



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School

Prospectus

Love Learn Believe

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to introduce you to our vibrant and nurturing school community. *'At Blessed Dominic, pupils thrive because of the exceptional care they receive, coupled with high ambitions for every child'* (Ofsted 2025).

At Blessed Dominic, we place great importance on the development of the whole child. Through our mission statement, with Christ at the centre, we foster an environment that helps children develop their social and moral code as they build their sense of uniqueness and self-worth as an individual. We believe all children deserve the opportunity to nurture their individual talents and to achieve their true potential. We ensure that children are well prepared for life in modern Britain by developing life-long learning skills and attitudes that enable them to face new challenges calmly and positively.

We provide the opportunity for our children to achieve their full potential in a spiritual, academic and moral climate that is based on the Gospel Values. Our culturally diverse school is an integral part of the local community and is known for its warmth, friendliness and its desire to do the very best for the children in our care. Our curriculum is designed to challenge and motivate and ultimately ensure that learners progress academically and become successful and confident individuals. Our aim is that the best learning opportunities will be provided regardless of ability, race, age or gender.

We use a range of resources and opportunities to meet the needs of the curriculum and provide an exciting and enlightening learning experience for our children that is also rich in cultural capital. This enables us to broaden the children's horizons as far as possible during their time in school. Through fostering resilience, encouraging children's thirst for new experiences and developing the skills of enquiry, this enables children to speak clearly and confidently about their learning.

Ultimately, our desire and vision for our children is to instill a love of learning in the hope that this in turn will ensure they leave Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School as well-rounded individuals who are fully equipped to deal with the opportunities and challenges that they will face in the future. I look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to work alongside you in the years to come.

Best Wishes

Mrs J Hourihan

Headteacher

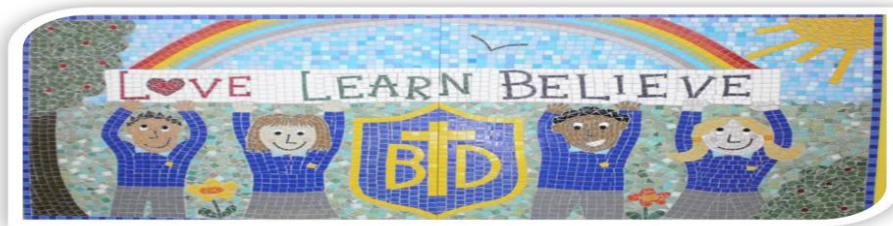


Mission Statement

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on being a culturally diverse family. We seek to instill in every child that we nurture, the joy and wonder of learning.

As we journey together with Christ, we develop children's resilience, intellectual curiosity and creativity through our positive learning behaviours. We nurture and cherish the unique talents of all, empowering them to flourish and grow into life-long learners.

Our mission is to show love, promote learning and belief in God our Father.



Blessed Dominic Barberi (22 June 1792 – 27 August 1849)

Our school is named after Blessed Dominic Barberi. Blessed Dominic Barberi was an Italian theologian and a member of the Passionist Congregation prominent in spreading Catholicism in England. In 1963, he was beatified by Pope Paul VI.



Blessed Dominic Barberi and Saint John Henry Newman

Blessed Dominic contributed to the conversion of Saint John Henry Newman. Dominic felt blessed to receive the famous Anglican John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church. "What a spectacle it was for me to see Newman at my feet! All that I have suffered since I left Italy has been well compensated by this event. I hope the effects of such a conversion may be great." On the following Sunday, Newman and four companions went to the Catholic Chapel of St. Clement's at Oxford for Mass. All England soon knew that they were now Roman Catholic. John Henry Newman was canonised on Sunday 13th October 2019.

A Brief history of the School

The school opened in September 1971. In the early days, pupils came to school from outside the area as the housing estate was still in the process of being built. The first family didn't move into the area until October 1971. Once inside, the children and staff had to wear slippers to protect the floors of the newly built school from the mud outside.

At that time, families from both the American Air Force and the RAF had housing nearby. Their children attended this school and many of their parents were involved in school life, some of them taking on the role of School Governor.

The local church had not yet been built so the school was used as a church by the local parish of St Margaret Clitherow.

The School has had three previous Headteachers, Mr Patrick Sheridan, Miss Ann Marie Hendry and Mrs Geraldine Pears. Under their leadership the school went from strength to strength.

