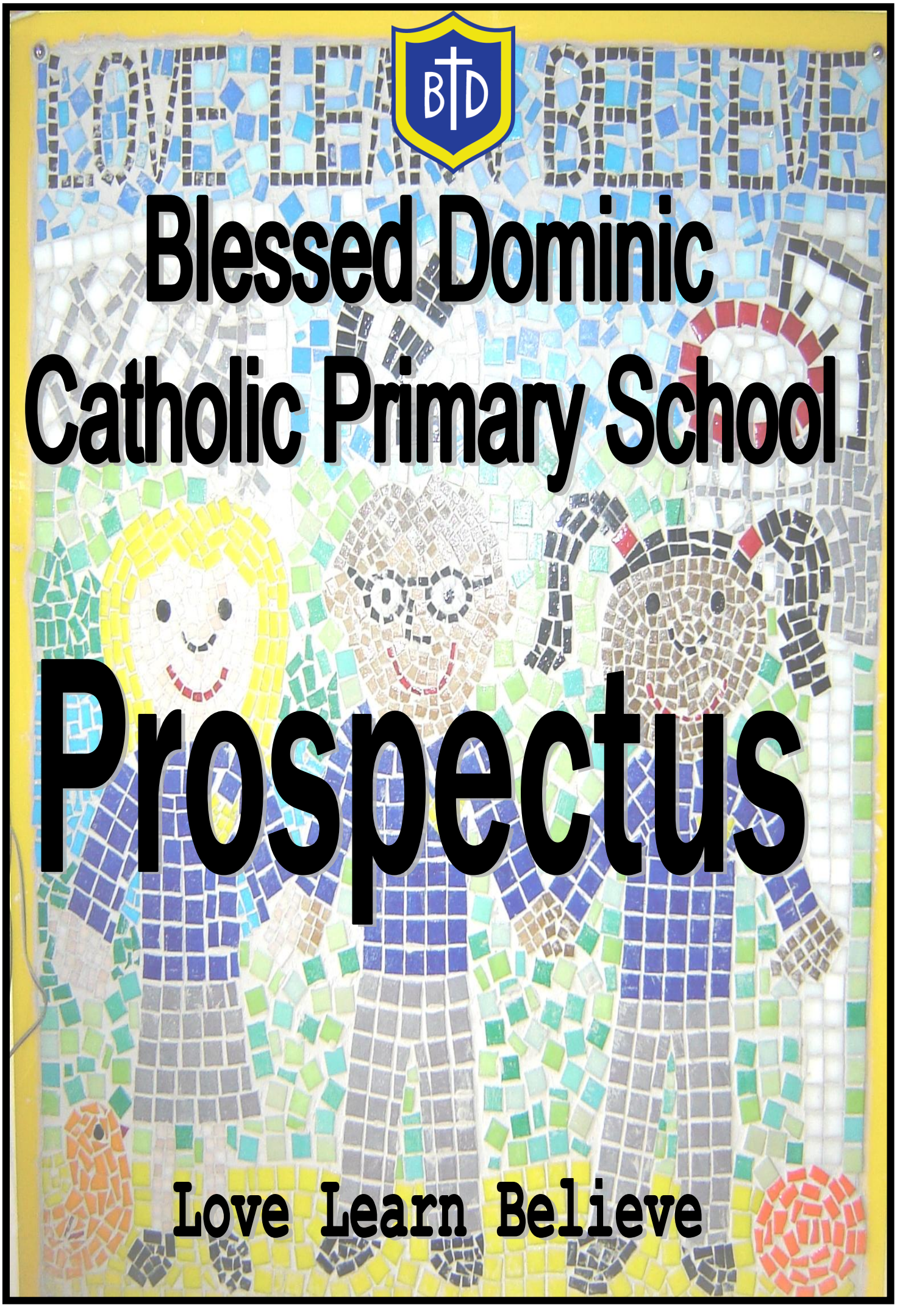

BTD
Blessed Dominic
Catholic Primary School
Prospectus
Love Learn Believe

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, a happy, vibrant and nurturing school community in the heart of Colindale. For over 50 years, we have been proud to serve our local Catholic community, providing a place where children feel safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best.

