



# **Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School**

# **Prospectus**

**Love Learn Believe**





## Welcome from the Headteacher

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School is a very happy and successful school in Colindale and has been serving the Catholic community for 52 years. We were judged to be 'Outstanding' in our most recent Inspection and the Lead Inspector noted how the '...balance of excellent care and guidance and academic challenge..' has resulted '...in all year groups making outstanding progress' (June 2019).

In September 2019, we relocated to a brand new school building with state of the art facilities and resources.

Our wide and varied curriculum is carefully planned to reflect current events. We believe the curriculum should be relevant to children's life experiences; should inspire and engage them in their learning, whilst enabling them to work collaboratively using their imaginations. The aim of our curriculum is for pupils to have requisite skills to be super successful, independent and motivated learners, in readiness for their next stage of education.

We provide the opportunity for pupils 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 ultimate goal is to instill in our children a love of learning and a passion for life itself. We hope that this in turn will ensure that children 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.

As an 'Outstanding' provider in a new location, we invite you to come and visit our lovely school and witness first hand, all that we have to offer.

We look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to work alongside you in the years to come.

Best wishes  
Mrs Geraldine Pears  
Headteacher



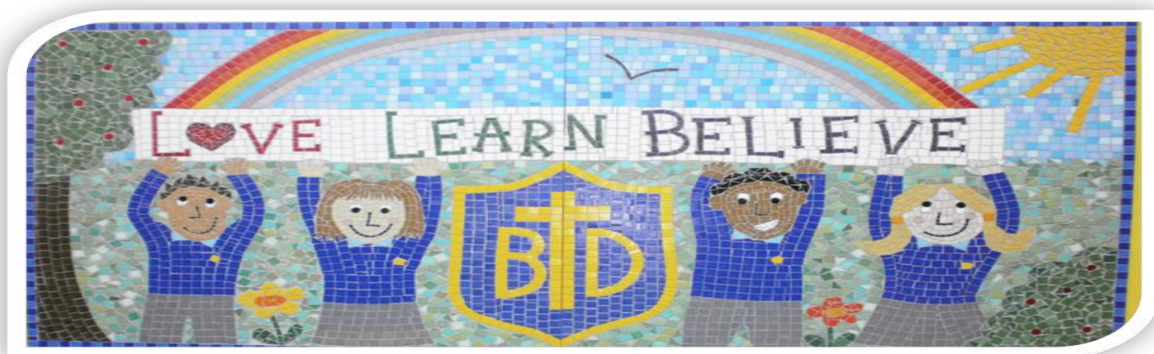
**Miss Keegan (Assistant Head), Mrs Pears (Headteacher),  
Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Miss Sulis (Deputy Headteacher)**

## 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.



**Love – Learn – Believe** (School motto)

### **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 two previous Headteachers, Mr Patrick Sheridan and Miss Ann Marie Hendry. 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 admitting children from the age of 3 to 11 years.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Nursery aged pupils are admitted to the Early Years Foundation stage on a part time basis and eligible families are able to access 30 hour provision. Reception aged pupils are admitted on a full time basis in the September of the academic year of their fifth birthday.

## Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2



The main school consists 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 have settled into our brand new school building and our children are enjoying state of the art facilities and technology including access to virtual reality headsets.

## 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 2024.

All 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** and return to the school.

Where there are more applications than places, the oversubscription criteria will be applied as detailed in the Admissions Policy.



# The School Day

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

## 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 3.15pm – Monday to Friday although the school operates a 'soft start' at 8.40am.

Morning session                      8.50am to 11.50am

Afternoon session                      12.20pm to 3.20pm

**Reception**                              8.40am to 3.15pm

**Key Stage 1**                              8.40am to 3.15pm

**Key Stage 2**                              8.40am to 3.15pm

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, which is scrutinised by the Educational Welfare Officer during their termly visits.





## 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 these 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 monitoring safeguarding, wellbeing and all pastoral issues.



## 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.



LOVE – LEARN – BELIEVE

---



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. Teachers use the curriculum units from the **Margaret Carswell** Religious Education programme across the school as well as other support materials to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum Directory.

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. We value the contribution of parents who actively support the home/school/parish partnership. All pupils take part in a Reconciliation programme prior to making their First Holy Communion.