Originally a one form of entry school, Blessed Dominic is now two forms of entry and the school welcomes children from around the world.

The School's Aims

1. To promote knowledge and understanding of, and growth in the faith and way of life.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of the responses of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
3. To promote the skills required in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.
4. To promote, foster and deepen children's spiritual awareness by developing a reflective attitude and a sense of awe respect and wonder.

School Organisation

Blessed Dominic School is a 2-form of entry Catholic primary school with a nursery admitting children from the age of 3 to 11 years.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

Nursery-aged children may attend on either a part-time basis (15 hours) or a full-time basis (30 hours for eligible families), with options for morning sessions, afternoon sessions, or full days from Monday to Friday for 30 hour provision.

Reception-aged children are admitted on a full-time basis in the September of the academic year in which they turn five.



Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

Years 1-6 consist of mixed ability classes, which are organised according to the children's ages. Children, whose birthdays fall within a particular year, (September to August) are grouped together in one class.

We moved into our brand new school building in 2019 and our children are enjoying state of the art facilities and technology.



Admissions

Blessed Dominic Primary School is a Catholic Voluntary Aided School established for the education of Catholic children. Responsibility for the admission of pupils rests with the Governing Body whose criteria for admission should be read in conjunction with the mission statement and the statement of aims and identity included in this prospectus. Accordingly, the governors will consider applications for admission made on behalf of eligible pupils by parents who are prepared to give positive support to the aims and identity of this Catholic school.

The Governors intend to admit up to 52 pupils into Nursery and 60 pupils into Reception in the school year which begins September 2026.

Reception applications are made online centrally to the London Borough of Barnet on a Common Application Form (CAF). You must also complete the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return to the school. Where there are more applications than places, the oversubscription criteria will be applied as detailed in the Admissions Policy.

Nursery applications are made directly to the school by completing the SIF (Supplementary Information Form).



The School Day

Nursery

The children access 15 or 30 hours of free nursery provision (depending on eligibility). There is the opportunity to request additional hours depending on availability.

Nursery hours are from 8.55am to 3.20pm – Monday to Friday

Morning session 8.50am to 11.50am

Afternoon session 12.20pm to 3.20pm

Reception & Year 1 - 6

The school entrances open at 8.40am. Registration takes place at 8.55am. School ends at 3.15pm.

Reception 8.40am to 3.15pm

Key Stage 1 (Yr 1 & 2) 8.40am to 3.15pm

Key Stage 2 (Yr 3-6) 8.40am to 3.15pm

We expect the children to be in their classrooms ready to start learning at 8:55am.

Children will not be dismissed at any other time or venue other than the school, unless prior notice has been given to the parents. Teachers requiring children to participate in out of school activities, will give advance notice to parents.

The school gates will open at 8.40am for the children to enter. If you are unable to collect your child at 3.15pm, please inform the school office in advance of the alternative arrangement you have made for your child's collection.

Latecomers will be recorded in the late book in the school office. Parents of children who are persistently late will be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an umbrella term for the responsibility we have to ensure that children in our care are kept safe from harm and this includes promoting the welfare of all children.

This means we have a duty to protect children within our setting from abuse and maltreatment. It includes child protection, recruitment of suitable staff, medication, accidents, illness and emergencies, suitability of the premises and equipment and health and safety. It also ensures children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. We use CPOMS for logging and monitoring safeguarding, wellbeing and all pastoral issues. *'Pupils feel, and are, safe and protected'* (Ofsted 2025).



Equal opportunities

The ethos of our school is based upon Christ's commandment to love God and to love our neighbour. Therefore, implicit within our teaching is that all children regardless of gender, age, race, creed or ability are treated equally and encouraged to work in harmony with respect for one another. At Blessed Dominic Catholic School, we encourage an atmosphere of love, understanding and tolerance.



Sharing our Faith

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School continues and complements the work of home and parish in caring for the Christian growth of our children. Through example and commitment, the children are led to develop a loving relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus through the Holy Spirit - a process that it is hoped will influence their attitudes to life and their relationships with other people.



