

St. Columba's RC Primary School



Prospectus

Welcome to St Columba's Catholic Primary School

A very warm welcome to St Columba's Catholic Primary School.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make, and we are delighted that you are considering joining our school community.

At St Columba's, our Catholic faith is at the heart of everything we do. Inspired by the Gospel values, we strive to create a caring, inclusive and nurturing environment where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. We work together as companions on a journey—living, learning, loving and laughing in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

We believe that every child is unique and created in the image and likeness of God. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing high-quality teaching, exciting learning opportunities and exceptional pastoral care, enabling every pupil to reach their full academic, spiritual, social and emotional potential.

Our broad and ambitious curriculum encourages curiosity, creativity and resilience while preparing children with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need for the next stage of their education and for life in modern Britain. Alongside academic success, we place great importance on developing kindness, respect, compassion and a strong sense of responsibility towards others.

Strong partnerships between home, school, parish and the wider community are central to our success. We value the support of parents and carers and believe that by working together we can provide the very best education for every child.

Whether your child is joining our Nursery, Reception or transferring from another school, we hope that they will quickly feel happy, safe and inspired to learn as part of our St Columba's family.

We hope this prospectus gives you an insight into life at our school. However, nothing compares to visiting us in person. We warmly invite you to arrange a visit to meet our staff, see our wonderful children at work and experience the welcoming atmosphere that makes St Columba's such a special place.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family.

Mrs Deary
Headteacher

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our Mission

WE ARE COMPANIONS ON A JOURNEY

Living

Learning

Loving

Laughing

In the footsteps of our Lord



Loving:

- We are accepting of others, respectful, just and fair.
- We know how to show love to others as Jesus has shown love to me.

Living:

- We know we belong to a community, that works as one to try to make God's world a better place.

Learning:

- We try our best and never give up hope.
- We can work independently and collaboratively to achieve our goals.

Laughing:

- We can laugh and have fun.
- We are happiest when we are united as a family of God.



Our Vision

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Christ is at the centre of everything we do. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, we strive to provide a safe, happy and nurturing environment where every child is encouraged to flourish academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

We recognise that every child is unique and has been blessed with individual talents and abilities. Our role is to nurture these gifts, helping each child to grow in confidence, develop resilience and become a lifelong learner who is ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Working in partnership with families, our parish and the wider community, we seek to create an environment where children develop a love of learning, a respect for others and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world.

Our School

St Columba's is a welcoming Catholic Primary School with Nursery provision, serving children from Nursery through to Year 6.

Our school is built upon strong Christian values where every member of our community is respected, valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential. We are proud of our caring and inclusive atmosphere where children feel safe, happy and supported throughout their school journey.

High expectations underpin everything we do. We provide a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum that enables children to achieve academic success while developing creativity, independence, resilience and a lifelong love of learning.

Alongside academic achievement, we place great importance on personal development. Through prayer, worship, enrichment opportunities, educational visits, sport, music, the arts and pupil leadership opportunities, children develop confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Our Catholic Life

Faith is woven throughout every aspect of school life.

Children participate in daily prayer, collective worship, liturgical celebrations and Mass throughout the year. They are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with God while learning about the importance of compassion, forgiveness, justice and service to others.

Our strong partnership with the parish enables children to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and become active members of both the school and parish communities.

The values of the Gospel underpin our relationships and guide the decisions we make each day, helping our children become respectful, caring and responsible citizens.

Our School Values

At St Columba's we encourage every member of our school family to:

- Live out the Gospel values each day.
- Respect and celebrate the dignity of every individual.
- Show kindness, honesty and compassion in all that we do.
- Work hard and always strive to achieve our personal best.
- Be curious, resilient and enthusiastic learners.
- Care for our environment and the wider world.
- Celebrate success while supporting one another through challenge.
- Develop independence, confidence and responsibility.
- Serve others with generosity and humility.
- Grow into confident, compassionate and responsible young people who are ready for the next stage of their education.

Together, we aim to create a community where every child feels loved, valued and inspired to become the very best version of themselves.

