



Prospectus

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St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Rothbury Avenue, Pelaw, Gateshead NE10 0QY
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“ Staff model respect and kindness towards each other and to pupils. This makes everyone feel part of the school family. ”

Ofsted

“ How very lucky we are, to have professional, dedicated, talented staff who work hard every single day to support and nurture our children's needs. ”

Parent Testimonial



Proud to be part of
Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in partnership,
enabling all to flourish.

Welcome

Our Catholic Ethos and living life to the full



On behalf of the staff and governors, I am delighted to welcome you to St Alban's Catholic Primary School. I hope that through this prospectus, you will gain some insight into the life of our warm and friendly school community which is underpinned by our strong Catholic ethos.

As parents, choosing a primary school is one of many important decisions you will make for your child. We know that you want your child to have the best possible start in life, including in their education. Here at St Alban's, we are committed to nurturing the whole child, bringing out not only their academic best, but supporting them spiritually, socially and emotionally. We would love your child to start their journey in education with us.

So why choose St Alban's Catholic School? What sets us apart? Our vibrant and diverse school family offers a warm welcome to all and encourages everyone to 'live life to the full' and develop a crucial love for learning. We appreciate the qualities of the quietly thoughtful as well as the strongly spoken children alike, offering opportunities and encouraging everyone to feel comfortable, confident and excited during their time here.

Our school has one class in each year group leading to a close, tight-knit school family where children and families get to know each other really well. Staff know every child in school, and children of all ages work well together and learn how to support one another.

Our parents and families are very important to us too, and we highly value the support they consistently give to their children and our school community.

When a child starts our school, they become part of our St Alban's family, where everyone is appreciated and has a voice – be it loud or quiet! We want our children to feel a sense of belonging and safety so that they can thrive and flourish. Those who join our school can expect an environment where talents are nurtured and encouraged. Children here develop the skills and knowledge to become lifelong and independent learners, setting high standards for themselves and striving to 'be their best selves'.

As a staff, we are privileged to work with the children and families in our community. We are proud to have a school full of happy, polite and well-behaved children who love learning as much as we love teaching! We are a well-established team, committed to providing a wide range of enjoyable learning experiences and excellent pastoral care. We strive to meet the individual needs of all the children in our school.

We welcome visits to our school and would love the opportunity to show you what a special place St. Alban's Catholic Primary School truly is.

Please be in touch if you have any questions and to arrange a school tour.

With kind regards,

Maria Robinson

Headteacher



Here at St Alban's, we have a happy, nurturing and inclusive ethos, and we ensure that every pupil is celebrated as an individual made in God's image and likeness.

We cherish the diversity in our school community, welcoming families and children of other faiths and none, and we all try to be our best selves, making good choices to do the right thing and to be responsible and respectful.

Regular participation in Collective Worship helps the children recognise the importance of prayer and meditation, bringing Gospel values into their daily lives. We teach the virtues of kindness, love, honesty, forgiveness, tolerance, courage, generosity and fairness. As a result, we are a school where pupils are kind, caring and well-behaved.

Our mission statement is taken from St John's Gospel in the bible where Jesus said, 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'. We live by this statement through providing our children with

a meaningful and relevant curriculum supported by a range of enrichment opportunities to enhance learning. This includes visitors and experiences to bring learning alive such as artists, authors, cooks, writers, a travelling zoo and even a real-life Ancient Greek!

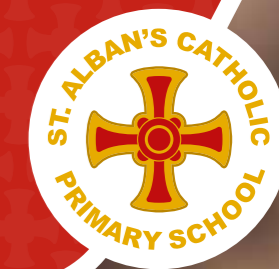
Children can try out a variety of popular clubs, catering for all interests, such as tag rugby, football, dance, crafts and choir.

Curriculum visits to the wealth of local North-East museums or our beautiful beaches, coupled with residential visits to Holy Island or outward-bound centres, make long-lasting memories for children. Children use their voice and put their beliefs and faith into action by campaigning or fundraising for local, national and global charities.

In our vast world, filled with so many opportunities and choices, we endeavour to take care of the little things, learning to love God's wonderful world and all the people who live here. We teach our children to recognise the value in everything they see and do because we want them to become participants not observers, working together to make the world a better place.



What's Our Plan?



The staff and governors have an ambitious curriculum plan that stimulates, engages and challenges all of our children, taking account of any special educational need. This allows them to develop the key skills needed to access the broad range of subjects on offer during primary school.