"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 believe that every child is unique, with their own gifts, talents and potential. We are committed to nurturing the whole child, ensuring that pupils develop spiritually, academically, morally and socially within a caring and supportive environment. Our Catholic faith underpins all that we do, guiding us in our commitment to providing the very best opportunities for every child.

Our ambitious and engaging curriculum inspires curiosity, creativity and a genuine love of learning. Through high-quality teaching, enriching experiences and a wide range of opportunities, we encourage children to explore their interests, develop independence and embrace new challenges with confidence. We want every pupil to experience success, take pride in their achievements and develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will prepare them for the next stage of their education and beyond.

We are particularly proud of the warmth and friendliness of our school and the strong sense of belonging shared by our children, staff and families. As a culturally diverse community, we celebrate the richness of our backgrounds and experiences, recognising the important contribution that everyone makes to school life. Our close partnership with parents, carers and the parish is central to ensuring that every child feels supported and encouraged to flourish.

Above all, our aspiration is for children to leave Blessed Dominic as confident, compassionate and well-rounded individuals, with a love of learning, a passion for life and the resilience to embrace future opportunities and challenges.

I hope this prospectus gives you a sense of what makes Blessed Dominic such a special place to learn and grow. I look forward to welcoming you personally and working in partnership with you throughout your child's journey with us.

Mrs J Hourihan
Headteacher
Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

With Christ at the centre, our Catholic faith and Gospel values guide the way we live and learn together.

"**Love** one another, **Learn** together and **Believe** in God our Father."



Our school values

Our six values shape how we care for children and work in partnership with parents and carers:

Kindness: We respond with care, listen with empathy and support one another through difficulties.

Respect: We value each person's dignity, welcome families' perspectives and communicate courteously.

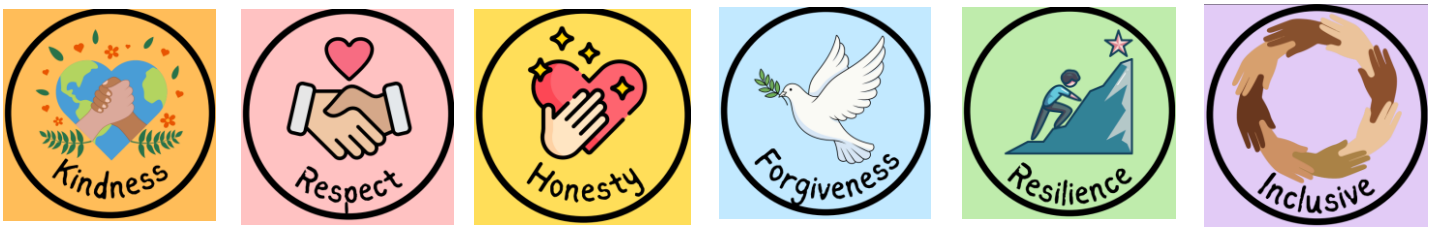
Honesty: We share achievements and concerns openly, acknowledge mistakes and work together to find solutions.

Forgiveness: Following Jesus' example, we resolve disagreements fairly, take responsibility and repair relationships.

Resilience: We help children persevere and work alongside families to overcome challenges and celebrate progress.

Inclusiveness: We recognise every person as made in the image of God, celebrate our diverse community and help every family feel welcome.

We ask children, staff, parents and carers to live these values together, building a trusting partnership in which every child can flourish.



Sharing Our Faith

Our Catholic faith is woven into everyday life at Blessed Dominic. Through daily prayer, reflection, liturgy and the celebration of Mass, children grow in their understanding of God's love. They learn to put their faith into action through kindness, forgiveness and care for others, living out our school mission of **Love, Learn, Believe**. "*The school values of 'love, learn, believe' are evident in lessons.*" (Ofsted, 2025)

Religious Education is a core subject, with 10% of curriculum time dedicated to RE. Our curriculum follows the Religious Education Directory, '**To know You more clearly'.** Children explore Scripture and Catholic teaching, ask thoughtful questions and develop respect for the beliefs of others.

