



St. Bernadette's

Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy



Part of
**OUR LADY
OF LOURDES**

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

**Striving for excellence in all that we do,
reflecting the Light of Christ to the world**

Headteacher's



Welcome

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy offers a rich and wholesome education for 3–11 year old children in Ashby, Scunthorpe.

Upon entering our academy, children are welcomed into a warm and loving environment, beginning a journey with us during which, at every step, they will be helped and encouraged to grow, blossom, and flourish into the person God created them to be.

We are passionate about inspiring children with the joy of learning, providing an ambitious, well-rounded education, full of challenge and rigour; fun and creativity; excitement and wonder. St. Bernadette's is a place where hard work and effort are championed; achievements big or small are praised; success is celebrated; and mistakes are not criticized but rather seen as opportunities to learn and grow.

We strive to ensure that each child endeavours to work hard to make the very best progress that they can during their time with us and attain the very highest academic standards of which they are capable. Moreover, we encourage children to strive for excellence in all that they do in every aspect of life in our academy, shaped as it is by a strong Catholic ethos centred on love of God and love of neighbour.

We place great emphasis on fostering strong links between home, school, and parish, and recognise the importance of these partnerships in helping our children to thrive. Our school is pleased to benefit from being part of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, which is a diocesan-led family of 36 Catholic schools working collectively for the good of our children, young people, and families across Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

If you would like to learn more about our friendly and welcoming school or arrange a visit, please contact the Academy Office on 01724 842382 or email admin@stbernadettesacademy.com. We very much look forward to meeting you and hopefully being given the opportunity to work with you and your children in the near future.

Mr Mark Strong
Headteacher



Our primary Mission

Striving for excellence in all that we do,
reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

Our academy motto expresses our firm and enduring commitment to endeavour for excellence. We believe that every child has been created by God to strive for excellence in all aspects of life, and when united in friendship with Jesus, they are empowered to reflect the Light of Christ to the world.

Just as Jesus said that He is 'the Cornerstone' on which we should build our whole lives, in the same way, our Cornerstone Values, centred on Christ, provide the firm foundation for all that we do in our academy. Our Cornerstone Values are **love, virtue and goodness, prayer and service, radiance, joy, wonder, and excellence.**

We believe that every child is unique and special, created by God for a special reason, with a unique mission – a vocation which God is calling them towards – and we believe that God has blessed each child with the character, gifts, and talents to help them succeed and be happy in their mission.

At St. Bernadette's, it is our honour and our passion to help, support, and encourage each child to fulfil their God-given potential and ready them to contribute positively to society in service of others.

We want each child to come to know of their special place in God's Heart, and to have the trust and confidence to pray the words of this prayer by Saint John Henry Newman:

'God has created me to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission.'



St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School opened on its current Anne's Crescent site in 1954, having earlier existed as a smaller annexe alongside the parish church on Ashby Road.

It has always been a popular school with families and has an excellent reputation for its caring and loving ethos, high levels of attainment, and the behaviour of our pupils.

Our school provides classrooms with a vibrant and inspiring learning environment, equipped with state-of-the-art technology to aid children's learning, a modern and well-resourced library, and access to extensive playing fields, and sports pitches. We offer a curriculum which incorporates a wide range of school trips that ensure our children's learning experience is extended beyond the classroom and into the world around them.


The school has always maintained a strong commitment to the training of its staff, and innovative and effective approaches to learning and teaching are central to our approach, making use of current research to inform our practice and ensuring an effective curriculum.

We are an ambitious school with a clear vision of how we would like to further develop our site, thereby continuing to ensure that our pupils are provided with excellent facilities and the best educational opportunities.

'The love in this school is like dropping a stone in the water and seeing the ripples.'

Pupil quote to Diocesan Canonical Inspectors 2018





'The school has provided so many wonderful opportunities for me to learn new things and the caring staff have helped me to really grow as a person.'

Pupil quote 2023

Our learning
environment

Our curriculum

Our ambitious curriculum lies at the heart of our provision and educational endeavours as we strive to offer the very best learning experience for all of our pupils.

A number of subjects such as English, Mathematics, and R.E. are taught discretely, with other subjects organised around motivational topic themes. All subjects have been planned to ensure continuous and effective learning so that pupils always deepen their understanding and acquire and retain new knowledge.

Our pupils are provided with a broad range of quality experiences which contribute to every child receiving a full and rich curriculum, including a breadth of academic, spiritual, social, and cultural activities. These activities are further supplemented with a range of quality school trips and experiences, along with extensive extra-curricular provision.

We believe that our unique curriculum enables our pupils to make excellent progress both academically and personally and ensures that every child is given the opportunity to achieve and flourish.

We aim to inspire and enthuse our children with a lifelong love of learning. To this end, our teachers ensure that every lesson is planned with great care so as to enable all children to learn effectively and to grow in confidence.

Teachers carefully track the progress of all pupils and use this information to inform their day-to-day and medium-term planning, ensuring we meet the needs of our children.

Our curriculum has been carefully designed, organised, and planned to provide a real depth of learning for all pupils, including children who are disadvantaged, have a special educational need or disability, those for whom English is an additional language, and those who are working above the national expectation.

Our support staff work incredibly hard to provide individual and small group support and challenge, both in the classroom and through dedicated intervention lessons where needed.

Most importantly of all, we aim for all of our children to enjoy their learning and to enjoy coming to school each day, to feel well supported, and to ensure that each child is making the best progress of which they are capable.





'This building is full of God's love.'