Admissions and Starting School

Joining the St Columba's Family

We are delighted that you are considering St Columba's Catholic Primary School for your child.

Starting school is an exciting milestone, and we are committed to making the transition as smooth, positive and enjoyable as possible for every child and their family. We recognise that children settle best when schools and families work closely together, and we value the strong relationships we build from the very beginning.

Whether your child joins our Nursery, Reception or transfers from another school, we aim to ensure they quickly feel welcomed, safe and confident as members of our school community.

Admissions

St Columba's Catholic Primary School is part of the family of Catholic schools within the Diocese of Salford.

Admissions are administered by the Governing Body in accordance with the school's published Admissions Policy and the School Admissions Code.

The school's Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception is determined annually and is published within the Admissions Policy.

Full details of admissions arrangements, oversubscription criteria, appeals and application deadlines can be found on the school website or by contacting the school office.

Families considering St Columba's are warmly encouraged to arrange a visit to see the school in action and meet our staff.

Nursery

Our Nursery provides a caring, stimulating and engaging learning environment where children begin their educational journey through play, exploration and discovery.

Children are encouraged to develop confidence, independence, communication skills and positive relationships while learning through a carefully planned curriculum based upon the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Our experienced staff work closely with parents and carers to ensure every child feels happy, secure and ready to learn.

Please note that admission to Nursery does **not** automatically guarantee a place in Reception. A separate application must be made in accordance with the school's Admissions Policy.

Starting Reception

We understand that beginning Reception is an important step for every family.

Before children start school, we offer a carefully planned transition programme which may include:

- Parent information meetings.
- Visits to school for children and families.
- Opportunities to meet class teachers and support staff.
- Liaison with nurseries and pre-school settings.
- Transition activities designed to help children become familiar with their new environment.

These arrangements help children settle confidently into school life and establish positive relationships before their first day.

Transition Throughout School

Supporting children through periods of change is an important part of our work.

As children move between year groups, staff work closely together to share information about each child's academic progress, wellbeing and individual needs.

When pupils transfer to secondary school, we work in partnership with receiving schools to ensure a smooth transition. Children benefit from transition activities, visits and opportunities to prepare for this exciting next stage of their education.

Our aim is for every child to leave St Columba's as a confident, resilient and well-prepared young person who is ready to embrace the opportunities ahead.

The School Day

A Positive Start to Every Day

At St Columba's, we believe that every school day should begin with a warm welcome and end with children leaving school feeling happy, safe and proud of their achievements.

Our daily routines are designed to provide a calm, purposeful and nurturing environment where children are ready to learn and can make the very most of every opportunity.

School Opening Times

The school day begins at **8.45am**, with children lining up on the playground (KS1 & KS2) or arriving through their designated entrances (Reception & Nursery), where they are welcomed by staff and encouraged to settle quickly into their learning.

Our current school opening and closing times are published on the school website and are reviewed periodically to ensure they meet national requirements.

Families are asked to arrive promptly each morning so that children are ready to begin learning at the start of the school day.

Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance plays a vital role in children's learning, wellbeing and achievement.

We encourage all children to attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell or there are exceptional circumstances.

Parents and carers are asked to:

- Ensure their child arrives at school on time every day.
- Notify the school as soon as possible if their child is absent.
- Arrange medical and dental appointments outside school hours whenever possible.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time, as these are only authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Our staff work closely with families to promote good attendance and to provide support where attendance becomes a concern.

Arriving at School

Children are welcomed into school each morning by staff who are available to support a calm and positive start to the day.

If a child arrives after the start of the school day, they should enter through the main entrance and report to the school office, where they will be signed in before joining their class.

Collecting Children

The safety of our pupils is our highest priority.

Children are dismissed from their designated collection points at the end of the school day at **3.20pm**.

For our younger pupils, children are only released to their parent, carer or another authorised adult. Older pupils may walk home independently only when written permission has been received from parents or carers.

If collection arrangements change unexpectedly, parents should inform the school office as soon as possible so that staff can ensure children leave safely.

