

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT



Maths &
Computing



APPLIED
LEARNING

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRIMINGHAM
DIOCESAN SCHOOLS COMMISSION

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

THE AIMS AND VALUES OF ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Instrument of Government Ethos Statement

The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school, and in accordance with canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and in particular –

- (a) religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
- (b) religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;

and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Distinctive Nature of Catholic Education – Catholic Bishops (1996)

Whatever their status, Catholic schools and colleges are established to support Catholic parents in their responsibility for the academic, physical, spiritual, moral and religious education of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church. This means St Benedict's Catholic High School is committed to promoting:

The Search for Excellence

The search for excellence is seen as an integral part of the spiritual quest. Christians are called to seek perfection in all aspects of their lives. In St Benedict's Catholic High School pupils are, therefore, given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The Uniqueness of the Individual

Within St Benedict's Catholic High School, each individual is seen as made in God's image and loved by Him. All pupils are, therefore, valued and respected as individuals so that they may be helped to fulfil their unique role in creation.

The Education of the Whole Person

Catholic education is based on the belief that the human and divine are inseparable. In St Benedict's Catholic High School, management, organisation, academic and pastoral work, prayer and worship, all aim to prepare young people for their life as Christians in the community.

The Education of All

Our belief in the value of the individual leads St Benedict's Catholic High School to have a duty to care for the poor and to educate those who are socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged.

Moral Principles

St Benedict's Catholic High School aims to offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values. In religious education in particular, we aim to transmit to them the Catholic faith. Both through religious education and in the general life of the school, we aim to prepare pupils to serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
DIOCESAN SCHOOLS COMMISSION

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT:
SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

THE ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GUARANTEE

The Input of the Catholic Community and its Partners

- The Archdiocese of Birmingham will seek to ensure there is a chaplain* with the responsibility to support spiritual development and pastoral support of the whole community of St Benedict's Catholic High School.
* The Archbishop appoints chaplains only to secondary schools. Parish priests are responsible for primary schools
- The Archdiocese of Birmingham, together with Warwickshire L.A., will seek to ensure there is a place available in a Catholic school for all baptised Catholic children of statutory school age within Warwickshire L.A.
- The local Catholic community, together with Warwickshire L.A., will seem to ensure adequate funding is made available for governors to meet their responsibilities to maintain the school buildings in good repair, and provide the appropriate facilities, equipment and books necessary to promote high educational standards.
- The Archdiocese of Birmingham, together with Warwickshire L.A., will seek to ensure a high level of support to help St Benedict's Catholic High School governors meet their statutory responsibilities under the Standards and Framework Act 1998 to preserve and develop the distinctive religious character of the school.
- The Archdiocese of Birmingham, together with Warwickshire L.A., will seek to provide information and expertise to help St Benedict's Catholic High School governors meet their responsibilities under the Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Catholic code of Canon Law to conduct the school with a view to promoting high educational standards.
- All the schools named in the Catholic partnership/pyramid/cluster in Warwickshire L.A. are committed to work in partnership to promote professional and curriculum development to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the search for educational excellence for all pupils.

The School's Educational Provision

St Benedict's Catholic High School will provide:

- Religious education for all pupils in accordance with the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools as regulated by the Archbishop.

- A programme of spiritual, moral and social education in accordance with Gospel values and the teachings of the Church under the direction of the Archbishop.
- A chapel for the private prayers of the school community where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.
- A pastoral care system which, in accordance with the Church's teaching, recognises and upholds the unique value of all pupils.
- An education which seeks a synthesis of faith and culture in all its aspects in a search for truth and to ensure high standards of achievement.
- All possible, practical and appropriate help for pupils with learning and/or physical difficulties to overcome obstacles to achieving high educational standards.
- The Pupil's Educational Experience
- St Benedict's Catholic High School will ensure all pupils will:
 - Pray together each day.
 - Have the opportunity to regularly celebrate mass.
 - Have the opportunity to celebrate mass on holy days of obligation and patronal feasts.
 - Have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation at least once a year.
 - By the age of 12 have had the opportunity to take part in a literary performance.
 - By the age of 13 have been involved in an activity which utilises IT skills and is demonstrable to parents.
 - By the age of 14 have had an opportunity to take part in at least one day of prayer and reflection.
 - By the age of 14 have had the opportunity to be involved in an artistic performance or physical activity involving the community.
 - By the age of 14 have been encouraged to self-monitor their 'health and fitness' profile.
 - By the age of 15 have had the opportunity to celebrate languages by using their knowledge of a European or community language to support the activities of others.
 - By the age of 15 have had the opportunity for an out of school challenge involving self-organisation.

