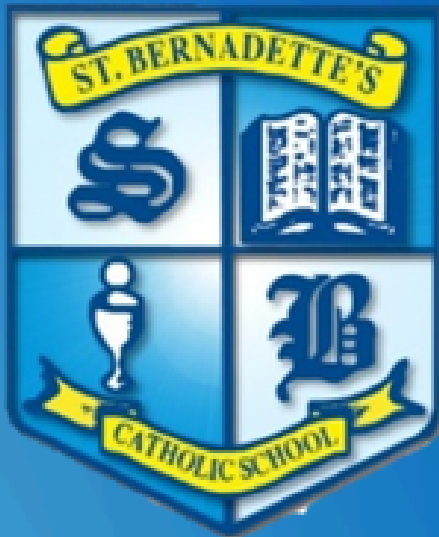


# St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Learn to Love, Love to Learn

## School Prospectus 2025/2026



### Contact Us:

Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham,  
B25 8QL

[enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk)

0121 783 7232

[www.stberns.co.uk](http://www.stberns.co.uk)

Headteacher: Miss E Finnegan





## Headteacher's Welcome

I warmly welcome you to St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. At St Bernadette's, we provide a safe, secure and happy environment where every child is supported and challenged to achieve their full potential.

Our school motto, 'Learn to Love, Love to Learn', is at the heart of all we do. Our curriculum places Jesus at its centre and reflects Gospel values, nurturing a sense of purpose and faith in our children.

We are delighted to share that our recent Catholic Schools Inspection report praised the exemplary behaviour of our children, recognising their deep understanding of Christian values. The report also highlighted that our staff are outstanding role models, creating a loving and nurturing environment where children are happy, confident and proud to be part of the St Bernadette's family.

We celebrate the uniqueness of each child, recognising every individual as created in the image and likeness of God. Alongside academic achievement, we offer a wealth of enrichment opportunities, encourage pupil leadership, and support the spiritual and social development of our children.

Our talented and dedicated staff work closely with families, our parish and the local community. We believe that education is a true partnership and greatly value your involvement and support in your child's educational journey.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to St Bernadette's.

Miss E. Finnegan  
Headteacher



Learn to Love, Love to Learn





## About Us

St. Bernadette's is a Catholic School for children aged 4-11 years with a nursery class for 3 - 4 years old.

### Our Mission Statement

At St. Bernadette's Catholic School you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

### Aims of Our School

As a Catholic school, our aim is to create a religious and moral climate, which will enable the child's love of the Catholic faith to develop and mature and thus, enhance the development of the whole child. Qualities such as responsibility, sincerity, honesty, tolerance and those that reflect the Christian values, in general, will enable the child to take a full part in their secondary education and in society as a whole.

In order to develop the whole child spiritually, morally, academically, culturally and socially our aims are to give each child:

- An understanding of how they grow in body and faith and how this is a fundamental part of God's plan for us and our future.
- A sense of self-discipline, personal well-being, acceptable behaviour and an awareness of the needs of others to prepare for a life in a multi-cultural society.
- The ability to become independent learners able to solve a range of problems.
- Access to a good quality education in all subjects that will equip them with the skills necessary to become citizens of the future. The school promotes breadth and depth, relevance and differentiation and recognises that these should be the keystone of the curriculum provided within school.



Learn to Love, Love to Learn



## The 7 Areas of Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

At Nursery or in Reception, your child is learning through play, exploration and real-life experiences. The EYFS framework helps Early Years professionals support your child's development in seven key areas:

### Prime Areas

These are the building blocks for learning and development. They are especially important in the early years.

#### Communication and Language

Your child learns to listen, understand, and talk with others. This includes conversations, stories, and songs.

#### Physical Development

This supports your child's health and movement. They build strength and coordination through climbing, running, drawing, and using tools like scissors or cutlery.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Your child learns to understand their feelings, build friendships, take turns, and develop confidence.

### Specific Areas

As children grow, these areas help them build on the prime skills.

#### Literacy

Through sharing books and mark-making, your child begins to understand stories, recognise sounds and letters, and start writing.

#### Mathematics

Your child learns about numbers, counting, shapes, and patterns in fun and practical ways.

#### Understanding the World

Your child explores the world around them – learning about nature, people, places, and how things work.

#### Expressive Arts and Design

Your child uses their imagination through music, role play, art, and dance.

Every child is unique, and they develop at their own pace. The EYFS is all about helping children grow into happy, confident learners, ready for their next steps in school and life.

