and admission (see note f).
6. Children with a parent or carer who has been employed at St Bede's for a minimum of two years prior to the closing date for applications.
7. Non Catholic children from the Partner Primary Schools as listed in Category 3.
8. Other children.

NOTES

a) 'Previously Looked after' children means children who were previously 'looked after' but immediately after being looked after were adopted or became subject to a residence order/child arrangement order, or special guardianship order ('Looked after' means that the child was (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions)

b) All applicants who submit their applications by the national closing date will be considered at the same time after the closing date for admissions. Where there are exceptional reasons for the delay, provided a late application is received before 1 February 2020, then it may be considered alongside the applications submitted on time. All other applications will only be considered after all the on-time applications have been considered and allocated places.

c) All Catholic applicants will be required to produce baptismal certificates or documentation from a Parish Priest confirming that the child is in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Tie-Breaker: If, in any category, there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of distance from home to school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) to the main entrance of the school using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system with those living nearer to the school having priority. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applications where this distance would decide who would be allocated the last place/s, the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s). The draw will take place at the Local Authority's offices, and the names will be drawn by a local authority officer who is independent of the admissions process.

d) Where a child lives with parent(s)/carers(s) with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child's "permanent place of residence" will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has primary caring responsibility for that child for the majority of school days in a week.

e) Sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling and the sibling will still be attending St Bede's when the younger child is admitted.

f) If an application has been made for places for twins/triplets/two or more siblings in the same year group and insufficient places are left within the published admission number (i.e. one of the siblings is the last child who can be admitted within that number) it may be possible for the Admission Authority to offer places to the other sibling(s) in the birth group.

g) A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the school will be slotted into the waiting list according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Please note that looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with the Fair access protocol must take precedence over those on the waiting list.

h) Parent(s)/carer(s) will be informed of their child's position on the waiting list which will operate until 31 December 2021.

i) "In Year" applications will be considered when they are received and places offered if they are available. If more applications are received at a particular time than there are places available for, then the published over-subscription criteria will be applied to those applications and places offered accordingly.

j) The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.

k) If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parent(s)/carer(s) can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on all parties.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents/carers(s) may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if a child is particularly gifted and talented, or has experienced problems such as ill health

Children who are already of secondary school age

Parent(s)/carer(s) must submit their written request for admission out of the normal age group to the Governing Body. If their request is agreed and a place is available in the requested year group, the child will be admitted.

Children who wish to seek admission to Year 7 outside their normal age group (i.e. who are currently placed in a lower year group).

Parent(s)/carer(s) will need to submit a normal Common Application Form (CAF) to the Local Authority (in writing or online) for admission into the normal age group at the same time as they submit a written request to the Governing Body for their child to be admitted out of the normal age group.

Please note: This Governing Body will not honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parent(s)/carer(s), therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference school.

The Governing Body will make a decision on the request before the Secondary national offer date if at all possible.

If the request is agreed, the parent(s)/carer(s) must make a new application for the next main admission round the following year, and their current application for the normal age group should be withdrawn before a place is offered.

If their request for admission outside the normal age group is refused, parent(s)/carer(s) must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group that they receive from the Local Authority, or to refuse it and make a further in-year application to the Governing Body for their child to be admitted outside their normal age group when they leave the current primary school.

Making the decision

Parent(s)/carer(s) seeking admission of their child outside their normal age group must send their written request to the Governing Body. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/carer(s) to provide the Governing Body with all relevant information relating to this request, including the parent(s)/carer(s) views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; medical history and views of a medical professional (where relevant); whether the child would naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; and whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group.

The Governing Body is required to take into account the views of the Head Teacher on the application as well as the information from the parent(s)/carer(s). The Governing Body will make their decision on the basis of the circumstances of each individual case, and in the best interests of the child concerned.

The Governing Body will then inform the parent/carer of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to and will provide the reasons for their decision.

Parent(s)/carer(s) have a statutory right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. As the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, the right of appeal does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred year group. However, they may make a complaint about an admission authority's decision not to admit their child outside their normal age group

Contact

To find out more about what life at St Bede's has to offer, we would be pleased to arrange an appointment to show you around:

01254 202519

contact@stbedesblackburn.com

www.stbedesblackburn.com

Green Lane, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 4SR

Everything is possible
for one who believes

Mark 9:23



St Bede's

Believe all things are possible