



# St Philip Neri with St Bede

Catholic Voluntary Academy



Part of  
**OUR LADY  
OF LOURDES**

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

**We put Christ at the Centre of Our Lives**

# Headteacher's Welcome



I am delighted that you have chosen to find out more about St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy and hope the information contained within this prospectus gives you a tangible flavour of our wonderfully vibrant, happy school.

Our school is a two-form entry primary school located in the heart of Mansfield. We are proud to belong to the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, which comprises of 36 schools in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Our school serves the church communities of Our Lady Help Of Christians, Kirky-in-Ashfield; St. Joseph the Worker in Sutton-in-Ashfield; and St. Philip Neri in Mansfield. We are situated within close proximity of St. Philip Neri church and enjoy regular visits for the celebration of Mass or to learn more about our Catholic faith.

Our children are proud of themselves and of their school and we are equally proud of them. We strive to enable every child to love and value themselves and to be virtuous people who care for the world and all the people in it, guided by the teachings and example of Christ Jesus. This fosters an ethos of love, safety and respect, which enables our children to flourish and thrive.

We are an inclusive school and welcome children from all cultural, religious and non-religious backgrounds whose families support our ethos and want their children to experience the caring character of our school.

It is our overarching aim for every child to leave our school knowing they are loved, knowing how to love and fully equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to go out and make a valuable contribution to society and the wider world. In order to achieve this aim, we welcome and encourage parents to be fully invested, interested and involved in all aspects of school life.

If you would like to find out more or visit us, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school family.

**Mr. Daniel Steele**  
Headteacher



## Our primary Mission

**We put Christ at the Centre of Our Lives**

All that we do is underpinned by our Mission Statement: **We put Christ at the Centre of Our Lives**. We support and encourage our children to live this out in how they **Think, Speak** and **Act**. To guide and inspire pupils to do this, they are rewarded with virtues tokens for demonstrating faith, hope, love, justice, courage, solidarity, temperance or sense.

**Think:** we encourage our children to hear the messages from Scripture and think about what Jesus is telling us. Before speaking or acting, we urge them to think and consider, what would Jesus think?

**Speak:** we support our children to hear the messages from Scripture and spread God's message of love, peace and hope. In all situations, we encourage them to consider, what would Jesus say?

**Act:** we encourage our children to hear the messages from Scripture to guide their actions by being people who act with kindness, love, justice and humility. As they interact with others, we urge them to think and consider, what would Jesus do?

**"Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you."**  
**Phillippians 4:9**

We have always been a popular school with a rich history that dates back to 1925! We are well-regarded for being a large school with a big heart and have an excellent reputation for attainment, behaviour and manners.

To build further on our successes, school leaders always use current research to inform decisions along with the implementation of innovative and effective teaching and learning strategies. We take pride in ensuring we cater for the differing learning styles and needs of our pupils.

Our dedicated staff are ambitious for all and aim to provide the highest standard of education so that our children can be knowledgeable, confident, resilient, responsible and successful learners.

The school benefits from having spacious grounds which enables learning to take place in a range of settings, from the bright, spacious classrooms, to our inviting, well-resourced library to our extensive outdoors.

This includes a Forest Schools site, polytunnel, sports pitch, playgrounds, trim trail, spiritual garden and a vast early years outdoor learning area.

***'This is a great school, well-led with many opportunities for the children. Highly recommend.'***

Parent quote 2024

***'I love coming to school. Teachers make our lessons fun, I enjoy learning more about God and Jesus and I love playing with my friends at lunchtime.'***

Pupil quote 2024

Our learning  
environment



# Our curriculum

We strive to offer the very best for all pupils and are proud of our thematic, topic-based curriculum. It is designed to ensure that all children achieve. Each subject has been carefully planned so that knowledge and skills are acquired progressively. This deepens understanding and helps pupils to make links within and across subjects. All lessons begin with a Recap section to support pupils to retain and recall new knowledge.

In addition to high quality classroom teaching in all subjects, we also benefit from having subject specialist providers who teach French, Music and PE across the school. This ensures our children acquire the very best wider curriculum knowledge. The Curriculum section of our website contains a full breakdown of the learning that takes place in each subject across the school.

## Teaching and learning

All lessons are derived from the school's Long and Medium Term Plans, which ensures content is delivered as agreed. Knowledge and skills are developed sequentially, which maximises attainment and avoids cognitive overload. Our skilled teachers ensure that all lessons are planned so that pupils can be supported, challenged and inspired whatever their ability. Teachers track pupils' progress carefully within and between lessons and use this to inform subsequent teaching.

Every class is supported by a teaching assistant who provides small group and individual support and challenge. They also deliver 'IMPACT' sessions for pupils who may not have understood a concept taught in a lesson. This secures understanding and ensures they are ready for the next step in learning. Our skilled support staff also deliver tailored interventions based on individual pupil needs.



We recognise the importance of our children flourishing academically but also prioritise their personal, social, emotional and spiritual development. We want each child to know they are loved and made in the image of God, and that we all have our own unique gifts and qualities.

We teach the importance of British Values and deepen this learning by using the Catholic Social Teaching principles, our School Virtues and our Mission Statement to discover fully what it means to be a good person and to live a good life, drawing upon the example of Jesus. Our aim is for all pupils to leave our school fully equipped to contribute to life in modern Britain and become everything that they were created to be.

Collective and personal prayer is central to school life and is a part of every school day. This takes place either with the

whole school, in key stages or at a classroom level. From a very young age, our children take pride in being responsible for the planning, leading and evaluation of acts of worship.