Parents are expected to uphold and reinforce the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith, which will be taught in school. The school looks to a partnership with the parents in the development of the Faith and religious commitment of their child. To this end, parents are expected to encourage by their own example of religious practice and on occasion to join with the teachers and governors in liturgies, assemblies or activities that might help them to foster the love of God and response to the Gospel in the children. The Religious Education Curriculum Directory 'To know You more clearly' is used to deliver the RE curriculum across the school. 10% of curriculum time is dedicated to teaching of RE. Prayer and liturgy are woven into the school day with daily opportunities for prayer and reflection. *'The school values of 'love, learn, believe' are evident in lessons (Ofsted, 2025).*

First Holy Communion preparation takes place in the parish for pupils who are in Year three. During the year, a series of meetings for parents are held in the parish to enable parents to take part in the very important process of preparing their children to be full members of our church. All pupils take part in a Reconciliation programme prior to making their First Holy Communion. We value the contribution of parents who actively support the home/school/parish partnership.

We have close links with our local parish Church of St Margaret Clitherow and Fr Brian.



Curriculum

Our rich and diverse curriculum allows children to become fully absorbed in their learning and make links between subjects, topics and themes. We constantly review our curriculum to ensure that it is relevant and of interest to the children, providing them with the knowledge, skills and understanding required for the next stage of their development after primary school. Our most recent Ofsted inspection recognised that *'The school's curriculum is highly ambitious' (Ofsted 2025).* We draw on the expertise of subject specialists when teaching PE, Spanish and Music.



Homework

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, homework is seen as a vital part of the learning process. A homework timetable is attached to the termly class curriculum letter.

Breakfast and after school clubs

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7:45am every school day morning. Breakfast includes cereal, fruit juice and a cooked breakfast.

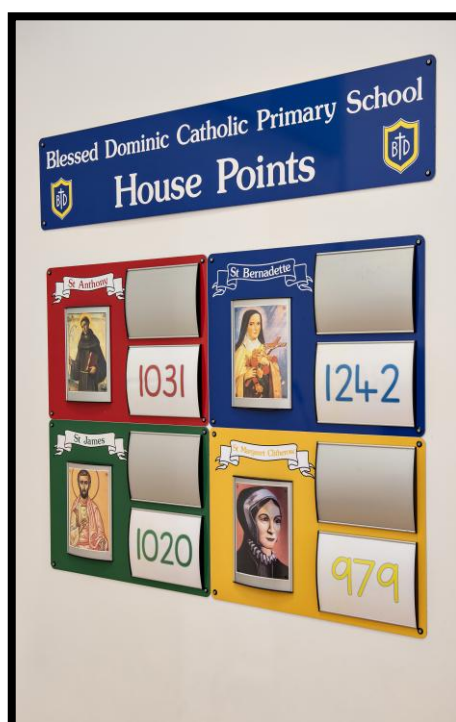
There are a range of after school clubs on offer. An 'After School Club' timetable is available from the school office. We have access to wrap around care via Greentops from Reception to Year 6.



Behaviour

'The school has very high standards for pupils' behaviour' (Ofsted 2025). Good manners and respect for other people and their property are expected at all times. Children are encouraged to take pride in their work and their appearance. School rules are explained to the children and we expect them to co-operate in order to maintain a peaceful and safe environment. We encourage children to exercise self discipline and to see the consequences of their actions. Good news messages and star worker/team player certificates are awarded to children who demonstrate consistent positive behaviour.

'Pupils behave exceptionally well throughout the school' (Ofsted 2025).



Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Blessed Dominic is a mainstream inclusive school, which ensures that all pupils achieve their potential; personally, socially, emotionally and academically in all areas of the curriculum, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, social background, religion, sexual identity, physical ability or educational need. Our SENCo and Inclusion lead is the designated teacher who is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

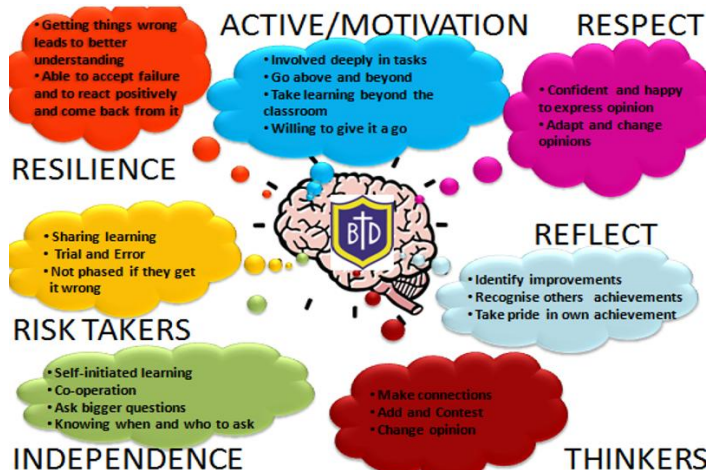
A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special education provision to be made for him or her. (SEN code of Practice 2014)

Parents who have concerns about their child's physical, social or learning needs are invited to initially discuss these concerns with their child's classteacher and following this is welcome to make an appointment with the SENCo/ Inclusion lead. Children will not be referred to outside agencies without parental consultation.