Catholic Social Teaching helps children recognise the dignity of every person, support those in need and care for God's creation. Through service and charitable activities, they discover how their choices can make a positive difference.

We have close links with our local parish of **St Margaret Clitherow and Fr Brian**. Together with our families, we nurture children's faith and strengthen the partnership between home, school and parish.





Parents and carers are encouraged to support the school's Catholic ethos, talk with their children about their learning in RE and share opportunities for prayer and reflection at home. Catholic families are encouraged to support their children's faith through their own example and participation in parish life. Families of all faiths and none are warmly welcomed into our school community and invited to join our liturgies and celebrations.

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is organised through the parish, usually during Year 3. Parish meetings help parents take an active part in preparing their children for these sacraments. Families wishing their child to take part should contact the parish for details.

We value the contribution of every family in helping children grow in faith, compassion and love for others.

Our Patron Blessed Dominic Barberi

22 June 1792 – 27 August 1849



Our school is named after Blessed Dominic Barberi, an Italian Passionist priest remembered for his kindness, humility and dedication to sharing the Catholic faith in England. He was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1963.
On 9 October 1845, Dominic received John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church. Newman was later canonised on 13 October 2019.

Inspired by the kindness and welcome Dominic showed to Newman, we welcome everyone into our inclusive school community. We celebrate our different backgrounds and experiences, helping every child and family feel valued and part of the Blessed Dominic school family.
We celebrate Blessed Dominic Day at school on 9 October, remembering his life and following his example of faith, kindness and care for others.

A Brief History of the School

Blessed Dominic opened in September 1971 as a one-form-entry school, serving the developing Colindale community. Before St Margaret Clitherow's church was built, the parish celebrated worship in the school. Families from the nearby RAF and American Air Force housing were among those who helped shape its early community. Today, Blessed Dominic has a nursery and two classes in each year group from Reception to Year 6 and welcomes families from around the world.

Our School Aims

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing an outstanding Catholic education in which every child is encouraged to flourish.
We aim to:

- Place Christ at the centre of school life, nurturing faith and encouraging children to live out the Gospel values.
- Provide an ambitious, broad and engaging curriculum that inspires curiosity, creativity and a lifelong love of learning.
- Recognise and celebrate the unique gifts, talents and achievements of every child.
- Create a safe, happy and inclusive environment where all children feel valued, respected and supported.
- Develop confident, resilient and independent learners who embrace challenges and strive to achieve their personal best.
- Foster strong partnerships between school, home, parish and the wider community.
- Prepare children to become compassionate, responsible and active members of society.

Through our mission of Love – Learn – Believe, we seek to ensure that every child grows spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

School Organisation

Blessed Dominic is a Catholic primary school for children aged 3 to 11, with Nursery, Reception and Years 1 to 6. We have two classes in each year group from Reception to Year 6.

Key Stage 1 comprises Years 1 and 2; Key Stage 2 comprises Years 3 to 6. Children learn in mixed-ability classes organised by age.

The school makes all decisions about class organisation and may reorganise the two classes within a year group during children's time at Blessed Dominic. Children will therefore not necessarily remain with the same classmates throughout their school journey.

Decisions are carefully considered in the best interests of the children, taking account of learning, wellbeing and the needs of the whole year group. The final decision on class placements rests with the school. We communicate changes to families and support children to feel confident and settled in their new classes.







Early Years Foundation Stage

In our Nursery and Reception classes, we provide a caring, welcoming environment where children feel secure, build friendships and discover the joy of learning. Guided by our Catholic values, we help every child feel valued and develop kindness and respect for others.

Children learn through play, exploring, creating and asking questions through experiences planned around their interests and development. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors, giving children space to investigate, be active and discover the world around them.

We believe that "*there is no such thing as bad weather, just unsuitable clothing*." Please ensure your child comes prepared for outdoor learning throughout the year, with clothing appropriate to the weather.