Should a parent or carer be delayed, children will remain safely supervised until they are collected.

School Meals and Lunchtimes

Lunchtime provides children with an opportunity to enjoy a healthy meal, socialise with friends and develop independence.

Children may choose either:

- A freshly prepared school meal.
- A healthy packed lunch brought from home.

School meals are prepared in accordance with current School Food Standards and offer a balanced menu with a variety of nutritious options.

Children who bring packed lunches are encouraged to make healthy choices. Water is freely available throughout the day, and children are encouraged to bring a clearly labelled water bottle for use in the classroom.

Our lunchtime staff provide a safe, caring environment and support children in developing good manners, positive relationships and independence.

Breaktimes

Morning and lunchtime playtimes are an important part of the school day.

Children have access to outdoor play, structured activities and a range of equipment that encourages active, imaginative and cooperative play.

Staff supervise all playtimes carefully, ensuring that children remain safe while enjoying opportunities to build friendships, develop teamwork and stay physically active.

Before and After School

We recognise the importance of supporting working families.

We operate a staff-led breakfast club each day from 8.15am. Whilst we don't currently offer after school care, there is a walking bus for Castle Hill after school provision. Further information about this is available from Castle Hill.

Families wishing to access breakfast club should contact the school office for further information regarding availability and booking arrangements.

Learning and the Curriculum

Inspiring a Love of Learning

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, we believe every child deserves an education that inspires curiosity, develops confidence and nurtures a lifelong love of learning.

Our ambitious curriculum is designed to enable every child to achieve their full potential, regardless of their starting point. Through engaging lessons, high-quality teaching and rich learning experiences, we encourage children to think independently, solve problems creatively and develop the knowledge and skills they need for the future.

Learning is carefully planned to ensure children make excellent progress while developing resilience, independence and a growth mindset.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in our Nursery and Reception classes follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework**.

Learning is carefully planned through a balance of adult-led teaching and purposeful play, providing opportunities for children to explore, investigate and develop their confidence.

The curriculum focuses on seven areas of learning:

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Children learn within a safe, stimulating environment where strong relationships and positive experiences help lay the foundations for future success.

The National Curriculum

From Year 1 to Year 6, pupils follow the National Curriculum, enriched with additional opportunities that reflect the needs of our children and our Catholic ethos.

Learning is carefully sequenced so that children build on prior knowledge and develop a secure understanding of each subject over time.

Reading

Reading lies at the heart of our curriculum.

We are passionate about helping every child become a fluent, confident and enthusiastic reader.

Children are encouraged to read every day both at school and at home. Staff work closely with families to promote positive reading habits and develop a genuine enjoyment of books.

Our reading curriculum includes:

- Daily reading opportunities
- High-quality class texts
- Guided and independent reading
- Systematic phonics teaching in the early years and Key Stage 1
- A well-stocked and welcoming library
- Opportunities to explore a wide range of authors and genres

We believe that confident readers become confident learners.

Writing

Children develop their writing skills through engaging topics and meaningful purposes for writing.

They learn to write for different audiences while developing accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar alongside creativity and self-expression.

Opportunities for extended writing are provided across the wider curriculum, allowing children to apply their skills in a variety of contexts.

Mathematics

Our mathematics curriculum develops confident mathematicians who enjoy problem-solving and reasoning.

Children are encouraged to:

- develop fluency in number
- explain their mathematical thinking
- solve increasingly complex problems
- apply mathematics in everyday situations.

Lessons promote resilience and encourage children to see mistakes as valuable opportunities for learning.

Science

Science encourages children to question, investigate and understand the world around them.

Through practical investigations and enquiry-based learning, pupils develop scientific knowledge alongside essential skills such as observation, prediction, recording results and drawing conclusions.

Children are encouraged to think like scientists, developing curiosity and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Computing and Digital Learning

Technology plays an important role in preparing children for life in a rapidly changing world.

Our Computing curriculum enables pupils to develop skills in:

- computer science
- digital literacy
- information technology
- online safety.