We are blessed to have a range of prayer spaces in school additional to those in classrooms - our Sacred Space, Liturgical Lounge and Spiritual Garden. These spaces are treasured and used regularly to help our children encounter Lord Jesus.

*'Pupils develop a strong sense of social justice. They enjoy fundraising for a number of charities including CAFOD. Pupils understand the links between the Catholic Life of the school and their actions.'*

Diocese of Nottingham

## Catholic Social Teaching and British values



# Beyond the curriculum

We truly value and appreciate the uniqueness of each child and are passionate about developing their gifts and talents, and broadening their experiences and aspirations for the future. Our pupils are encouraged to try new things, take risks and build resilience. As such, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities during the school day and after school.



*'I really like that everyone is so kind and caring. The teachers have time for us. They are also funny and explain everything well.'*

Pupil quote 2024

As part of our commitment to develop the whole child, we have developed an extensive offer of extra-curricular activities. These include:

- After school sports clubs.
- Trips/visits/visitors for each class to enhance the curriculum.
- Residential visits offered for all pupils throughout Key Stage 2.
- 1:1 or small group musical instrument tuition.
- The opportunity to join our Chaplaincy Team to lead and enhance the Catholic Life of our school.
- School Choir.
- Opportunities to take part in competitive sporting competitions, ranging from football teams, to athletics club and partaking in our annual swimming gala.
- ECO club.
- The opportunity to become a Wellbeing Ambassador.

## Forest Schools

All pupils have an opportunity every year to engage with the Forest Schools programme. Forest Schools is a child-centred inspirational learning process. It is a long-term programme that supports play, exploration and risk-taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands on experiences in our beautiful natural and extensive outdoor learning environment.

## OPAL Lunchtimes

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is a programme that enhances every child's lunchtime experience. Children have a plethora of activities to engage in: from small-world toys and games, including Lego, dress up and building blocks, to wheeled toys, pogo sticks, a mud kitchen, large tyres, den-making resources and much, much more! Not only does this make lunchtimes great fun and increases physical activity, but it also develops imagination, cooperation and creativity.

## Wrap Around Care

As a school, we recognise that working parents require childcare before and after school. Our Wrap Around provider, The Lime Trees, offers a warm, caring, inclusive environment from 7.30am until 6pm. Pupils are provided with breakfast and a healthy light tea is provided.



## Achieving full potential and personal development

We want every pupil to achieve their very best. Our high expectations of work and behaviour are shared by our parents/carers and together, we work in partnership to ensure that standards are consistently high. We want every child to experience the joy of success, both in and out of the classroom. In our school, there is a strong focus on recognising, developing and celebrating pupils' strengths in different areas.

Our pupils take pride in their faith and live out the Church's teachings through their words and actions. This includes welcoming, including and celebrating pupils who have different beliefs.

The children of St. Philip Neri with St. Bede have an acute understanding of right and wrong. They achieve happiness through self-respect and respect for others. They embrace, understand and try to improve our own community and are always curious and interested in the wider community and how they can contribute to a better world for all.

Throughout the year, the children direct and contribute to our learning environment, acts of worship, charitable events, fundraising and celebrations all of which develop the Catholic character of our school and prepare them for life beyond the school gates.

Our school has very strong links with our church, St. Philip Neri, and the wider parish. Our Parish Priest plays an active role in school life and worship. Throughout the academic year, individual classes prepare and celebrate Mass and Liturgies that parents are warmly invited to attend in church.

***'My child is thriving at St Philip's and enjoys school. The progress she is making especially in reading is just amazing, and she is growing in confidence every day. I can't express enough how grateful I am and would like to thank all the teachers who make my daughter feel happy and confident.'***

Parent quote 2024



## Our community

Our school enjoys a strong, positive partnership with parents/carers. Children are greeted each day by our staff who are always happy to speak to parents, either to receive a message, extend our support or to offer advice as and when necessary.

Parents and carers are warmly welcomed into our community. Prior to starting school, parents of new pupils are given an opportunity to meet with a member of the staff team to share information about their child, ask questions, look around our school and meet their teacher.

All parents/carers are encouraged to share their child's successes by attending our various assemblies. We also use a communication app, called Class Dojo, to update parents with whole school and class events and activities.

For parents who would like to become more involved with our school, they are invited to join our Parents Teacher Association (PTA). Our PTA volunteers work together to provide opportunities for our children and to raise funds for school projects, and would welcome anyone who could spare some of their time to help. Further to this, parents/carers have the opportunity to join our Local Governing Body as a Foundation or Parent Governor

## Joining St. Philip Neri

You are warmly invited to visit our school and see the children involved in their learning; this can be arranged by calling the school office and making an appointment.

Children can join Nursery as soon as they turn three, provided we have a space available. We offer both 15 and 30 hours of Nursery provision. Applications for a place in Nursery can be made directly to the school by contacting the school office.

Children join Reception in the September after they turn four. Parents/carers should apply for a Reception place when their child is three. The window to apply for a Reception class place opens in November and closes in January. Parents are notified in April if their child has been given a place in our school. If offered a place, we provide opportunities for children to make regular visits to our school in June and July to help them become familiar with our staff and setting prior to starting in the September.

For more information on our admissions process, including in-year applications, oversubscription criteria and the appeals process, please visit our website: [www.stphilipneri.notts.sch.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.stphilipneri.notts.sch.uk/parents/admissions).

***'School leaders place a high priority on the promotion of pupils' spiritual life and well-being.'***

Ofsted 2023

***'Pupils take pride in their work and are confident when recalling their learning.'***

***'Pupils benefit from a rich range of wider opportunities. Leaders have deliberately planned trips to extend pupils' knowledge and understanding.'***

Photography by CODA Education ©



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