- By the age of 16 have had an opportunity to take part in a residential retreat.
- By the age of 16 have participated in a quality work experience placement as part of a planned programme of work related activities.
- Throughout their total 11-16 school life have been encouraged to celebrate a wide range of cultures and religions, and have been taught to promote racial and sexual harmony, tolerance and justice. Have had approved programmes of sex and relationship education offered as part of PHSE curriculum which parents may view/discuss with appropriate staff. Whilst parental right to withdrawal is respected the school would view negotiation as important before any final decision.
- Post 16 students helped and encouraged to follow courses which reflect their academic and vocational experiences and previous achievements and have every opportunity of achieving their objectives.

Outcomes Parents can Expect

St Benedict's Catholic High School will:

- Publish targets of improved performance in the core subjects at the end of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.
- Attempt to improve examination results against previous best performance.

St Benedict's Catholic High School will:

- At the age of 12 have their level of attainment in Mathematics and reading audited by the school and be offered whatever support is necessary to develop those skills further. This audit as part of the Record of Achievement could also include personal and social skills.
- At the age of 16 receive an accredited qualification in Religious Education.
- By the age of 16 have produced an accredited Record of Achievement which incorporates a career plan.
- Have a growing understanding of right and wrong based on Gospel values and the Church's teaching.
- Have an understanding of social and economic justice, human rights and responsibilities and their responsibility for the whole of creation.
- Have an understanding of personal morality, relationships and service to others.
- Have an understanding of how to pray.
- Have the support necessary to make a successful transition to the next stage of continuing education or training/employment.

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HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT
RELIGIOUS OUTCOMES

St Benedict's Catholic High School seeks, in support of parents and the example they set for their children, to ensure that pupils will, at a level appropriate to their age, maturity and family context:

- be able to participate actively in liturgy.
- be able and willing to pray.
- be able to rely on a distinctive morality.
- have a thoughtful understanding of scripture.
- have a thoughtful understanding of Christian/Catholic Church teaching.
- have experienced being part of a Christian/Catholic Church teaching.
- be interested in active membership of the Christian church.
- be able and willing to translate faith into Christian action.
- understand themselves in relation to others and to God.

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CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS

Everyone at St Benedict's Catholic High School is important. Every person deserves respect, not because of anything that they do or qualities that they may have, but because they are important in God's eyes and as Catholics we follow Jesus' command,

“love one another as I have loved you”.

The teachers and ancillary staff in our school community work to enable each one of you to develop your talents and abilities to the fullest. They take the place of your parents or guardians while you are in school. Treat them with respect as you would your parents. Carry out requests willingly and cheerfully. Pray for, and support each other.

The classrooms (including labs, workshops and gyms) are our places of work just like a factory or office. The routines below will help us work together safely, successfully and enjoyably for God's purposes.

At the Start of Lessons:

- Enter rooms quietly and go straight to your workplace.
- Put away any outdoor coats on the hooks provided (if applicable).
- Take out your books, pens and equipment.
- Put your bags away (not on the desks).
- Remain silent during the register (except when your name is called).
- Pray for each other and the success of the lesson if asked to do so.

During Lessons:

- When your teacher talks to the whole class, remain silent and concentrate.
- If the class is asked a question, put your hand up to answer: Do not call out.
- Always try to do your best. Support and help classmates. Do not distract or annoy them.

- Ask your teacher for help if you do not understand anything. They will be prepared to give you extra help after school if you need it but your parents must always be told beforehand if you are going to be late home.
- Make a careful note of any homework you are given.

At the End of Lessons:

- The teacher will tell you to collect up your books, to stand up, put your chair away and to pick up any litter.
- Pray your thanks to God for His support during the lessons if asked to do so.
- Leave the room when your teacher tells you to go.
- Try to remember to thank your teacher for helping you to learn.

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PARENTAL DECLARATION

I/We have read St Benedict's Catholic High School's 'Home School Agreement' document.

I/We note and fully understand the aims and values it has as a Catholic School and the consequent educational opportunities it will provide for my/our child.

I/We acknowledge and understand what the school expects from all pupils.

Signed: Parent/Guardian

..... Parent/Guardian

of Pupil: Form:

Signed: Pupil (Optional)

Date: