



ST BONAVENTURE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Striving to be the best we can,
guided by the light of Christ



PROSPECTUS

“The school’s vision statement, ‘Striving to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ’, is prominent, not just visually but in underpinning everyone’s work.”

OFSTED February 2017



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

St Bonaventure's school has an exceptional reputation in both the local and Catholic communities.

We are proud of our excellent academic reputation which has resulted in our school being ranked joint first in the Sunday Times' top five Primary Schools in Bristol, according to the Sunday Times Guide 2023. In addition, we were also ranked 10th in the South West in the same Sunday Times Guide 2023.

St Bonaventure's offers a broad and balanced curriculum in a modern building with outstanding facilities. We have state of the art provision for sports, music and creative arts. We place our emphasis on nurturing pupils' wider personal development as well as their academic well-being and provide a caring and supportive environment where all children can excel.

Our staff are committed to doing the very best for the pupils in our care. Care and nurture lie at the heart of St Bonaventure's. "The shared commitment to educating the 'whole child' shines through wherever you step. It is a distinctive feature of the school and was one of the strengths that parents singled out when I spoke to them before school started." OFSTED, February 2017. We encourage collaboration and work in partnership with parents to ensure all pupils are well supported and achieve their potential.

We are proud of being a diverse school with many pupils from different backgrounds. We believe this diversity helps aid our pupils' development and provides a rich source of variety and learning.

We are also appreciative of the busy lives our parents lead and have high quality 'wrap-around' services for our families. Our breakfast club and after school club are extremely popular and we provide childcare during school holidays.

Finally, we understand that St Bonaventure's is the first step in your child's education journey. We are delighted to have a partnership with St Bede's Catholic Secondary School where our pupils benefit from a priority in their admissions criteria.

We welcome visits to the school where you can have the opportunity to experience life at St Bonaventure's first hand.

We hope this prospectus will support you to make the best decision for your child's start in education. We look forward to hearing from you.



Mrs Sarah Ballantine
Head teacher
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CURRICULUM

We pride ourselves on the quality of our curriculum which is values based and provides our pupils with experiential learning opportunities.

Our cross-curricular, inspiring curriculum supports our children to become independent learners who appreciate and celebrate difference, are actively involved in their community and live out Gospel values. We nurture each child as a unique individual. We support them to become respectful, engaged and caring children of today and adults of tomorrow.

When starting school at St Bonaventure's, our Reception environment offers outstanding provision. Class teachers and learning support assistants work together to foster pupil's independence, supporting both social and academic outcomes so that the vast majority of pupils achieve the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Our school curriculum consists of three themes which link directly with Gospel values. The themes are Care for Our Common Home, Love thy Neighbour and Seek The Truth. All children are supported to engage in our termly themes.

We have two specialist rooms, dedicated to Art/DT and Music. Our astro turf pitch ensures we are able to offer a variety of sporting experiences all year round. We also look for opportunities to bring in specialist support such as golf, archery and fencing, which enriches our PE curriculum.

10% of our curriculum is dedicated to the teaching of RE. Pupils participate enthusiastically in and respond impressively to the prayer life of the school. "The religious education programme makes an excellent contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development." Section 48, Diocesan Inspection.

Alongside academic achievement we also focus on lifelong learning skills. We support our pupils to become resilient learners, who persevere and develop a positive attitude towards challenge.

"The school's capacity to sustain the quality of care and education it provides is outstanding."
Section 48, Diocesan Inspection.



“There is an excited buzz in the playground as pupils gather together before school... Pupils have very positive attitudes to their learning. They are friendly and polite.” OFSTED February 2017



BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

St Bonaventure's offers high-quality sporting and creative arts opportunities. We actively encourage all pupils to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular activities we offer. Pupils enjoy competing at inter, intra, regional and national level competitions. We have a reputation for successfully qualifying for national swimming finals, county-level athletics, football, hockey and basketball and have a cabinet of trophies to celebrate these successes!

Our annual KS2 drama performance is always fully subscribed and results in a memorable performance for all involved. We offer a range of musical opportunities such as choir, orchestra, brass, string and piano. We value the importance of learning to read musical notation, our pupils are taught to play the recorder from year 1 into upper KS2.

Our annual Easter festival day is possibly the most memorable event in our school diary. Pupils have the opportunity to enter art work, take part in poetry recitals, singing and dance performances, all competing within their house teams. The winning team receives our Easter festival plaque. Parents and members of the wider community join us for this day of celebration.

All KS2 pupils are encouraged to attend residential visits. Visits focus on team work, sporting experiences and character-building activities which support our vision for lifelong learners.

We offer high quality 'wrap-around' childcare for our families. Our breakfast club and after school club are well attended and create the nurturing environment we foster within the school day. Our afterschool club also provides childcare during school holidays.



AT THE HEART OF ST BONAVENTURE'S

Care and nurture lie at the heart of St Bonaventure's. We place our emphasis on nurturing pupils' wider personal development as well as their academic well-being. Our vision statement, 'Striving to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ', is prominent – not just visually but in underpinning everyone's work. The shared commitment to educating the 'whole child' shines through wherever you step. It is a distinctive feature of our school.

We are incredibly proud of our pupil's behaviour and their positive attitude to their learning. "Pupils' are wholeheartedly involved in the Catholic life of the school and make a positive contribution to it, not least by their excellent behaviour, which contributes to their own learning and the ethos of the school." Section 48, Diocesan Inspection. OFSTED, February 2017, also noted pupils' positive attitudes to their learning.

Our School Council and Eco Committee representatives contribute to school improvement planning. Pupil voice is important to us and we ensure pupils have the opportunity to share their opinions on matters that will affect them.

Pupils proactively respond to natural disasters, consider the needs of the less fortunate in our society and how they can make the world a better place. Pupils successfully fund raise to support local, national and global charities.



NEXT STEPS

We are proud to have strong links with our partner Catholic secondary school St Bede's, which a large number of our pupils choose for secondary education. "St Bon's pupils are given priority for admission." (Head teacher St Bede's). Our pupils progress onto a range of highly regarded secondary schools such as Redland Green, QEH, Redmaids High, Bristol Grammar and Colston Girls.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Pupils' successes range from academic achievements to sport and creative art accomplishments. Staff are committed to the development of the whole child. Our aspiration is for our pupils to go on to make a difference in adult life. We are always proud to hear of past pupils' successes.

Choosing the right school for your child can be a difficult decision. We hope this information helps you in your decision making. We would like to end with some thoughts and quotes from the people who matter most – pupils and parents.



PUPIL QUOTES:

When asked what they have most enjoyed this year, pupils told us...

"I have loved being given the independence to learn and discover for myself."

"My teacher. He helps us to open our eyes to the world, and he also has a good sense of humour!"



PARENT QUOTES:

“We chose St Bonaventure’s for our daughter because it fosters the values we want her to develop. Academic achievement is important but we want more than that for our daughter and St Bon’s can provide this.”

“The ethos created at St Bon’s is nurturing whilst at the same time also challenging children to be the best they can be. My child is well supported academically. The school offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. The breakfast club and after school provision are perfect for our needs and provide a nurturing environment.”

When asked what St Bon’s is doing well, parents told us we are good at

“Providing a caring and nurturing environment which, as well as having an appropriate focus on academic learning, also seeks to turn out well-rounded, well-balanced and kind children.”

“Developing the whole child in a caring and nurturing environment.”

“Providing a safe and nurturing environment with high expectations of good behaviour.”



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