In order for new pupils to settle into school, we ensure that the Nursery and Reception children have their own:

- Early lunch sitting
- Outdoor play area
- Induction day
- Stay and Play with parents/carers
- Phased start dates in September





## Key Stage One and Two

Children in KSI (age 5-7, Y1 and Y2) and KS2 (age 7-11, Y3-Y6) follow the National Curriculum. The National Curriculum consists of:

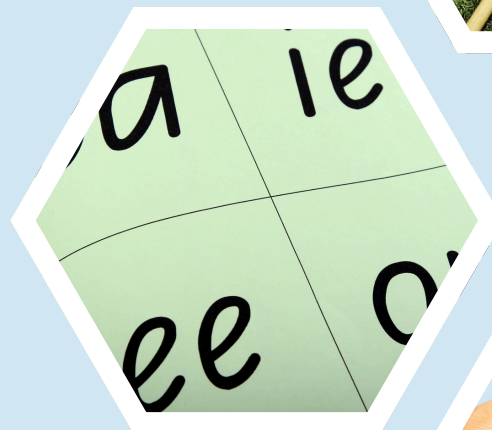
### Core Subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science

### Non-Core Foundation Subjects

- History
- Geography
- Design & Technology
- Music
- Modern Foreign Language (French)
- Computing
- Art
- Physical Education
- PSHCE

Delivery of these subjects range from discrete, subject specific lessons to cross-curricular elements taught through other subjects and dedicated curriculum days.



## Setting and Subject Specialist Teaching

Children from Reception to Year 6 are taught in ability groups or sets for English and Mathematics. Children are assessed at the end of each term and may be moved to another set depending on the results of these assessments. A subject specialist approach to teaching some foundation subjects in KS2 is used to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. Specialist teachers regularly liaise with class teachers and the Special Needs Department to ensure all children's needs are adequately met.

## Modern Foreign Language

Fortnightly the children in KS2 have specialist teaching of a modern foreign language (French). The children then continue that language as they progress through the school. A range of conversation topics are taught and the children also start to write in their modern foreign language







## How We Assess Your Child's Learning

At our school, we use assessment as a way to understand how your child is progressing and how we can help them move forward in their learning. It helps teachers plan lessons that meet children's needs and celebrate the progress they make.

### In Nursery and Reception (EYFS)

Children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Teachers observe children during play and learning activities and use these observations to assess their progress across different areas of development. We use a framework called Development Matters to help track their learning journey.

### In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (Years 1 to 6)

From Year 1 onwards, we use a mix of classroom assessments and national tests to understand what children know and can do in subjects like reading, writing, maths, and more.

Here are some key assessments during primary school:

#### Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

In June, children in Year 1 take a short and simple test to check how well they can read using phonics (sounding out words). If a child needs more support, they'll get extra help and try again in Year 2.

#### Year 2 SATs (Standardised Tests)

Children take tests in reading, maths, and grammar, punctuation and spelling. These are conducted in a relaxed and supportive way. Teachers use the results alongside classwork to help make overall judgements about each child's progress.

#### Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

In Year 4, children take an online times tables check. It helps to see how well they can recall multiplication facts up to  $12 \times 12$ . This helps us support their maths learning as they move forward.

#### Year 6 SATs

At the end of primary school, children sit national tests in reading, maths, and grammar, punctuation and spelling. Writing is assessed by teachers. These results are shared with you in July and help secondary schools understand your child's needs.

### What This Means for Your Child

Assessment is not just about tests – it's about recognising each child's achievements, understanding what they need next, and supporting them to be confident and successful learners.

## Supporting Every Child at St Bernadette's



At St Bernadette's, we believe that every child is unique, special, and loved by God. We are committed to providing an inclusive and supportive environment where all children can thrive, whatever their needs or abilities.

### Special Educational Needs (SEND)

We follow national guidance, including the SEND Code of Practice and Local Authority Inclusion Standards, to support children with additional needs. Some children may need extra help with:

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- social, emotional, and mental health
- sensory and or physical needs

We work closely with families to identify any needs early. If a child needs extra support, we create a personalised plan with clear targets to help them progress. These plans are regularly reviewed, and sometimes pupils may receive support from external professionals such as speech therapists or educational psychologists. This strong partnership helps us make the best possible provision for each child and we will always consult you prior to commencing support.

### Disability and Accessibility

We warmly welcome children with disabilities and are committed to ensuring everyone can access learning and all aspects of school life. Our school building has adaptations in place to support children with physical or visual needs, and we continuously work to remove any barriers to learning. Our admissions policy treats all children equally, whether or not they have special educational needs or disabilities.

You can read our full SEND and Inclusion policies on our school website.

### Equal Opportunities for All

At St Bernadette's, we celebrate the diversity of our school community. Every child has the right to feel valued and respected. We ensure that all children, regardless of their background, culture, gender, or ability, receive a high-quality education and the chance to succeed.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to our SENDCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), please feel free to contact the school office. We're here to work with you every step of the way.

*'We believe that all children, regardless of their needs or abilities, are unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God. Every child has the right to be included, to belong, and to be supported to achieve their full potential.'*

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales





## Working in Partnership with Parents

At St Bernadette's, we value strong and open communication between home and school. We believe that by working closely together, we can give your child the best possible support in both their learning and wellbeing.

### Speaking with Staff

Our Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers, and class teachers are always happy to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have. When speaking with any member of school staff, we expect parents to be polite and respectful, demonstrating the same values that we are teaching the children in school.

- If you would like to have a longer conversation or have something you're concerned about, we kindly ask that you make an appointment so we can give you our full attention.
- For quick updates or informal chats, teachers are usually available at the end of the school day.
- We also have a Pastoral Support Worker, Miss Finn, who support children across the school with things like attendance, friendships, and emotional wellbeing.

### Parents' Evenings and Reports

We offer Parents' Evenings in the autumn and spring terms, giving you the chance to talk about your child's progress and find out more about what they're learning in school.

You will also receive:

- A written report at the end of the summer term
- Termly progress and attainment reports to keep you updated throughout the year

These conversations and updates are part of the strong home-school partnership that we believe is so important in helping children to succeed and feel supported.





## Our Behaviour Expectations and Values

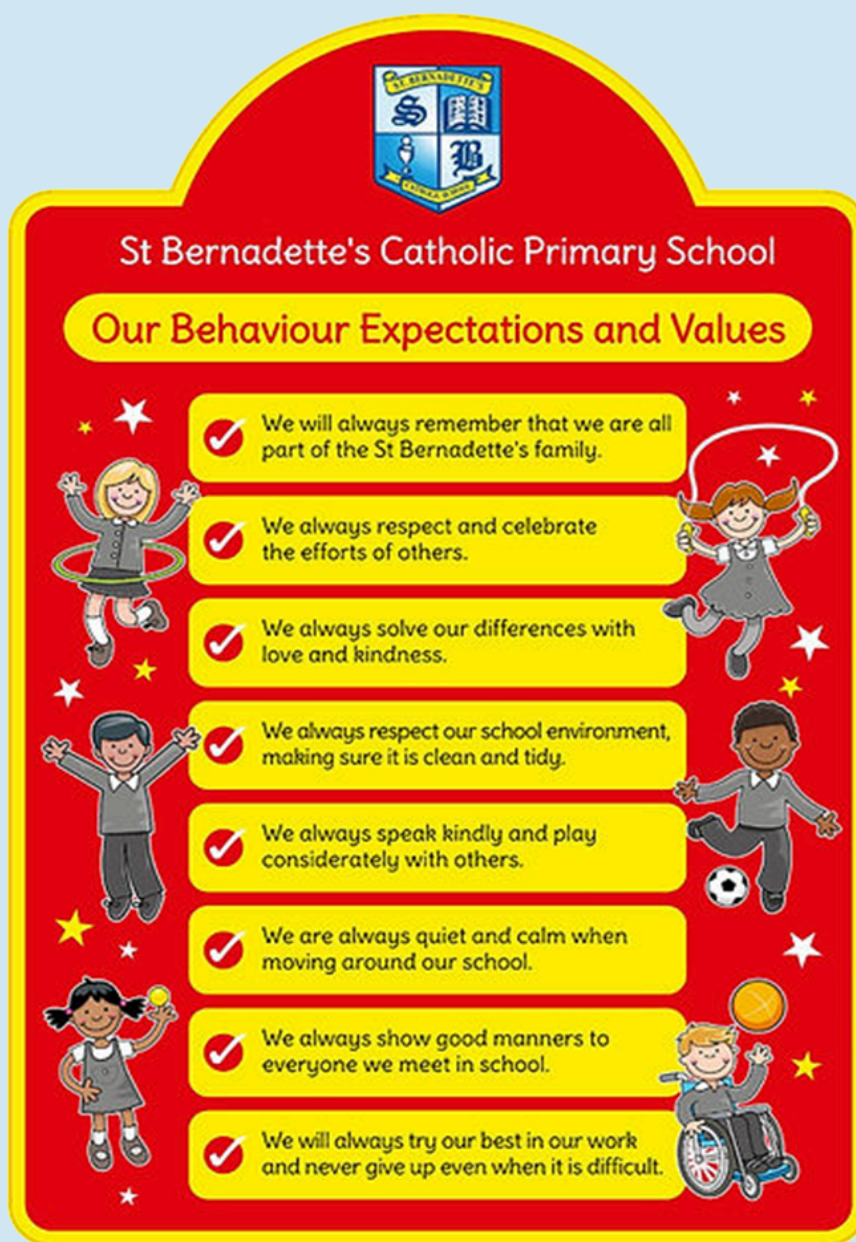
At St Bernadette's, our behaviour expectations are rooted in our Catholic ethos, which encourages kindness, respect, and a strong sense of community.