Children learn how to use technology responsibly, creatively and safely while developing the knowledge needed for future education and employment.

Online safety is taught throughout the curriculum and reinforced regularly to help children become responsible digital citizens.

The Wider Curriculum

We believe learning extends far beyond the classroom.

Our wider curriculum provides opportunities for children to develop creativity, confidence and teamwork through subjects including:

- History

- Geography
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Music
- Physical Education
- Modern Foreign Languages
- PSHE
- Religious Education

Where appropriate, subjects are linked through meaningful themes that help children make connections across their learning while maintaining the integrity of each subject.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning.

Teachers continually assess children's understanding through observation, questioning, discussion and carefully planned activities.

This enables staff to:

- identify strengths
- address misconceptions
- provide appropriate challenge
- support individual needs
- ensure every child makes strong progress.

Parents receive regular updates about their child's learning through consultation meetings, written reports and ongoing communication throughout the school year.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Children learn best when they experience the world first-hand.

Educational visits, visitors, performances, sporting events, outdoor learning and enrichment activities are carefully planned to enhance the curriculum and bring learning to life.

These memorable experiences help children deepen their understanding, develop confidence and create lasting memories.

Preparing Children for the Future

Our curriculum is designed not only to achieve academic excellence but also to prepare children for life beyond primary school.

By the time pupils leave St Columba's, we aim for them to be:

- confident learners
- effective communicators
- resilient problem-solvers
- respectful citizens
- compassionate friends

- independent thinkers
- responsible digital citizens
- young people who are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of secondary school and beyond.

Through our curriculum, children develop the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to flourish throughout their lives.

Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship

Christ at the Centre

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, our Catholic faith is the foundation of everything we do.

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we strive to create a welcoming community where every individual is respected, valued and encouraged to become the person God created them to be.

Our Gospel values influence every aspect of school life, shaping our relationships, our learning and the decisions we make each day. We encourage our children to live out these values through kindness, compassion, honesty, forgiveness and service to others.

Faith is not simply taught as a subject—it is lived throughout our school community.

Religious Education

Religious Education is recognised as the core subject within our curriculum and plays a central role in the life of our school.

Following the Religious Education Directory for Catholic schools and the guidance of the Diocese of Salford, children develop a deep understanding of Scripture, Catholic beliefs, traditions and the teachings of the Church.

Through engaging lessons, discussion and reflection, pupils are encouraged to:

- deepen their relationship with God
- understand the life and teachings of Jesus
- appreciate the richness of the Catholic faith
- explore moral and ethical questions
- respect the beliefs and traditions of others
- apply Gospel values in everyday life.

Religious Education encourages children to think deeply, ask questions and develop spiritually as well as academically.

Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer is an important part of every school day.

Children participate in a variety of prayer experiences which may include:

- daily classroom prayer
- whole-school worship
- Celebration of the Word
- class liturgies
- reflection and meditation
- seasonal liturgies
- parish Masses
- whole-school Masses throughout the liturgical year.

Children are encouraged to take an active role in planning and leading prayer and worship as they grow in confidence and understanding.

Prayer provides opportunities for our school community to come together in thanksgiving, reflection and celebration.

The Liturgical Year

Throughout the year we celebrate the important seasons and feasts of the Church.

Children learn about and participate in the traditions of:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Feast Days
- Marian celebrations
- Saints' Days.

These celebrations help children understand the rhythm of the Church's year and strengthen their faith through shared experiences.

Parish Partnership

Our close relationship with our parish is an important part of school life.

We work alongside our parish priest and parish community to support children's spiritual development through shared worship, sacramental preparation and parish celebrations.

Families are warmly encouraged to participate in parish life and to celebrate Mass together whenever possible.

These partnerships strengthen the links between home, school and parish, helping children recognise that faith continues beyond the classroom.

Living Our Faith

Our Catholic ethos is demonstrated not only through prayer and worship but also through the way we care for one another.

Children are encouraged to:

- show kindness and compassion
- forgive others
- celebrate diversity
- care for God's creation
- support those in need
- act with honesty and integrity
- serve their local and global communities.