Pupil quote to Diocesan Canonical Inspectors 2018

Catholic social teaching and British values

The Catholic Life of our academy is of paramount importance, affecting the daily experience of all who work and learn in our school, and is manifested through:

- Daily prayer and worship of God
- Service of others – including a particular focus on helping the poor and needy
- Affirming the virtue of good behaviour and the power of forgiveness
- Collective Worship
- Class assemblies
- Celebration of Holy Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration

Worship of God is intrinsic to life in our academy, forming a foundational part of the rich fabric which comprises our Catholic ethos, and we warmly encourage every child who enters our academy to active participation in this life-affirming, joyful experience.

From worship of God flows love of God and neighbour which is at the heart of the Christian character of our school. Interwoven with this, we acknowledge the culture of the great country in which we live, with its rich Christian heritage, by developing our children's understanding of the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance.

'The school has a distinct and inspiring Catholic character which inspires all that work and learn within the building.'

Diocesan Canonical Inspection Report Outcome 2018

Beyond the curriculum

At St. Bernadette's, we value the uniqueness of every child in our care and establish an ethos that ensures the whole child's development. Our caring staff recognise and support a diverse range of needs relating to the learning, behaviour, emotional, mental, and physical health, and wellbeing of children. This ensures all our pupils feel safe, secure, and cared for so that they are able to strive for excellence and aspire to achieve their very best.



Developing the whole child



We seek to inspire our children with the joy of learning so that they delight in discovery and exploring the world around them, and so our rich and inspiring curriculum is supplemented by a broad range of extra-curricular activities which nurture and support each child's overall growth and development.

Enrichment activities

Our pupils have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities across the school year at lunchtime, including football, tag rugby, golf, and choir.

Official roles

Pupils have the opportunity to undertake highly sought-after roles in our Chaplaincy Team which helps to promote the Catholic spirit of the school; the Safeguarding Crew who help staff to promote all aspects of safety throughout the school; Wellbeing Ambassadors who help build friendship groups amongst children; and Subject Champions who help to promote and develop ideas for their subjects with their teachers.

Sporting events

Our pupils can gain a rewarding sense of achievement and enjoy a spirit of togetherness with their friends when they take part in teams representing the school in a wide range of sporting events and competitions across the school year.

Breakfast club and after-school clubs

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.40 a.m. each morning and includes wake and shake dance activities, whilst a range of engaging and popular after-school clubs take place until 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, including benchball, football, boardgames, Lego, computing, and more.

'Leaders and managers at all levels ensure that the highest quality of provision is put in place for all children to achieve their God-given potential.'

Diocesan Canonical Inspection Report Outcome 2018



Achieving full potential

St. Bernadette's is very proud to be an inclusive school and we are ambitious for every pupil to attain the highest levels of personal development they are capable of. Our high expectations of work and behaviour are shared by our parents and together, we work in close partnership to ensure that standards are consistently high.

We want all of our pupils to experience and achieve success both in and out of the classroom, regardless of ability or background, and to make significant progress relative to their own starting points. There is a strong focus on recognising and celebrating pupils' different strengths, and the academy uses a variety of reward systems to help inspire our pupils.

We carefully monitor the attainment of all pupils which allows us to identify needs and inform our provision. We carefully utilise Pupil Premium money to provide additional support to pupils in a variety of different ways, and we work closely with outside agencies and families of children with additional needs to ensure that appropriate provision is put in place and that all pupils make progress.

'The teaching staff have always shown a genuine interest in the children's learning and have their best interests at heart. My child is very happy and has a real sense of belonging within this school.'

Parent quote 2023

Opportunities for personal development

We aim for our pupils to have regular opportunities to lead, cooperate through teamwork, problem solve, persevere, develop resilience, demonstrate responsibility, and have their voices heard.

Be it through subject-based classroom learning, or opportunities such as learning about water safety, road safety, cycling proficiency, attending numerous school trips, and receiving talks from regular visitors to school across a range of professions, our pupils have multiple high-quality experiences which enhance their personal development.

During their time at St. Bernadette's, our pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills, along with a broad range of life-preparing experiences. Our pupils leave St. Bernadette's with a strong set of Christian morals, a strong sense of their own self-worth, and an awareness of the positive role they can play in society.



Our community

At St. Bernadette's we greatly value the partnership between home and school and see it as our privilege to support parents who we recognise as the first educators of your children.

From staff undertaking a home visit prior to your child commencing in Nursery or Reception, and a new starters' information evening held in school, we understand that clear communication from the very start is vital for your child's success.

The school provides numerous ongoing opportunities for parents to engage in their child's educational journey, including phase transition meetings, parents' evenings, Mass, class assemblies, concert performances, and other popular community events. Parents can volunteer to attend school trips, and join our Friends of St. Bernadette's Parent/Teacher Association.

We aim for parents to feel included, supported, and well-informed at every stage of their child's school journey.

Joining St. Bernadette's

Parents are warmly invited to visit our school to see the children involved in their learning and to experience our Catholic ethos and values first-hand. Please get in touch with the Academy Office to make an appointment.

Parents are welcome to contact the academy at any time to request their child's name be placed on the waiting list for a Nursery place. Subject to a place being available, children can then join our Nursery from the start of the term following their third birthday. Please note that a place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place for your child in Reception. A separate application must be made through the local authority.

All admission information, including oversubscription criteria and the appeals process, are available on our academy website:

www.stbernadettesacademy.co.uk/parents/admissions



'There are excellent relationships between pupils and adults.'

'The school provides an exceptionally caring and supportive environment in which all pupils are valued.'

'Pupils are eager to learn and their behaviour in, and outside, classrooms is exemplary.'

Ofsted 2013

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St. Bernadette's

Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

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