We teach our children to make good choices, to treat others with care, and to take responsibility for their actions. Our school values are built on the teachings of Jesus and help guide the way we behave and treat one another every day.

All staff lead by example, creating a calm, caring environment where these values are lived out in daily school life. Behaviour expectations are kept clear and simple so that children can understand and follow them with confidence.

### Our 8 Positive Behaviour Statements

You'll find these displayed proudly around our school and in every classroom. They help remind us how we can make our school a happy and safe place for everyone:



These positive statements help create a shared understanding of how we care for one another and grow together as a school family. We believe that when children feel safe, respected, and valued, they are ready to learn and flourish.

Learn to Love, Love to Learn





## Celebrating Positive Behaviour and Effort

At St Bernadette's, we believe in recognising and celebrating positive behaviour, effort, kindness, and hard work. When children feel encouraged and valued, they are more likely to grow in confidence and make good choices.

We use a variety of rewards to motivate and praise our pupils, including:

- Verbal praise from staff
- Stickers and small rewards
- Track It points, which children can save and spend termly at our fun Stationery Shop

Each week, children also have the opportunity to earn a behaviour star for following our school's values and expectations. These stars lead to:

- A behaviour certificate
- A special behaviour Badge, presented in a school assembly which parents are invited to attend

We also celebrate two children in each class every week with a Shining Light Award certificate for effort, good work, or positive behaviour – which is sent home to share and celebrate with family. This award is inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world," reminding us that every child has a light within them that can brighten the lives of others through their actions and attitude.

'You are the light of the world.'  
Matthew 5:14



## Helping Children Learn from Mistakes

While we always focus on the positive, we understand that children are still learning and sometimes make mistakes. When this happens, we help them reflect and take responsibility for their actions in a calm and supportive way.

We are guided by the words of Ephesians 4:32 –

*'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'*

This reminds us that mistakes are a part of learning, and forgiveness helps us grow.

Depending on the situation, children may:

- Be asked to reflect on their mistake and apologise
- Miss a short time from playtime or lunchtime
- Spend some time in another class to reflect
- Speak with a senior staff member (Headteacher, Deputy, or Assistant Headteacher)

For more serious incidents, parents will be contacted so that we can work together to support the child and put steps in place to improve their behaviour.

In rare and very serious cases, a child may be suspended for a fixed period. This is always discussed with parents and reported to the Chair of Governors and Local Authority.

## Working Together

We know that the most effective behaviour support comes when school and home work closely together. We ask all families to sign our Home/School Agreement to show our shared commitment to helping children make good choices and succeed.

Together, we can create a happy, respectful, and safe learning environment where all children can flourish




## Keeping Your Child Healthy and Safe

At St Bernadette's, your child's health and wellbeing are very important to us. We work closely with families to make sure every child is safe, supported, and well cared for while in school.

### If Your Child Is Unwell

If your child is feeling poorly, especially with sickness or diarrhoea, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last symptom to help prevent the spread of illness.

Please let us know on the first morning of absence by reporting it online via our website:

 Report an absence

If your child becomes unwell during the school day, we will contact you by phone and ask you to collect them.

### Emergency Contacts

It's really important that we can reach someone in case of an emergency. Please make sure we have up-to-date contact details, including for a parent, relative, or trusted friend.

### Medicines and Medical Needs

#### Asthma inhalers:

Children with asthma should have a clearly labelled inhaler in school every day.

In Key Stage 1, teachers will keep inhalers safe.

In Key Stage 2, children are encouraged to keep them in their trays.

#### Allergies and EpiPens:

If your child has an allergy or medical condition that requires medication (like antihistamines or an EpiPen), please provide clearly labelled medication for school use.