Blessed Dominic Learning Model and Learning Behaviours

The school is committed to stretching and challenging all learners and 'Bloom's Taxonomy' is embedded in our learning model. In an ever changing world, we want children at Blessed Dominic to have the skills, behaviours and confidence to think, create and adapt to whatever challenges they are faced. In order to do this, the Blessed Dominic Learning Behaviours challenge and support our children to continually grow as learners and individuals.



Parents

We endeavour to support parents in their role as Catholic educators by providing them with the opportunity to share in the life of the school and to participate in religious celebrations. Throughout the year there are many meetings, celebrations of the Eucharist and social events that parents are invited to attend.

Parent consultation evenings are held termly enabling parents to discuss their child's well-being and progress with the teacher and see samples of work. If parents have any concerns or worries, we encourage them to speak to us.

Weekly newsletters are sent home to keep parents up to date with what is happening in school. Messages and reminders are sent through our messaging service.

Blessed Dominic Parents Group

'The Parents' Group' organise many fundraising events throughout the year and the school rely on this funding to purchase additional resources to support your children's learning.



Assessment

Regular assessment of pupils' work is carried out by the class teacher and monitored by the senior leadership team.

Statutory assessment

- Early Years Foundation Stage profile assessment (end of Reception)
- Phonics test (end of Year 1 – June)
- Tables Checking (Year 4 – June)
- Key Stage Two (end of Year 6 – May)

Visits

Regular visits to museums, historical homes, the theatre or other places of educational interest are organised to enrich the curriculum learning in class. In addition to this, children in Year 5 take part in visits to support their spiritual and moral development.

Children in Year 6 participate in a residential out-door activity based trip.



As a result of the Education Reform Act 1988, there is no obligation on parents to pay for activities which take place during the school year. However, the school does not have the resources to fund all the activities we would wish to provide so without parental contributions, many activities planned would not take place.

Appearance

- For pierced ears only studs are permitted one in each ear, no hoops.
- Children are not allowed to wear jewellery or any form of necklace or bracelet in school as this could be a cause of injury
- Only analogue watches are not permitted to be worn in school. No smart watches or wearable smart technology.
- Nail Varnish is not allowed
- Tights for girls must be grey, black or navy.
- Hairstyles must be simple, neat and tidy, of a natural colour and must be worn off the face. Hair below the shoulder must be tied back.
- Coats must be plain blue, black or navy.
- Children are permitted to carry items to and from school in either a school book bag (EYFS & KS1) or the school rucksack (KS2) Plain black or blue bags are permitted.
- Only conventional hairstyles are acceptable and hair bands must be blue, black or grey. No other colours are permitted.

Attendance

'Pupils love coming to school as indicated by their high attendance and excellent academic achievement' (Ofsted 2025). Governors and staff are keen to encourage good habits of punctuality and high attendance at school. Expectations are that pupil school attendance should be a minimum of 97% - this applies to all children of statutory school age.

Student attainment and achievement depend on regular attendance at school. Any absence leads to missed learning and other experiences and may cause difficulties with social relationships.

We ask parents to co-operate with us by not organising or booking holidays during term time. This is in line with Government and Barnet LA regulations. We are unable to authorise holidays during term times and any requests for exceptional leave will be considered on a case by case basis.

Governors' Fund

As a voluntary aided school, the Governors are responsible for the internal improvements and the structural external maintenance of the school. Each family is asked to make an annual contribution to the Diocesan School Fund which enable these works to be carried out. As a Voluntary Aided school we have to make 10% contribution to capital works so without these donations we are unable to bid for projects to continue to improve the learning environment for pupils.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school. This may be a new experience for your family or perhaps you have older children already at school; whatever your previous experiences of school have been, we hope to make this a new and exciting partnership.

Blessed Dominic School is all about working together for the good of our children to serve their needs and help to fulfil their potential.

LOVE – LEARN – BELIEVE



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