Some of the most important learning in Early Years is learning to take turns, share and play cooperatively. With gentle guidance, children learn to listen to one another, express their feelings and resolve disagreements. These skills help them build positive relationships and become confident, increasingly independent learners.

We work closely with parents and carers to help children settle, celebrate their progress and give them a happy start to school life.

Nursery children may attend morning or afternoon sessions for 15 hours a week, or full days for 30-hour provision where eligible. Additional hours may be available. Please contact the school office for current funding, availability and lunch arrangements.





Children usually begin Reception in September following their fourth birthday. Please contact the school office to discuss starting-school arrangements and consult the admissions policy for further information.



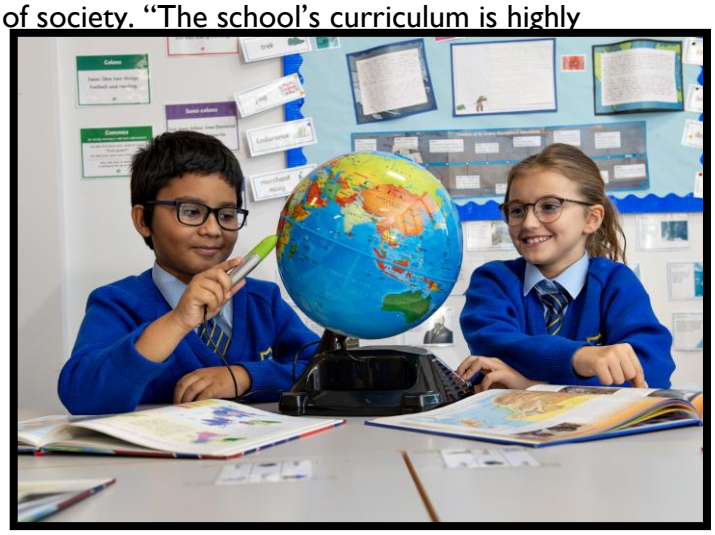


Our Curriculum

Our ambitious and engaging curriculum inspires curiosity and a love of learning. We encourage pupils to ask questions, explore ideas, make connections and explain their thinking with confidence. Every child is supported and challenged to build on their strengths, develop independence and take pride in their progress.

Specialist teaching in PE, Spanish and music enhances children's learning, while educational visits and enriching experiences bring lessons to life and broaden their horizons. Throughout their time at Blessed Dominic, we prepare children for the next stage of their education and help them become thoughtful, compassionate members of society. "The school's curriculum is highly





Enrichment and Wider Opportunities

At Blessed Dominic, learning extends beyond the classroom. Educational visits, creative activities, sport and after-school clubs give children opportunities to discover new interests, develop their talents and build friendships.

Our Catholic faith inspires us to use our gifts for the good of others. Through parish links, charitable activities and opportunities to serve, children learn to put Gospel values into action, care for God's creation and contribute to their community.

Visits to museums, historic places and theatres bring learning to life and broaden children's horizons. Experiences that support spiritual and moral development encourage reflection, while the Year 6 residential visit helps pupils develop independence, teamwork and resilience.





Pupil Leadership

At Blessed Dominic, children are encouraged to share their ideas, take responsibility and make a positive difference. Inspired by Jesus' example and Catholic Social Teaching, we help pupils understand that leadership means listening to others, showing kindness and serving their community.

Our pupil leadership opportunities include:

- **Prayer Leaders,** who lead prayer activities, support liturgical celebrations and care for our prayer spaces.
- **Mini Vinnies,** who put faith into action through charitable activities and support for people in need.
- **Pupil Parliament,** whose elected representatives from Years 1 to 6 share pupils' views and contribute to decisions about school and community life.
- **BD Digital Disciples**, who use creativity and technology to share the Gospel and encourage positive digital citizenship.
- **Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Ambassadors,** who celebrate differences, challenge stereotypes and help everyone feel included.

Children can also contribute through our Eco Council, School Sports Council and Fairtrade activities. These opportunities help pupils grow in confidence, work together and recognise that their voices and actions matter.



Safeguarding

Children's safety and wellbeing are central to school life. We work with families and other professionals to respond to concerns and provide support.
If you are worried about a child, contact Ms Smart, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, at safeguarding@blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk. Our safeguarding policy and further guidance are available on the school website.

Equality and Inclusion

Our commitment to inclusion is rooted in Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbour. We value every child and encourage respect for people of all backgrounds, beliefs and abilities. We work to ensure that children feel welcome, can participate fully and receive the support they need.





Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

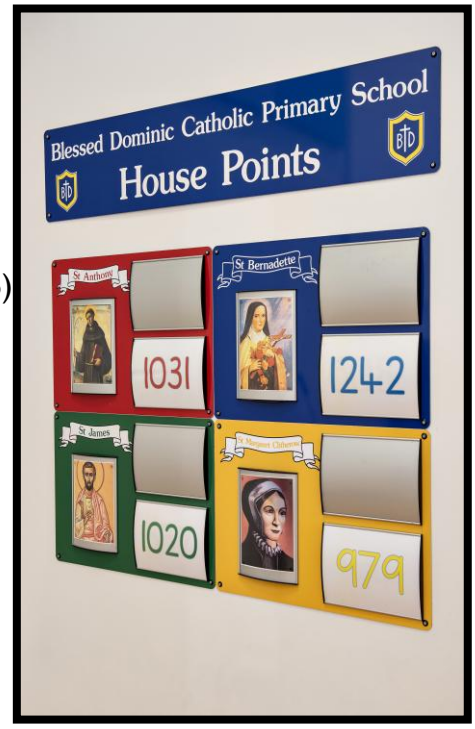
We work closely with families to understand each child's needs, adapt teaching and learning, and seek specialist advice where appropriate. Our Inclusion Lead and SENDCo coordinates support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
Parents and carers are encouraged to speak first to their child's class teacher. They can also contact Ms Smart, our Inclusion Lead and SENCo, at inclusion@blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk.
We involve families in planning support and making referrals to specialist services. Further information is available in our SEND Information Report on the school website. Regular workshops and coffee mornings give parents and carers give practical ways to support their children's learning and wellbeing.

Health and Medical Needs

We support children with a range of medical conditions, allergies or ongoing health needs. We work with families to plan suitable support and agree individual arrangements where needed.
We provide first aid for minor injuries and inform families about relevant incidents.

Behaviour

We build positive relationships and encourage children to show kindness, respect and responsibility. Clear routines and consistent expectations help everyone learn in a calm and safe environment. Children are encouraged to take pride in their work, care for their surroundings and understand the impact of their choices. Positive behaviour is recognised through house points, good news messages and star of the week certificates.
'Pupils behave exceptionally well throughout the school' (Ofsted 2025)



Our school rules are based on our values:

- We are kind
- We are respectful
- We are honest
- We forgive
- We are resilient
- We are inclusive

Assessment and Progress

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 screening check at the end of Year 1
- Multiplication tables check in Year 4
- Key Stage 2 assessments at the end of Year 6

Learning at Home
Sharing books at home helps children enjoy reading and build confidence. Children bring books home regularly; please look after them and return them promptly. Families are encouraged to read together, talk about stories and record reading in line with their child's year-group guidance.
In Years 3–6, children are encouraged to read independently for around 20 minutes each day, with parents and carers continuing to take an interest in their reading.
Homework activities and expectations are shared through the termly class curriculum information and our online learning platforms.

Partnership with Parents and Carers
We value our partnership with parents and carers and encourage families to share in school life, religious celebrations and social events. Families are invited to attend when their child's assemblies, liturgies or performance.

Parent consultation evenings are held termly, giving families time to discuss their child's wellbeing, progress and work privately with the class teacher. Nursery families also have opportunities to meet their child's Key Person to discuss development and settling in.
A weekly newsletter is shared through the school app and website. Messages and reminders are also sent through the app; please keep notifications switched on and ensure that the school has your current contact details.

In Nursery and Reception, Tapestry helps families see and celebrate their child's learning and development. In Years 1–6, Google Classroom gives children access to learning materials and activities and helps them develop independence and digital skills.

Blessed Dominic PTA
All parents and carers automatically become members of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) when their child joins Blessed Dominic.
Our PTA brings families together through social events and fundraising activities, helping to build friendships and strengthen our school community. The funds raised provide additional resources and experiences that enrich children's learning.
We warmly invite you to get involved, whether by sharing ideas, helping at an event or joining in with your family. Every contribution of time, skills or support is valued.
Please become an active part of our wonderful school community. Together, we can make a difference for our children.





Admissions

We warmly welcome enquiries from families considering Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School for their child. As a Catholic voluntary aided school, our Governing Body considers applications in accordance with the published admissions policy and oversubscription criteria. Please read the policy for the relevant intake year alongside our school's mission and aims. The Governors intend to admit up to 52 pupils into Nursery and 60 pupils into Reception each year.

Apply for a **Reception place** through your home local authority's online admissions system and return the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) directly to the school. Please check the admissions policy for application deadlines and the supporting documents required.

Apply for a **Nursery place** directly to the school using our Nursery application form. The form and Nursery admissions policy are available on our website.
A place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception. All families, including those whose children already attend our Nursery, must make a separate Reception application through their home local authority and submit the school's SIF. Reception places are allocated in accordance with the published admissions policy and oversubscription criteria.
If you have any questions or need help with your application, please contact admissions@blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk

The School Day

Nursery

Children may access 15 or 30 hours of funded Nursery provision, depending on eligibility. Additional hours may be available. Contact the school office for details of lunch supervision, charges and availability.

Full-day Nursery session:	8.50am to 3.20pm Monday to Friday.
Morning session	8.50am to 11.50am
Afternoon session	12.20pm to 3.20pm

Drop-off and Collection Gates

Nursery and Reception families use the EYFS gate. Year 1 uses the gate next to the main office gate. Children in Years 2–6 use the Key Stage 2 gate. Please follow staff guidance and keep entrances clear at busy times.

Reception and Years 1 to 6

School gates open at 8.40am. Children should be in their classrooms, ready for registration and learning, by 8.55am. The school day ends at 3.15pm.
Children arriving after 8.55am should report to the school office with their parent or carer so their arrival can be recorded.
Please collect your child promptly at 3.15pm. If you need to make alternative collection arrangements, inform the school office in advance and confirm who will collect your child. If an unexpected delay occurs, telephone the office as soon as possible.
We will notify parents and carers in advance of any school activities that change the usual collection time or location.





Attendance

"Pupils love coming to school as indicated by their high attendance and excellent academic achievement." (Ofsted, 2025). Regular attendance and good punctuality help children thrive. Being in school every day allows them to build friendships, take part fully in school life and make steady progress in their learning. Arriving on time helps children settle calmly and be ready to learn. Every school day matters: even short absences mean missing valuable learning and experiences.

Please ensure your child attends school every day unless they are too unwell to attend or their absence has been authorised. Our attendance target is at least 97% for children of compulsory school age. We work closely with families to understand difficulties, provide support and improve attendance. Please arrange family holidays during school holidays. Term-time holidays will not be authorised. Requests for leave in exceptional circumstances must be made in advance and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

School Lunches

Our lunch menu follows a three-week cycle for reception to yr 6 pupils, with meat and vegetarian choices and alternatives such as pasta or a baked potato. Children are encouraged to try different foods and enjoy eating together. Current menus are available on the school website.

Extended School Day

Breakfast Club

Our staff-run Breakfast Club offers breakfast and activities before school for children in Reception to Year 6 from 7:45am each day. (Please contact the school office for charges and booking arrangements).

After-School Enrichment Clubs

We offer a range of after-school enrichment clubs that give children opportunities to explore their interests and enjoy activities with friends. A current timetable is available from the school office.





After-School Wraparound Care

Our after-school wraparound care provides a welcoming space for children for reception to Year 6 where children can relax, enjoy a light snack and take part in a range of engaging activities.