#### Ongoing medical conditions:

If your child has a long-term condition (e.g., diabetes, epilepsy), we'll work with you to create a care plan so staff can safely support your child during the school day.

#### Prescribed medication:

If your child is prescribed medicine that needs to be taken four times a day, we can administer one dose during school hours. Please speak to the school office to complete the necessary forms.

#### General medicines:

As a general rule, medicines should be given before and after school where possible, as staff are not able to supervise or administer routine medications.

### Bumps and Head Injuries

If your child has a bump to the head at school, we'll send home a note to let you know what happened, just to be on the safe side.

If you have any questions about your child's medical care in school, or need to update their health information, please speak to the school office.

Learn to Love, Love to Learn





## Attendance and Punctuality

At St Bernadette's, we know that good attendance and punctuality help children feel settled, make friends, and achieve their best. We encourage and celebrate strong attendance in fun and positive ways!

Children who achieve 100% attendance can enjoy special treats like:

- certificates
- non-uniform days
- an attendance reward

Our Pastoral Support Worker, Miss Finn, works closely with families and the Education Welfare Officer to support good attendance and help with any challenges that may arise.

### Term-Time Holidays and Unauthorised Absences

Please note that holidays during term time are not permitted.

If a child has 5 consecutive days or more of unauthorised absence, the school is legally required to refer the case for a penalty notice.

What this means for you:

- The fine is £80 per parent, per child.
- If the fine is not paid on time, the case will be taken to court, where fines can increase significantly.
- If a penalty notice has been issued in the past, any further unauthorised absences may result in the case going straight to court — and parents will be responsible for legal costs as well.





## Keeping Our Children Safe

At St Bernadette's, the safety, wellbeing, and happiness of every child is our highest priority. We work together with families to create a secure and caring environment where children can thrive and feel safe — physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

### Safeguarding Policy

Our first priority is your child's welfare. There may be occasions when we need to seek advice or support from external agencies before speaking with parents, as outlined by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leaders are:

Mr Carroll, Miss Di Pierri, Miss Finnegan, Miss Finn, Mrs Hill and Mrs. Taylor.

You can read our full Safeguarding Policy on the school website

### Care and Control Policy

Sometimes, to keep children safe, staff may need to intervene physically — for example, if a child is at risk of harm or causing serious disruption. In these rare situations, we follow the clear guidelines set out in our Care and Control Policy, always acting with care, dignity, and in the best interests of the child.

This policy is available to view on our school website.

### Visitors to School

All visitors must report to the school office at the front entrance and sign in. This helps us know who is on site and ensures the safety of all children and staff.

### Collecting Your Child

Children must be collected by a parent or trusted adult. If you're ever running late, please let the office know as soon as possible. Children not collected on time will be safely supervised in the school office. However, regular lateness can cause children distress and impacts staff availability after school, so we ask that children are collected promptly at home time.

### Parking and Road Safety

To keep our school community safe at drop-off and pick-up times, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Do not park in the school car park or use the driveway to turn around.
- Do not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school. This area must be kept clear to ensure children's safety.
- Please note that West Midlands Police conduct spot checks and may issue Fixed Penalty Notices for unsafe or illegal parking.

### Promoting Safe and Green Travel

We encourage children and families to walk, scoot, or cycle to school whenever possible, as part of our School Travel Plan with the Local Authority.

- Key Stage 2 children are welcome to cycle to school.
- Bikes should be locked securely in the bike shed on the junior playground.
- Helmets must be worn, and we recommend reflective or brightly coloured clothing for visibility.

By working together, we can ensure that every child arrives and leaves school safely, ready to learn, grow, and shine each day.

Learn to Love, Love to Learn



## Homework at St Bernadette's

At St Bernadette's, we see homework as a way to strengthen the link between home and school. It gives children the chance to practise key skills, share their learning with you, and develop good habits for the future — all within a supportive and manageable routine.

### Reception

- Children bring home a reading book each week and are encouraged to read a little every night with an adult. Repeating the same book is encouraged as it helps to develop vocabulary and awareness of the story structure.
- Reception children also spend 20 minutes each week on Numbots, a fun and engaging maths app that helps build confidence with numbers.
- Each week, one child takes home the Class Prayer Bag. This is a lovely opportunity to write and decorate a prayer together as a family, which your child can proudly share with their class.

### Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

- Children read their school reading book every night at home.
- Weekly spellings are sent home to practise.
- Children also complete 20 minutes of Numbots each week to support their maths fluency.
- The Class Prayer Bag continues in KS1, offering families a meaningful way to reflect and pray together.

### Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)

- Children are expected to read every night and have a reading book to bring home.
- Weekly spellings are provided to learn and practise.
- Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) is used for 20 minutes a week, helping children become confident and quick with their times tables.
- In Years 5 and 6, children also complete a short comprehension task and a maths homework activity each week.
- As with the younger year groups, KS2 children have the chance to take home the Class Prayer Bag and write a prayer as a family to share in school.

### Communication Records

Each child has a Communication Record (Reading Diary) which should be brought to school every day. Please use this to:

- Record your child's daily reading
- Sign after each reading session
- Share any comments or questions with the class teacher

Your involvement makes a huge difference in your child's progress and shows them how much you value their learning.

Together, we can help your child enjoy learning, grow in confidence, and develop a lifelong love of reading and learning — living out our motto: 'Learn to Love, Love to Learn.'



## School Meals at St Bernadette's

At St Bernadette's, we're proud to offer freshly cooked, nutritious meals prepared daily in our school kitchen. Our school cook uses high-quality ingredients and follows the latest nutritional guidelines to make sure children enjoy healthy, balanced meals.

We promote healthy eating and offer a varied menu each day to give children plenty of choice. If your child has any food allergies or dietary needs, we will work closely with you to ensure their meals are safe and suitable.

### Universal Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal every day under the Government's Universal Free School Meals scheme — no application is needed for this.

### Meal Payments (Years 3–6)

For children in Years 3 to 6, school meals are available at a small cost.

- Meals should be paid for in advance, either weekly or termly.
- All payments must be made online via the ParentPay system.
- You'll receive an activation letter to help you set up your account when your child starts school.

If you need any help using ParentPay, please speak to the school office — we're happy to help.

### Free School Meals – How to Apply

Some families may be eligible for free school meals, depending on their circumstances.

To apply, simply visit: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>

All applications are handled confidentially. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, we strongly encourage eligible families to apply — as this can help support your child's education and the school's budget.







## Packed Lunches

Children are welcome to bring a packed lunch if they prefer. We kindly ask that lunches follow our Healthy Eating Policy.

To support healthy habits, please remember:

- No crisps or chocolate (except on Fridays as a treat)
- No sweets or fizzy drinks on any day
- No nuts or Nutella

A healthy packed lunch helps children stay focused and energised throughout the school day.

## Fruit and Drinks

At St Bernadette's, we encourage children to eat healthily and stay hydrated:

- As part of the National School Fruit Scheme, all children aged 3 to 6 receive a free piece of fruit each day.
- Children in Key Stage 2 are also offered fruit, or they may bring a piece from home.
- 

## Water Bottles

Please send your child to school each day with a refillable water bottle filled with water. Filtered water is also provided at lunchtime.

## Milk

- Children in the Foundation Stage are given free fresh milk each day.



## Supporting Enrichment Activities at St Bernadette's

At St Bernadette's, we believe that learning goes beyond the classroom. Trips, workshops, and special visitors bring learning to life and help create lasting memories for our children. To help us offer these valuable experiences, we ask families to support our School Fund.

### School Fund Contribution

We kindly ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 per child each year. This helps us subsidise the cost of trips and in-school workshops to make them as affordable as possible for all families.

- Payments can be made in instalments through your ParentPay account.
- This contribution helps fund day trips, visitors to school, and enrichment experiences for all children.
- Residential trips (such as overnight or international visits) are charged separately and can also be paid for in instalments via ParentPay.

Your support helps us offer a wide range of exciting and meaningful experiences for all pupils.

### Trips and Visits

Throughout your child's time at St. Bernadette's, we organise a variety of trips to enrich their learning and personal development. These may include:

- Residential Trips – e.g., Paris, Pioneer Centre, Condover Hall, and camping in Wales
- Spiritual Retreats – e.g., Alton Castle Diocesan Youth Retreat
- Theatre Performances
- Visits to museums, historical sites, and religious places of worship
- Parliament tours and farm/zoo trips

### Workshops in School

We also invite visiting professionals and organisations into school to deliver high-quality educational workshops on a wide range of topics — from science and history to drama, music, and wellbeing.

These experiences are designed to inspire, engage, and extend your child's learning in a fun and interactive way.



## Pupil Leadership at St Bernadette's

At St Bernadette's, we believe that every child has the potential to lead, contribute, and make a positive difference in our school community. We offer several opportunities for children to develop leadership skills, take responsibility, and live out our Gospel values.