Acts of charity, fundraising, community projects and opportunities for service help children understand the importance of putting their faith into action.

Respect for All

While we are proud of our Catholic identity, we warmly welcome families from a wide range of backgrounds and faith traditions.

Children learn about other world faiths and cultures through the curriculum, developing understanding, respect and appreciation for the diversity of modern society.

We believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, compassion and respect.

Inclusion, SEND, Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Every Child Belongs

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is uniquely created by God and deserves to feel safe, valued, respected and able to achieve their full potential.

We are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment where every child is welcomed, supported and encouraged to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We celebrate diversity and recognise that every child brings individual strengths, talents and experiences to our school community.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to a high-quality education that enables them to achieve their very best.

Our inclusive approach means that the needs of every learner are considered through high-quality teaching, carefully planned support and strong partnerships with families.

Where additional support is required, pupils may receive **SEN Support** in accordance with the **SEND Code of Practice (2015)**.

Support may include:

- carefully adapted classroom teaching
- targeted intervention programmes
- additional adult support where appropriate
- personalised learning strategies
- specialist resources
- advice from external professionals.

Every child receiving additional support has individual outcomes that are regularly reviewed in partnership with parents and carers.

Working Together with Families

Parents and carers know their children best.

We value open communication and believe that successful partnerships between home and school are essential in helping children succeed.

Families are involved throughout the process of identifying needs, planning support and reviewing progress.

Where appropriate, we work alongside professionals including:

- Educational Psychologists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists

- Health professionals
- Local Authority SEND services
- Family support agencies.

Together, we ensure children receive the support they need to thrive.

Inclusion for All

Our curriculum is designed so that every child can participate fully in school life.

We make reasonable adjustments wherever necessary to ensure that pupils can access learning, school activities, educational visits and enrichment opportunities.

We celebrate each child's achievements and encourage all pupils to recognise that everyone learns in different ways.

Our aim is to remove barriers to learning so that every child experiences success.

Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

Children learn best when they feel safe, happy and emotionally secure.

The wellbeing of every child is a priority at St Columba's.

Our caring staff develop positive relationships with pupils, creating classrooms where children feel listened to, respected and confident to ask for help.

Support may include:

- emotional wellbeing support
- pastoral care
- nurture provision
- social skills development
- mental health support
- opportunities for reflection and prayer
- access to external support services where appropriate.

We encourage children to talk openly about their feelings and teach them strategies for building resilience, confidence and positive mental health.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

St Columba's is committed to providing a safe, secure and nurturing environment where children are protected, supported and able to learn with confidence.

All staff receive regular safeguarding training and follow national guidance to ensure that the welfare of every child remains our highest priority.

The school has a trained **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**, supported by Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, who work closely with staff, families and external agencies whenever concerns arise.

Where there are concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, the school has a legal duty to follow local safeguarding procedures and, where necessary, work with children's social care and other partner agencies. Our safeguarding procedures reflect current statutory guidance, including **Keeping Children Safe in Education**.

Online Safety

Helping children stay safe online is an essential part of modern education.

Children are taught how to:

- use technology safely and responsibly
- recognise online risks
- protect their personal information
- communicate respectfully online
- report anything that makes them feel worried or unsafe.

Online safety is embedded throughout the curriculum and reinforced through assemblies, classroom learning and partnership with parents. We work together with families to help children develop healthy and responsible digital habits both in school and at home.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are proud of our diverse school community.

Everyone at St Columba's is treated with dignity, fairness and respect regardless of their background, culture, ethnicity, language, disability, religion, gender or family circumstances.

We actively promote equality of opportunity and encourage children to celebrate the richness and diversity of the world around them.

Through our curriculum and daily interactions, children learn to value differences, challenge discrimination and show compassion towards others.

Working with Outside Agencies

There may be occasions when children or families benefit from additional support beyond school.

We work positively with a range of professionals and organisations to ensure families receive appropriate advice and assistance whenever required.

