



ST. ETHELBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home – School Agreement

"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."

Serviam means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us, 'it is more blessed to serve than to be served'. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

The Governors and Staff believe that the closest co-operation between us all is necessary to bring the best out of the children and for this purpose we would hope to agree with parents about what they can expect from school and what school can expect from parents.

By choosing to send children to a Catholic school we believe that parents are motivated by the desire to educate them in the fullest sense of the word. As Catholic Governors and Staff we believe the Catholic school has something to offer children, which is unique in this materialistic world, an appreciation and understanding of the way of life taught by Jesus Christ. We offer a Christian way of life, which we encourage children to live to the best of their ability at all times.

As a Catholic School our main concern is with the development of the whole child. We are as interested in the formation of the Christian character, fit to take their place in society, as we are in the fulfilment of academic potential. A fundamental aim is to discover where each child is at in their development and to progress from there. This applies to their faith, academic, personal and social development. Children are helped and encouraged to develop in all areas at a pace appropriate to their abilities.

Religious Education

The provision for Religious Education for pupils is in accordance with the practices, rites and doctrines of the Catholic Church and based on the programme "The Way, The Truth and The Life' which focuses centrally on our Christian belief in Jesus Christ, Word and Revelation of God.

We aim to help children appreciate the joy and beauty to be found in God's natural creation and in the creativity of human minds and hands.

We support parents in their children's spiritual, moral and academic development.

Academic Development

Children need to fulfil their potential academically, so a full range of curriculum studies is provided that helps children develop their personalities and individual talents.

- We ensure children's acquisition of the basic skills of literacy and numeracy as necessary tools for learning.
- We help children to make sense of their world today and to prepare for life in the 21st century.
- We promote children's physical development.

During their early school years children will spend a large part of their time acquiring the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. As they mature they will increasingly extend these skills into the areas of Science, History, Geography and Design Technology. Religious Education, Music, Art, P.E. and Information Technology are developed from the start.

Staff are constantly involved in policy review with particular reference to the National Curriculum. Policies and schemes of work are constantly reviewed in core, foundation and cross-curricular subject areas. The curriculum is modified to provide for children with Additional Educational Needs (AEN). Children are identified as early as possible and programmes are planned around existing schemes of work, providing access for AEN children to do similar work to the mainstream with consistent progression at their own level. A full copy of the school's A.E.N. policy is available on request.

School Organisation

School starts at 8.55 a.m. each weekday. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children can enter class straight away from 8:45am. Break for lunch is at 12.00 noon. The afternoon session is from 12.55 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

School Staff will supervise children for ten minutes before and after the school day. Children should not be left unsupervised before or after these times.

The school marks late arrivers in the register and persistent lateness can be prosecuted. A child returning to school after an absence should bring a written note of explanation to the teacher on return, unless the teacher or Headteacher has already been advised by the parents as to the reasons for the absence. Parents are requested to inform the school before 9.30 a.m. on the first day of absence, otherwise the school will contact the parents as soon as possible.

Holidays and absences from school will never be condoned unless compassionate.

School dinners are provided by contracted caterers and served on the premises. All Reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils are eligible for free meals. Junior parents, who have to pay, payment in advance should be made to the school office or class teacher on the first day of the week. The correct dinner money should be in a sealed envelope with the name of the child on it.

Pupils' sandwich lunches must be in a sealable plastic box labelled with the child's name. Drinks should only be in unbreakable flasks, which fit into their boxes. Water is supplied at all times in school. No glassware or fizzy drinks are allowed. Chocolate and sweets are not allowed, but one chocolate biscuit type lunch bar is permitted.

Discipline and Behaviour

Discipline is maintained by the teachers' expectations of the children's good behaviour and concern for others. If a child's bad behaviour or lack of effort during the day warrant it, the child may be kept in at playtime, isolated to a supervised area, or sent home with some extra work or finishing off.

If normal disciplinary procedures are not effective parents will be informed and ultimately the Headteacher has the authority to exclude a pupil from the school.

Extra Curricular

A variety of healthy activities outside normal school hours are currently available at infant and junior level such as football, netball, cricket, gymnastics, singing club, art and rugby. There are regular after school practices for choir and concert performances. The school will make every effort to provide these opportunities.

Homework

Learning at home is an important aspect of children's attitude to their work. If they are keen, interested and take pride in their work, then whatever their ability, they will steadily improve. By working together we can support all aspects of learning and developing.

Through learning At Home we aim to continue to develop the idea of a partnership between parents and teachers. Parents can help children at home with **Reading, Spelling, Number and Topic Work**. Please refer to the School Prospectus for details.

Sharing Information

Parents can make an appointment to see the Headteacher or any member of staff. We are happy to help with any problem that may arise and personal contact is the most satisfactory way. New entrants are invited with their parents to meet the reception class teacher during the term preceding entry.

Each term parents are invited to see their children's work and discuss their progress with the class teacher. Every child receives reports in Term 4 and 6, which can be discussed at a parent meeting. Parents are invited during the course of the year to Masses, musical and stage presentations, carol services, match fixtures, sports days and assemblies.

From time to time staff will arrange curriculum information evenings when parents will be invited to discuss new apparatus and methods of working.

Complaints

Initially any complaint will be confidentially handled informally, evaluated, investigated and hopefully resolved. Normally this stage will be handled by the class teacher unless the complaint is about the class teacher or is serious in which case it will be handled by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Complaints concerning the Headteacher will be dealt with by the Deputy Headteacher and if necessary the Chair of Governors. If the class teacher does not resolve the complaint it will be dealt with by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

If the informal stage does not resolve the complaint it should be referred to the Governors Complaints sub-committee for a formal hearing involving complainant and school with Governors deciding the issue. An appeal sub-committee will be available to hear appeals against the Complaints sub-committee decisions. Complaints made out of step with the complaints procedure e.g. made directly to Governors or the L.E.A. in the first instance will be referred back to the appropriate stage.

Please see our Complaints Policy.

John Letts
Headteacher

May 2017



CHILD'S NAME : _____

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School will:

- Educate the whole child in the fullest sense of the word, forming Christian character and fulfilling academic potential through the Christian way of life taught by Jesus Christ.
- Support parents in their children's spiritual, moral and academic development.
- Provide a full range of curriculum studies that helps and encourages children to develop their personalities and individual talents in all areas at a pace appropriate to their abilities.
- Contact parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or matters of School Organisation.
- Inform parents of any problems with their children's discipline or behaviour.
- Advise on, set and mark homework in accordance with the school policy.
- Make every effort to provide extra - curricular opportunities.
- Share information with parents through meetings, newsletters and reports.
- Handle complaints through the School Complaints Procedure.

Parents will:

- Ensure that children attend school regularly, on time and provide an explanation of any absence.
- Support the School's policies on behaviour and organisation.
- Support children with homework and in extra curricular opportunities.
- Follow the schools guidance on dress and uniform: **no** earrings, no necklaces, wrist/ankle bands, piercings, dyed hair, unorthodox hair cuts, hair extensions or painted nails.
- Attend parents' evenings for discussion about children's progress.
- Inform school about situations at home or school that may affect their child's schooling.

Signed.....Parent / Guardian

Signed..... School

John Letts Headteacher