Sessions run daily from 3.15pm until 5.45pm, with flexible options to suit your family's needs:

Session

3.15pm–4.15pm

4.15pm–5.45pm

3.15pm–5.45pm **(**Please contact the school office for availability and booking information)

Uniform and Appearance

Our uniform helps children feel a sense of belonging to the Blessed Dominic school family. Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform, ready to learn. Full uniform requirements and purchasing information are available on our website. If you need advice or support, please contact the school office.

- **Jewellery:** One stud in each pierced ear is permitted; hoops and all other jewellery, including necklaces and bracelets, are not allowed for safety reasons.
- **Watches:** Only analogue watches are permitted. Smartwatches and wearable smart technology are not allowed.
- **Nail varnish:** Nail varnish is not permitted.
- **Tights:** Tights must be grey or black.
- **Hair:** Hair should be neat and tidy, of a natural colour and kept off the face. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back. Hair bands must be blue, black or grey.
- **Coats:** Coats must be royal blue or black.
- **Bags:** Children may use a school book bag in Nursery, Reception and Years 1–2, or a school rucksack in Years 3–6. Alternatively, a plain black or blue bag is permitted.

Please refer to the uniform policy on our website for full details.

Safe Travel and Safer School Street Restrictions

Keeping children safe on their journey to and from school is a shared responsibility. We encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot wherever possible to help reduce traffic around our school.

Our Safer School Street restrictions on Great Strand operate from **8.15am to 9.15am** and from **2.45pm to 3.45pm.** Please observe the road signs and vehicle access restrictions during these times.

Families are welcome to park at the RAF Museum during the restriction periods for 40 minutes and walk the remaining distance to school. Please Park considerately and keep pavements, driveways and entrances clear.

Even during restriction periods, please keep to the pavements and supervise children carefully. Restrictions reduce traffic but do not make the road a pedestrian area. Thank you for helping us keep arrival and collection safe for everyone.

Term Dates

Term dates are published on our website. Please check them when planning appointments, childcare and family holiday as holidays cannot be authorised during term time.

Charging Policy

We ask for voluntary contributions towards some activities and educational visits. These contributions help us offer a wider range of experiences. Please refer to our charging and remissions policy for details of charges, voluntary contributions and available support, or contact the school office to discuss your circumstances.

Our School Governors

Our Governing Body supports the school's strategic direction and holds leaders to account for the quality of education, the use of resources and pupils' wellbeing. Governors also help sustain and develop our Catholic identity and oversee the school's admissions arrangements.

Families can contact the governors through the school office. Further information about the Governing Body is available on our website.

Governors' Fund

As a Catholic voluntary aided school, our Governing Body shares responsibility for maintaining and improving our school buildings. For qualifying capital works, such as major repairs and building improvements, the Governors are normally required to contribute at least 10% of the cost, with government capital funding covering the remaining 90%.

We therefore invite families to consider an annual voluntary contribution to the Diocesan School Fund. Donations help us meet this contribution and provide a safe, welcoming and well-maintained learning environment for our children, now and in the future.

Our suggested annual voluntary contribution is £60 per child or £90 per family. Donations are entirely voluntary, and families should contribute only what they feel able to give. Every contribution is appreciated. Please contact the school office for information about the fund and how to donate. Thank you for supporting the care and development of our school.

Why Choose Blessed Dominic

At Blessed Dominic, children grow in faith, confidence and a love of learning within a welcoming Catholic school family. We offer:

- Catholic formation through prayer, worship, parish partnership and opportunities to serve others.
- Nurturing care that recognises each child's unique gifts and helps them feel safe, valued and included.
- An ambitious curriculum, enhanced by specialist teaching in PE, Spanish and music.
- Enriching visits, creative activities, sport and a Year 6 residential experience.
- Pupil leadership through Prayer Leaders, Mini Vinnies, Pupil Parliament and other opportunities to make a difference.
- Strong family partnerships and wraparound care to support school life

Visit Us

We would be delighted to welcome you and your child to Blessed Dominic. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit, ask questions and find out more about joining our school family.



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School
Great Strand
London
NW9 5PE
Headteacher - Mrs J Hourihan

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