Strong partnerships between school, home and external services help us provide the very best outcomes for every child.

A Safe and Caring Community

Above all, we want every child to feel that they belong.

By creating a culture of kindness, inclusion and mutual respect, we ensure that children develop the confidence to take risks in their learning, build positive relationships and become resilient young people who are ready for the future.

Together, we strive to ensure that every member of our school family feels safe, supported and inspired to achieve their God-given potential.

Behaviour, Relationships, Attendance and Personal Development

Living Our School Values

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, we believe that positive relationships are the foundation of a successful school community.

Inspired by the Gospel values, we encourage every child to demonstrate kindness, respect, honesty, compassion and responsibility in all aspects of school life.

Our aim is to create a calm, caring and purposeful environment where everyone feels safe, valued and able to learn.

We have high expectations of behaviour because we know that children thrive when they feel secure, respected and supported.

Positive Behaviour

We believe that good behaviour is learned through positive relationships, clear expectations and consistent encouragement.

Children are encouraged to:

- show respect for everyone
- be kind and considerate
- work hard and always try their best
- take responsibility for their actions
- care for school property and the environment
- demonstrate resilience when faced with challenges
- celebrate the achievements of others.

Staff recognise and celebrate positive behaviour through praise, encouragement and opportunities for children to take on leadership responsibilities within the school community.

When difficulties arise, we work with children to help them understand their choices, repair relationships and learn from their experiences.

Respectful Relationships

We want every member of our school community to feel welcomed, included and respected.

Children are taught the importance of:

- empathy
- forgiveness
- honesty
- teamwork
- friendship
- inclusion
- good manners
- responsible decision-making.

Through our curriculum, assemblies and daily interactions, pupils develop the confidence to build healthy relationships and contribute positively to school life.

Personal Development

Personal development is an important part of every child's education.

Alongside academic learning, children are encouraged to develop the qualities and skills that will help them become confident, responsible citizens.

Opportunities include:

- pupil leadership roles
- Mini Vinnies or other faith leadership groups
- play leaders

- charity fundraising
- performances and productions
- educational visits
- residential experiences
- community projects
- clubs and enrichment activities.

These experiences help children develop confidence, independence, resilience and leadership skills.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential.

Every school day provides valuable opportunities for learning, friendship and personal development.

We encourage families to establish positive routines that support excellent attendance and punctuality.

Parents and carers are asked to:

- ensure children attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell
- inform the school promptly if their child is absent
- arrive on time each morning
- avoid arranging holidays during term time except in exceptional circumstances.

Where attendance becomes a concern, we work closely with families to provide support and promote improved attendance.

Supporting Positive Mental Health

Helping children develop positive mental health and emotional wellbeing is a priority.

We teach children that it is normal to experience a range of emotions and that asking for help is a sign of strength.

Our nurturing environment encourages children to:

- recognise and understand their emotions
- develop resilience
- solve problems positively
- manage friendships
- build confidence
- develop self-esteem.

Staff are always available to support children and families whenever concerns arise.

Homework

Homework helps to reinforce learning and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Homework is carefully planned to support children's learning without placing unnecessary pressure on family life.

Activities may include:

- reading
- phonics practice

- spelling
- mathematics
- research
- creative projects
- topic-based activities.

Homework expectations are age appropriate and designed to encourage independence while allowing families to learn together.

Reading at Home

Reading remains one of the most important ways parents and carers can support their child's education.

We encourage every child to read regularly at home and to share books with adults whenever possible.

Parents are asked to:

- listen to their child read frequently
- discuss books together
- encourage a love of reading
- record home reading where appropriate.

Developing strong reading habits from an early age has a significant impact on children's confidence, vocabulary and future success.

Celebrating Achievement

We believe that every child deserves to have their achievements recognised.

Success is celebrated in many ways, including:

- classroom recognition
- celebration assemblies
- certificates and awards
- displays of children's work
- sporting achievements
- musical performances
- acts of kindness
- outstanding effort and perseverance.

By recognising both academic achievement and personal growth, we help children develop confidence, motivation and pride in their accomplishments.

