

ST. BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Always treat others as you would like them to treat you' (Matthew 7:12)

St. Brendan's Catholic Primary School is a two-form entry school. It is a place of learning in which each individual is encouraged and supported to fulfil their full potential. The school has a caring, friendly environment where all members work together to ensure every pupil in St. Brendan's has high expectations, high aspirations and are encouraged to become a learner for life. Our mission statement; 'Always treat others as you would like them to treat you,' guides our pupils' behaviours, values and spirituality.

Our school has a lower than average percentage of SEND, Free-School Meals, pupils eligible for pupil premium and children with English as an additional language.

In March 2014 the school was placed in Special Measures by Ofsted inspectors, judging the overall effectiveness of the school as inadequate. The Governing Body swiftly acted to appoint a new Head Teacher and Deputy Head teacher who working alongside the Local Authority quickly implemented an improvement plan that was robust and targeted English and Maths skills across all Key Stages. The Leadership team undertook a review of provisions to support and identify pupils within vulnerable groups, including Special Educational Needs, English as an additional language and support for vulnerable families.

Through the school improvement plan; staff training and sharing good practice ensured that teaching and learning was reflecting current best practice to achieve successful outcomes for



all pupils, for example; in 2014 only 58% Year 1 pupils achieved the required standard in the Phonics Screening test. All staff involved with the delivery of phonics undertook an intense two-day training session which resulted in a significant increase of 92% of pupils achieving the expected standard in 2015. This has embedded our whole school approach to target pupils early reading skills and inspire all pupils to develop a 'love of reading'.

The school was taken out of Special Measures in May 2015 as a result of robust monitoring and high expectations being instilled for all within the school setting. In September 2015 the school became part of the St. Luke Academies Trust, bringing together four Catholic Schools from the local area, who work together through strong collaboration and a shared vision.

Pupils at St. Brendan's experience a curriculum that is; broad and balanced; flexible and relevant; stimulating and inclusive; where skills, knowledge and understanding are developed in a variety of contexts. We ensure that English and Maths skills are taught throughout our curriculum and contextual learning is crucial to developing children's understanding, alongside developing our moral and spiritual awareness.





The school works closely with outside agencies to support its pupils and families. This includes identifying those pupils needing assessments from medical professionals, learning needs and behavioural support. The implementation of Early Help Assessments has allowed targeted early support for some of our families, building strong partnerships between home and school.

Throughout this period the leadership team redesigned the curriculum to suit our pupil's needs and interests. They also overcame the challenges presented by recruitment and retention, they have worked hard to secure a strong, stable teaching staff. This has enabled the school to ensure all teaching and learning approaches are consistent and high expectations are met.

In June 2018 the school was inspected by Ofsted and was graded as 'good'. The school's efforts, hard work and changes made over the past four years were recognised and celebrated in the inspection. The report said: "The Head Teacher's drive and ambition has brought about considerable improvement, raising standards across the school. Leaders monitor the attainment of all pupils carefully. They set ambitious targets for pupils." Pupils outcomes have improved and inspectors recognised that the pupils are making



better progress that they have done in previous years. Mrs Brydon's ambitions were recognised in making the improvements in the school; "Her high expectations for herself, the school, staff and pupils have been significant factors in transforming the school."



St. Brendan's believes in order to develop well-balanced individuals it is important that pupils have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including gymnastics, dance and goalball and being part of the school choir. During pupil's time at the school every child is provided with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We are proud of all our successes including our many sporting achievements. The school was awarded the School Games Gold Award in July 2018 and the majority of our pupils are working through the Arts Awards.

The school continues to build on the changes made through maintaining high expectations for all, developing the curriculum and widening the experiences for our children.