This plan begins in our fun-filled Nursery where children are enabled to learn through play, following their own interests and curiosity.

Each year group builds on that plan and allows children to shine as our future artists, computer scientists, explorers, geographers, historians, musicians, mathematicians, scientists, sportspeople, theologians, writers... the list is endless!

To reach these goals, we aim high and work hard to give our children the skills and opportunities that form the strong foundations on which their future learning is built.

We have high aspirations for all of our children and want them to excel, wherever their skills and talents lie. Lessons and classrooms are adapted to ensure equity for all and resources are provided to reduce any barriers to learning.

We rigorously monitor progress to ensure our pupils achieve, and intervene at the earliest opportunity to put in support where needed.

The positive relationship fostered within our staff team is a defining feature of our school. We are committed to ensuring the best outcomes for every one of our pupils, with a focus on ensuring that our children enjoy their learning and achieve success.

We firmly believe that by working together with our families we can provide the best opportunities for our children to learn and succeed. As such, we encourage parents to speak with us to address any issues as soon as they arise and our door is always open.

We highly value the support and engagement of our families throughout their child's time in school.



Welcome to Early Years

Our Approach to Learning



At St Alban's School, we equip our children with the skills, knowledge and confidence they will need to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Our curriculum and approach to learning is designed to develop lively, enquiring minds in all our pupils, however diverse their needs, allowing them to show a willingness to ask questions, express opinions and value the views of others. Our expert staff, based on their years of teaching experience, has created a curriculum that engages, stimulates debate and investigation and encourages a thirst for knowledge.

We use a range of strategies to revisit prior learning and recognise that knowledge has to be embedded before it can be built on. Children can expect a creative, enjoyable and engaging learning experience, intended to support them in living a fulfilled and enriched life.

Our children learn that success is achieved through effort and persistence. This means that they learn to embrace challenge, learn from any mistakes made and never give up! They show resilience and a determination to succeed, welcoming feedback from their teachers to develop their knowledge and understanding.

Our programme for Religious Education, together with The National Curriculum, is taught in two Key Stages from Year 1 to Year 6.

There is an emphasis on the core areas of English (communication, reading, writing) and Maths, with further lessons in these areas:

- **Science**
- **Art and design**
- **Computing**
- **Design and technology**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Music**
- **Physical education**
- **Relationships and health education**
- **PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education)**
- **Foreign language (for Years 3 to 6)**

St Alban's School Nursery is where children are first welcomed into our school, where relationships are developed and where happy children start to thrive. Our exceptional nursery and reception classes are the foundation stones on which we build each child's successful primary school career.

The needs of each individual child are carefully considered as they settle in to school life.

Our youngest children learn through carefully guided play opportunities, exploring early lessons in Religious Education and these seven key areas of learning:

- **Communication and language**
- **Physical development**
- **Personal, social and emotional development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the world**
- **Expressive arts and design**

The stimulating environment with secure indoor and outdoor spaces, supports each child's learning journey, providing plenty of opportunities to explore and investigate.

In our early years setting, there is an emphasis on enjoyment and well-being, developing positive learning behaviours and fruitful interactions with others.

We have a 'give it a go' attitude to learning which gives children a great start. They delight in becoming increasingly independent under the expert guidance and nurturing of our early years team.

Here they learn to solve problems, make friends and see how learning can open up our wonderful and exciting world. The experiences in these crucial years have long-lasting effects, evident in the attitudes of children across our school, who remain enthusiastic in their learning and continue to work hard to achieve success.

We regularly invite parents and carers into our early years setting to share in the many activities throughout the year. This provides parents with an opportunity to see first-hand all of the wonderful things their child experiences.

It also means parents and staff can create a strong partnership with us that will last for the duration of their child's time at school.



We recognise that schools have changed dramatically since parents were pupils, and as such, we welcome engagement with families so that we can share ways in which they can support their child's learning.

This begins with welcome meetings and open mornings for those children joining us in nursery or reception class.

Curriculum overviews for all subjects for each year group are available on our website and a curriculum evening is held in September for children in Years 1 to 6.

This is an opportunity for parents to learn about upcoming topics for their child's class and ask any questions.

Regular newsletters, parent workshops and parents' evenings help us keep in touch throughout the year.