Preparing Children for Life

Everything we do at St Columba's is designed to help children become caring, confident and responsible young people.

By encouraging positive behaviour, excellent attendance, strong relationships and a love of learning, we prepare our pupils not only for secondary school but also for the opportunities and challenges of life beyond education.

Together, we nurture children who are ready to make a positive contribution to their communities and to the wider world, always guided by our Catholic values and the example of Jesus Christ.

Taking Pride in Our School

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, we believe that wearing school uniform helps to create a strong sense of belonging and pride in our community.

Our uniform promotes equality, encourages positive attitudes towards learning and helps children to feel part of the St Columba's family.

We ask parents and carers to support us by ensuring that children attend school each day in the correct uniform, with all items clearly labelled.

School Uniform

Children are expected to wear the agreed school uniform each day.

Nursery and Reception children need:

- School navy sweatshirt/cardigan (plain or embroidered with St Columba's logo)
- White polo shirt (plain or embroidered with St Columba's logo) or white shirt with collar if preferred
- Grey trousers/grey skirt or pinafore
- Black shoes
- Girls: white socks and grey or black tights (in colder weather)
- Boys: black or dark coloured socks
- A pair of wellies to keep in school throughout the year

All children (Year 1 – Year 6) need:

- School navy sweatshirt/cardigan (plain or embroidered with St Columba's logo)
- Year 6 children wear a burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt (plain or embroidered) or white shirt with collar if preferred
- Grey trousers/grey skirt or pinafore
- Black shoes
- Girls: white socks and grey or black tights (in colder weather)
- Boys: black or dark coloured socks
- In the summer term, girls may wear a lemon gingham dress and boys may wear grey shorts

For PE all children (Reception – Year 6) need:

- Light blue t-shirt (plain or embroidered with St Columba's logo)
- Navy PE shorts (not cycling shorts)
- Navy or black jogging pants (not leggings)
- Black pumps (inside) or trainers (outside)

On PE days, all children should come dressed ready for PE.

Jewellery and Personal Appearance

For reasons of health and safety, children should not wear jewellery in school.

Children should **not** wear:

- earrings
- necklaces
- bracelets
- rings
- smart watches with communication or camera functions.

Hair should be neat, appropriate for school and should not include extreme styles, shaved patterns or colours that distract from learning.

Long hair should be tied back during practical activities and whenever necessary for health and safety.

Physical Education

Physical activity plays an important part in promoting healthy lifestyles and supporting children's physical and emotional wellbeing.

All children are expected to participate in Physical Education unless they are unable to do so for medical reasons.

Parents should inform the school if their child is unable to take part in PE, and where appropriate provide medical advice if the absence from physical activity is likely to be prolonged.

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Helping children develop healthy habits is an important part of school life.

We encourage pupils to:

- eat a balanced diet
- drink plenty of water throughout the day
- take part in regular physical activity
- enjoy outdoor play
- understand the importance of sleep, exercise and emotional wellbeing.

Children are encouraged to bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school each day.

We also promote healthy choices through our curriculum, school meals and enrichment activities.

Medicines in School

The health and wellbeing of our pupils is extremely important.

Where children need prescribed medication during the school day, this can usually be administered by trained staff, provided that parents or carers have completed the appropriate consent forms and the medication has been prescribed by a healthcare professional.

We ask that children do not bring medicines into school themselves unless agreed in advance with the school.

Where pupils have long-term medical conditions, individual healthcare plans are developed in partnership with families and healthcare professionals to ensure appropriate support is in place.

First Aid

Qualified first aiders are available throughout the school day.

If a child becomes unwell or has an accident in school, appropriate first aid will be administered.

Parents or carers will be contacted if further medical attention is required or if staff feel that a child should be collected from school. It is essential that families keep the school informed of any changes to emergency contact details, medical information or allergies.

Health and Safety

The safety of everyone within our school community is a shared responsibility.

We maintain high standards of health and safety through:

- regular risk assessments
- secure premises
- staff training
- fire safety procedures
- educational visit planning
- safeguarding practices
- careful supervision throughout the school day.

Children are taught how to recognise risks and make sensible choices both in school and in the wider community.

Educational Visits

Educational visits are an important part of our curriculum and provide valuable opportunities for children to learn beyond the classroom.

All visits are carefully planned and risk assessed to ensure children remain safe while enjoying new experiences.

Parents will receive full information before each visit and consent will be sought where required.

Road Safety and Travel

Children are encouraged to travel safely to and from school.

We ask parents and carers to support us by:

- parking considerately and legally
- respecting local residents
- using designated crossing points
- supervising younger children appropriately
- helping to keep the school entrance safe for everyone.

By working together, we can ensure a safe environment at the beginning and end of every school day.

Working in Partnership with Parents, Carers and the Community

Together We Help Every Child Flourish

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, we believe that children achieve their very best when home and school work together in a spirit of trust, mutual respect and shared responsibility.

Parents and carers are a child's first and most influential educators, and we value the important contribution families make to every aspect of school life. By working in partnership, we create the best possible opportunities for children to thrive academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Our relationships with families are built on openness, honesty and a shared commitment to every child's wellbeing and success.

Communication

We believe that clear and regular communication is essential in building strong relationships with our families.

We communicate with parents and carers in a variety of ways, including:

- the school website
- email communications
- newsletters
- text messaging services
- parent consultation meetings
- curriculum information
- social media updates (where appropriate)
- telephone and face-to-face conversations.

We aim to keep parents well informed about school life, curriculum developments, events and their child's progress throughout the year.

Parents' Evenings and Progress

We believe that regular communication about children's learning is essential.

Throughout the year, parents and carers have opportunities to discuss their child's progress, achievements and next steps with class teachers.

Families receive:

- regular parent consultation meetings
- an annual written report
- information about curriculum learning
- opportunities to discuss any concerns or celebrate successes.

Our staff are always happy to arrange additional meetings where they are needed.

Supporting Families

Every family is unique, and there may be times when additional support is needed.

Our staff work closely with parents and, where appropriate, external agencies to ensure that families receive the advice and support they need.

Whether the support relates to learning, attendance, wellbeing or pastoral care, we are committed to working together in the best interests of every child.

An Open Door

We value positive relationships and encourage parents to speak with us whenever they have a question, concern or simply wish to share their child's successes.

Where possible, class teachers are available at appropriate times to discuss day-to-day matters. For more detailed conversations, appointments can be arranged through the school office to ensure sufficient time is available.

We are committed to listening carefully, working collaboratively and resolving concerns promptly and respectfully.

Governance

Our Governing Body plays a vital role in the strategic leadership of the school.

Working closely with the Headteacher and staff, governors help to ensure that St Columba's continues to provide the highest standards of Catholic education, safeguarding, wellbeing and academic achievement. Governors support the school's vision while holding leaders to account for the quality of education and outcomes for all pupils.

Keeping in Touch

We encourage families to keep up to date with school life through our website and regular communications.

There you will find information including:

- admissions
- school policies
- curriculum information
- newsletters (including school calendar)
- term dates
- uniform information
- latest news and celebrations.

If you have any questions, our office staff will always be pleased to help.

We Look Forward to Welcoming You

Choosing a primary school is an important decision, and we are honoured that you have taken the time to learn about St Columba's Catholic Primary School.

Our school is a place where faith, learning and community come together to create an environment in which every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

Through high expectations, outstanding pastoral care and a commitment to excellence, we prepare our pupils not only for the next stage of their education but also for a lifetime of learning, service and faith.

We hope this prospectus has given you a flavour of the warm, welcoming and vibrant community that makes St Columba's such a special place.

The best way to experience our school is to visit us.

We warmly invite prospective parents and carers to arrange a visit, meet our dedicated staff, see our wonderful children learning and discover for yourself what makes St Columba's a truly special place to learn and grow.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school community.

"We are companions on a journey – Living, Learning, Loving and Laughing in the footsteps of Our Lord."