### Head Boy and Head Girl

In Year 6, children are invited to apply for the roles of Head Boy, Head Girl, and their Deputies. Candidates write and present a short speech to their peers and staff, sharing why they would make a good role model.

All pupils and staff take part in a democratic vote, teaching children about responsibility, public speaking, and respect for others' views.

Our pupil leaders help to:

- Represent the school at events
- Lead assemblies
- Support school initiatives
- Act as positive role models for others

### School Council

The School Council is made up of two elected representative from each year band, from Year 1 to Year 6. Members are chosen through a class vote and meet every half term to discuss matters important to the children.

- Councillors sign a pledge to be responsible and fair
- Minutes are shared across the school so all pupils know what was discussed
- The Council helps shape school life by sharing pupil voice and suggesting improvements

### Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies are a group of children aged 7 to 11 who help put their faith into action through prayer, service, and kindness. They form part of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and represent Years 3–6.

They meet regularly to:

- Pray and reflect
- Discuss ways to help those in need
- Plan events that support others in our school, parish, and wider community

They live by the motto:

*'Turning Concern into Action'*

These opportunities help children grow in confidence, responsibility, and faith, as they learn to lead with kindness, courage, and compassion — living out our school motto:

*'Learn to Love, Love to Learn.'*



## The Governing Body

Mr J Lenihan - Chair of Governors  
Miss E Finnegan -Head Teacher Governor  
Fr Fretch Ballesteros - Foundation Governor / Parish Priest  
Mrs K Quinlan - Foundation Governor  
Mr C Dela Cruz - Foundation Governor  
Mrs M Winters - Foundation Governor  
Mrs T Moran - Foundation Governor  
Mr. Peter-Thomas - Foundation Governor  
Mrs G Wrench - Parent Governor / Chair of Finance  
Mrs V Panayiotou - Parent Governor  
Mr A Carroll - Teacher Governor  
Mrs. Smallwood - Clerk to Governors

## What Do the School Governors Do?

Our Governing Body plays a key role in the life of the school. Governors don't manage the school on a day-to-day basis — that's the role of the Headteacher — but they are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the school.

Governors work together with the Headteacher to:

- Help set the school's vision and values
- Agree the School Development Plan
- Review and agree school policies
- Oversee the school budget
- Support and challenge school leaders to ensure high standards

They act as a 'critical friend', offering encouragement, advice, and accountability, always with the best interests of the children and the school community in mind.

Governors also represent you — the parents — so your feedback and involvement is always valued and welcome.



## The School Day



Please note, doors will open at 8:30 a.m. each day to allow lessons to begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.

NURSERY	8:45 am – 3:05 pm 8:45 am – 2:00 pm	Monday to Thursday Friday
RECEPTION	8:45 am – 9:45 am 10:00 am – 11:45 am 1:00 pm – 3:10 pm 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Friday
KEY STAGE ONE	8:45 am – 10:30 am 10:45 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:15 pm 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Friday
KEY STAGE TWO	8:45 am – 10:30 am 10:45 am – 12:10 pm 1:00 pm – 3:15 pm 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Friday



Learn to Love, Love to Learn



## School Uniform

All pupils in school wear school uniform which can be purchased from Clive Mark or from school.

The uniform consists of:

### Winter Uniform (autumn and spring term)

Grey skirt / pinafore / grey straight-leg trousers

Grey cardigan or v-neck jumper with the school logo

White hard collar shirt

School tie

Black, flat shoes (not boots, plimsolls or trainers)

Grey, black or white socks or grey tights

### Summer Uniform (summer term)

Grey skirt / pinafore / grey straight-leg trousers/grey shorts with a white polo shirt with the school logo

Black, flat shoes (not boots, plimsolls or trainers)

### Nursery Uniform

Grey skirt / pinafore / grey straight leg trousers with a white polo shirt with school logo

Red Sweatshirt /Cardigan with school logo

Black, flat shoes (not boots, plimsolls or trainers)

### School Bags

All children in EYFS and KSI must have a reading bag with the school logo

### PE Uniform

Black P.E shorts, plain white t-shirt and black plimsolls—KS2 are allowed to wear trainers for outdoor games lessons.

(Kit must be kept in school during term time)

Dark tracksuit for winter games

### Presentation and personal property

Children's hairstyles should be suitable for school. Shaven/patterned or coloured styles are not appropriate and children with longer hair should have it tied back. Hair-bands if worn should be plain and simple—they should not be a fashion statement. A plain dark coloured band is acceptable.

On health and safety grounds, the wearing of jewellery is not permitted (including earrings). In Key Stage Two, children may wear a watch (not a smart watch). Children must not bring valuables to school (including mobile phones, except where this has been agreed for children who walk home alone). The School and Governing Body will not be held responsible for loss of, or damage to, personal property.



## How Will My Child's Spirituality and Faith Be Developed?

At St Bernadette's, our Catholic faith is at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to be part of the Holy Family Parish, Small Heath, and we have a strong spiritual connection with our parish community.

Children take part in regular Masses, including at the beginning and end of each term and on Holy Days of Obligation. They also celebrate year group Masses in school throughout the year. We follow the Catholic Religious Education programme set by the Diocese, and children also grow in their faith through:

- Weekly assemblies and liturgies
- Religious celebrations and special feast days
- World Faith Week, where we learn about and respect other religions
- Receiving the Sacraments:
  - Reconciliation and Holy Communion in Year 3
  - Confirmation in Year 6

Our Parish Priest, Father Fretch Ballesteros, is a regular and much-loved visitor to our school. He works closely with the children and families, especially during sacramental preparation, and supports pupils in preparing for Mass.

We are also blessed to have the support of Sister Maura Halpin, a Sister of Mercy, who is a comforting and guiding presence in our school community. Sister Maura often prays with families and supports them through both joyful and difficult times.

## Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Our approach to Relationship and Sex Education is rooted in our Catholic values, focusing on love, respect, family, and faith.

We follow the "Life to the Full" programme, a Catholic resource recommended by the Diocese. It supports children in understanding:

- The importance of loving and respectful relationships
- The beauty of family life
- A healthy and positive view of themselves and others

The content is always age-appropriate and suited to each stage of your child's development. Before this teaching takes place, parents are invited to information sessions to review the materials and ask questions.

If you wish to discuss the RSE programme in more detail, or if you're considering withdrawing your child from these lessons, please arrange a meeting with the Headteacher.



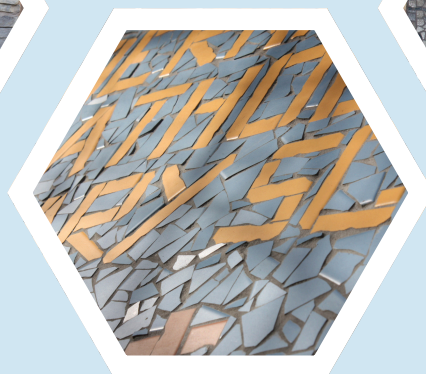
## How Can Parents Get Involved in School Life?

At St Bernadette's, we know that a strong partnership between home and school is key to a child's success — and we love welcoming parents into the life of our school.

Here are just a few of the ways parents can get involved:

- Inspire RE workshops — especially in Year 3, as children prepare for their First Holy Communion
- Open Week — where parents are invited into class to join in with exciting lessons and activities
- Exhibitions of children's work — to celebrate learning across the curriculum
- Coffee mornings — a great way to meet other parents and feel part of the school community
- Fundraising and charity events — such as cake sales, book sales, and more
- Volunteering — helping on school trips, walking to Church, or supporting in class (e.g. hearing readers)

Many of our parent volunteers have gone on to gain experience and even qualifications in education. If you'd like to help out in school, please speak to the school office — we'd love to have you involved!







### What Should I Do If I Have a Concern or Complaint?

At St Bernadette's, we aim to maintain open and positive communication between school and home. We know that sometimes questions or concerns may arise, and we want to resolve these as quickly and smoothly as possible.

If you do have a concern:

- Please speak to your child's class teacher first – they are usually best placed to help with most day-to-day issues.
- If the concern continues, you are welcome to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher, who will be happy to discuss things further with you.

We always aim to work with parents in a respectful and supportive way to find solutions together. If, after this, you still feel your concern hasn't been resolved, you can write a formal letter outlining your complaint to the Chair of Governors. A panel of Governors will then meet to review the matter fairly and independently. You'll receive a written response once a decision has been made.

If you're not satisfied with the outcome, we will guide you through the next steps for appeal. Please be assured that we treat all concerns and complaints seriously, fairly, and confidentially, with the goal of reaching a positive outcome for everyone involved.



Learn to Love, Love to Learn



St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School  
Hob Moor Road,  
Yardley,  
Birmingham,  
B25 8QL

0121 783 7232

[www.stberns.co.uk](http://www.stberns.co.uk)

[enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stberns.bham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Miss E Finnegan



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