As always, the best way to find something out is to come and see us, our door is always open and we are here to help.

The Best School in Pelaw!



Our pupils help to make our school what it is! They always make us proud with their friendliness, their fantastic attitude towards learning, their willingness and drive to get involved and their desire to do well.

Their enthusiasm when faced with new challenges and the way they treat each other with care and respect is often noticed within our local community too.

We are frequent visitors to Pelaw Library which is a wonderful resource right on our doorstep. It is full of the latest stories and books, and it has an exciting program of holiday activities and challenges that nurture children's love of reading.

Bill Quay Farm is a very short walk away which means we can visit all year round, meeting the animals and following the Gruffalo Trail in the woods. Our children helped design the Friendship Bench at Pelaw Community Bowling Club where our Year 6 children

receive expert coaching each summer to then take part in an inter-school bowling competition.

As we are proud of being a North-East school, we make the most of our local heritage, learning from inspirational artists, inventors and engineers. We make very good use of the metro, travelling to perform in The Glasshouse in Gateshead, to visit the cathedral or museums in Newcastle or to attend sports events in Gateshead International Stadium.

Good links with our local parish, secondary schools and academy trust widens our school's community so that we can benefit from experiences and expertise even further afield. Healthy engagement with our local businesses and shops, doctors' surgery, dental practice, post office, community police officers, community centre and care homes further enrich the children's learning.

We really do make the most of our location and live up to our reputation of being the best school in Pelaw!



Well-being at the Heart

How to Apply for a Place

Applications are welcome from all families. Our admissions policy is available on the school website.



In order to learn, children have to feel valued, secure and at ease. Here at St. Alban's, we love and care for each individual to help them learn well. We take care of the whole child and work for a healthy mind as well as a healthy body.

Each class teacher is responsible for the pastoral care of the children in their class, supported by a dedicated team of teaching assistants.

Our Pastoral House system then groups the children from Reception class to Year 6 into seven houses, named after these saints: Aidan, Bede, Benet, Cuthbert, Hilda, Oswald and Wilfrid.

These houses meet each week and children get to know each other across age groups to develop a Pastoral House identity and a strong bond. Children also get involved in the pastoral care of others.

They learn how to become exemplary role models and leaders by being elected onto the School Council, becoming a House Captain or Vice-Captain and also as a Year 6 Buddy to our youngest children.

In addition to ensuring that our children are given a voice through the School Council, there is always a listening ear available to them whenever they need it. We give time to help children cope with anxieties, and we have good links with school nurses and other professional agencies when more specialist support is required.

Our team is always ready to support families when they need it which is why we operate an open-door policy for the chance for parents to talk and to be heard. We encourage the children to take an active interest in the environment and the wider world, so that they learn to live sustainably and care for the world in which we live.

There are well-established links between the benefits of physical activity and positive mental well-being. During playtimes we have a range of play equipment to keep the children engaged and active; our team of pupil play leaders and playground champions help ensure that everyone who wants to can get involved in fun and games.

All of this helps to ensure that our school is a happy and stimulating place to be, where emotional well-being is valued and our pupils are listened to.

For Nursery places



Please contact school for an application pack.

For a place in Reception class



Please apply through Gateshead Local Authority during their application window.

For all other year groups



Please contact us directly to enquire about places.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Further information about our school can be found on our school Website: stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Contact us to arrange a visit.

Phone: 0191 469 3251

Email: info@stap.bwcet.com

Instagram: [@stalbans_pelaw](https://www.instagram.com/stalbans_pelaw)

Little Rascals Out of School Club provides excellent breakfast club, after school and holiday care.

To find our more and book your child's place:

Phone: 0777 994 6543

Email: Littlerascalsoscl@gmail.com



WINNERS OF THE
**OUT OF SCHOOL
CLUB OF THE YEAR**
AWARD 2022

Little Rascals Out of School Club

"The Out of School Club of the Year is one that has gone above and beyond in meeting the needs of the children who attend it, their parents and carers, their team, and their overall community."

Little Rascals is all about play and fun whilst making sure children are happy and safe. To support parents with their childcare needs, there is a breakfast club and an after-school club for pupils aged 3 to 11.

This care is offered at their dedicated setting within St Alban's School, making it very convenient for Little Rascals' staff to bring the children to school in the morning and collect them from school at the end of the day.

There is also holiday provision which is open to children from all areas and is based at St Alban's school.