## 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 curriculum at Blessed Dominic is very thoughtfully planned. (June 2019)'

# 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.



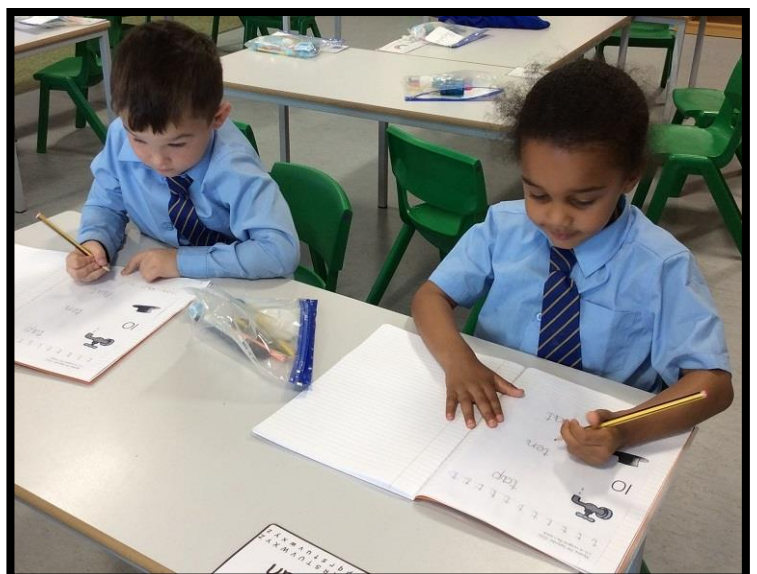
## Breakfast and after school clubs

Our Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am 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.

## Behaviour

The school has a positive attitude towards behaviour. 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 letters and star worker/team player certificates are awarded to children who demonstrate consistent positive behaviour.



## **Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)**

The school has a designated teacher to manage this area and has a policy for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs. Every effort is made to identify children who may have difficulty related to physical, learning or social needs as early as possible.

Where the school has identified such needs, parents will be contacted immediately and the matter thoroughly discussed so that possible strategies can be put in place to help the child.

Children will not be referred to outside agencies without parental consultation.

Parents who have concerns about their child's physical, social or learning needs are invited to make an appointment with the Inclusion co-ordinator.

## **More able learners**

The school is committed to stretching and challenging all learners and 'Bloom's Taxonomy' is embedded in our learning model and children's learning behaviours. 'More able' learners from Nursery upwards are identified and teachers use a range of classroom strategies such as differentiation, collaborative learning, higher order thinking and additional enrichment activities to ensure rapid progress and excellent outcomes.

## **Parents**

We endeavour to assist 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 emailed home to keep parents up to date with what is happening in school. Messages and reminders are sent through our text messaging service.



'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)
- Tables Checking (Year 4)
- Key Stage Two (end of Year 6)

The end of key stage 2 assessments take place in May. All other assessments and checks take place in June.

## Visits

Regular visits to museums, historical homes, the theatre or other places of educational interest are organised in line with the work being covered 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.



## Charging Policy

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. No child shall be disadvantaged or treated differently should their parents be unable to make a contribution.

## Appearance

- Girls are allowed studs for pierced ears, one in each ear.
- 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 children in Year 6 are allowed to wear watches but must accept responsibility for their own property. Smart watches and wearable smart technology are not permitted
- Nail Varnish is not allowed
- Lycra tights for girls are not permitted.
- Hairstyles must be simple, neat and tidy, of a natural colour and must be worn off the face.  
The following are not allowed:
  - a. Shaved patterns in the hair
  - b. Hair extensions
  - c. Beads in the Hair
- Coats must be blue or black.



- Children are permitted to carry items to and from school in either a school book bag (EYFS & KS) or the school rucksack.
- **ONLY CONVENTIONAL HAIRSTYLES ARE ACCEPTABLE and hair bands must be blue, black or grey. No other colours are permitted.**

## Attendance

Governors and staff are keen to encourage good habits of punctuality and high attendance at school.

Government expectations are that pupil school attendance should be a minimum of 96% - 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 Barnet LA regulations.

## 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.

*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**



LOVE – LEARN – BELIEVE

---





LOVE – LEARN – BELIEVE

---

**Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School**

Great Strand

London

NW9 5PE

Headteacher: Mrs. G Pears

Tel: 020 8205 3790

Fax: 020 8205 9341

E-mail [office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net)

[www.blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk)