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Catholic Primary School





Our Lady of the Angels is part of Plymouth CAST, a large multi-academy trust of 36 schools across the South-West of England. Our mission is to become a community of outstanding schools in which pupils flourish in safe, happy and stimulating environments and leave with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities and aspiration to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel.

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St Boniface House

Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 7JL  
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# Welcome

Our school is a warm, friendly and welcoming place. With just one class per year group, we are able to build positive relationships with all our pupils and this creates a strong 'family feel' at the school.

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Primary School is a fully accessible, bright and vibrant building with seven spacious classrooms. It has a purpose-built Early Years unit with adjoining toilets, outdoor provision and a dedicated playground.

We also have a modern hall for worship, dance and drama, music and sport together with a well-stocked library and community lounge for parents.

We have a large playground with play equipment, a field and well-equipped forest school area, as well as dedicated planting beds for each class in our school garden.

Our school has monitored wireless access to the Internet. Each class has an interactive whiteboard and we have sets of Chromebooks and tablets for the children to use.





# Positive Behaviour

We aim to be a school community where everyone is valued and treated with dignity.

We have a consistent reward system to reinforce positive behaviour. This includes: house points; weekly awards; termly Bronze, Silver, Gold and Discipleship awards; and Headteacher awards.

Behaviour that disrupts learning is unacceptable. Children and staff together have created a graduated approach which is effective in eradicating disruptive behaviour.

We recognise that a very small minority of our pupils may have social, emotional and mental health needs. We develop the social and emotional learning of these pupils through an individualised programme of support. More information can be found on this in our Behaviour policy and on our school website.

## Pastoral Care

We take pride in the pastoral care we offer our children and their families. We have a Pastoral Support Worker and a Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) who are trained to deliver THRIVE programmes and support families to work towards better outcomes for their children. The school also has a qualified 'Rainbows' bereavement and separation counsellor.

## Inclusion

Our school is fully inclusive.

All children are welcome, and diversity is a strength of the school.

Further information regarding provision for children with Special Educational Needs can be found on our website.





# School Council

The school has an active school council with pupil members chosen by the children.

They are involved in school improvement work such as developing the behaviour policy and making suggestions about how lunchtimes can be improved.



# Discipleship

We want our children to leave us with a personal experience of God's love for them and each other with the knowledge, skills, personal qualities and aspirations to make the world a better place. We strive to nurture a sense of service to the world in our pupils through a range of activities.

Throughout the year we raise awareness and encourage the children to support charities that support the vulnerable for example, CAFOD, Foodbanks and the local Hospice. We also have links with a school in South Asia and a local care home for the elderly.

We also offer Mustard Seeds - a lunchtime drop-in club where children spend time praying together; getting involved with whole school fund-raising activities for the poor; and raising awareness of important moral and ethical issues.

Children in Year 6 are also invited to take part in the Torbay and Devon Civic Award.



# Religious Education

Our Catholic Ethos and RE curriculum, including regular acts of worship and the celebration of Mass, nurture the children's journey in faith.

We strive to create an atmosphere of nurture that impacts all areas of children's lives through the Gospel Values:

**Humility, Compassion, Kindness, Forgiveness, Justice, Integrity, Peace and Courage.**

These values are presented to the school community at assemblies and liturgies and explored through the working week in the classroom. When we come to celebrate achievement in the school, we recognise those who have witnessed Gospel values, as well as excellence in other areas.

We integrate these values into the liturgical life of the school and the curriculum so that we offer an education to our children 'in the light of the Gospel'.

# Learning in the Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework provides a set of common principles to deliver quality education and childcare experiences to all children.

These are based around three prime areas of learning:

- *personal, social and emotional development*
- *communication and language*
- *physical development*

There are also four specific areas of learning:

- *literacy*
- *mathematics*
- *expressive arts and design*
- *understanding the world*



## Pre-School

We have an excellent pre-school on site

 **Holy Angels** 

which takes children from the age of two.

Children who have attended the pre-school are able to make a seamless transition to our Reception class when they start school.



## Starting School

Starting school is very exciting but it can be a daunting time for you and your child. We are happy to work with parents and carers on an individual basis to ensure that all children have a positive start to Our Lady of the Angels. All children are invited for a session prior to starting, to familiarise them with the routine and environment of the school.

Reception pupils are admitted to school in the September of the academic year in which they turn five. We recognise that many of our children have already been attending pre-school or nursery for full days and that for working parents a part-time start can be difficult. All children are therefore able to attend on a full-time basis from the first day in September. However if you feel it is more appropriate, we can offer a part-time start for your child and would be happy to discuss this with you.



# Learning in Key Stage 1 & 2

*English and Maths are taught daily in each year group.*

## English

In English we teach early reading using the synthetic phonics programme 'Read, Write, Inc'. Once children are reading independently, we use the Accelerated Reader Programme. All the books in our library are numerically graded to represent their level of difficulty. Children are expected to complete an online quiz to check their understanding after reading a book.

In Writing we use quality texts as models, and plan teaching to ensure that a strong emphasis is placed on grammatical skills and the writer's choice of language before children begin writing. Teachers regularly model writing for children and this can be seen around the classrooms. Children are also given regular handwriting lessons and weekly spellings to learn and recall.

## Maths

In Maths we focus on the practical application of mathematical skills in real life contexts. We teach children to draw and use mathematical images to support and deepen their learning. They are also given opportunities to develop strong mental recall of mathematical facts, such as times tables, and these are tested weekly.

## More Able Children

More able children are challenged through tasks that require them to apply their skills in a range of contexts rather than through rapid linear progression. This allows them to develop a broad range of skills such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation which are useful for their programmes of study later on.





## Broader Curriculum

We organise the National Curriculum subjects to deliver a 'theme-based approach' where possible. Each theme is underpinned by our principles that learning should be:

- *engaging and memorable*
- *cross curricular*
- *hands on*
- *real & relevant*
- *progressive in skills*

There are times when we engage in whole school Curriculum themes, such as the First World War centenary week, as we enjoy developing opportunities for all the children in the school to share and learn together.

Throughout the year, each class leads a learning assembly for the school and parents are invited to attend. Children enjoy the opportunity to share their learning. These assemblies reflect Our Lady of the Angels as an inclusive learning community that incorporates children and adults learning and sharing together.

Further detail regarding the curriculum can be found on the school website at [www.ourladyoftheangels.eschools.co.uk](http://www.ourladyoftheangels.eschools.co.uk)



## Sport

Our children receive at least two hours of Physical Education per week; at least one of these lessons is taught by a PE specialist. Children also attend a weekly swimming lesson from the start of Year Two and continue attending weekly sessions until they can swim 25 metres without support.

We have regular school teams for football and netball and take part competitively in other sports such as gymnastics, athletics, multi-sports, basketball and cricket. After school we offer clubs in gymnastics, netball and football.





## **Drama**

All our children take part in our annual Christmas Nativity. Our after-school drama club 'Acting up' also regularly put on performances for us to watch. They have recently performed Matilda and Shrek.

## **Music**

We offer all children whole class tuition to play a range of musical instruments, including the recorder and the ukulele, during curriculum music. We are also able to offer a range of specialist music tuition, such as the guitar, via the school at a small cost to parents.

The school will fund music tuition for 'looked after' pupils or pupils in receipt of free school meals.

## **Home Learning**

Home learning has the best impact on children's learning when it is based on a little and often approach and includes recall and practice activities. We set fun simple homework tasks of 5-10 minutes for your child to complete three to five times per week. We also recommend at least 5 minutes daily reading for early readers building to at least 10 minutes daily reading for independent readers. We regularly hold learning workshops to introduce the strategies we use at school for parents and carers to support their children's learning at home.

## **Pupil Progress**

Our robust assessment system and excellent teaching ensure that all pupils make good progress during their time at Our Lady of the Angels. Teachers discuss each child's progress with the Headteacher each term to ensure that every pupil is being sufficiently challenged.

We welcome parents and carers to make an appointment with their child's class teacher to discuss their progress at any time, particularly if they are concerned.

Parents and carers are invited to attend a formal consultation with their child and their child's class teacher during the Autumn and Spring term. An annual report is sent home in the second half of the summer term. Parents and carers are also invited to our termly open evenings to look around the school and view their child's work.







## PTA

Our parent teacher association welcomes new members and organises many popular social and fundraising activities from school discos to Christmas Fayres to gift making for Mother's Day.

This group is committed to raising funds for the school whilst offering our children a great time!



## Breakfast & After School Club

The Holy Angels pre-school is able to offer a Breakfast and After School club for our pupils from 7.45 am to 5.15pm at a small additional cost.

## Lunchtimes

The children work hard when they are at school and we firmly believe in their right to an enjoyable and positive lunchtime.

All food is cooked on site by specialist school caterers. Quality locally sourced produce is used whenever possible. The caterers produce a three-week menu which is sent home to parents each term and is displayed in the school Reception area. There is a vegetarian option every day and other specialist diets can be catered for – just let us know your child's needs.

From time to time we have special lunches to mark events through the year and memorable occasions such as a Royal wedding. Children can also opt to bring a packed lunch from home.



# Educational Visits

We strongly believe in the value of learning outside the classroom and arrange a range of educational visits such as: local walks to the town or coast, carol singing for the elderly, day trips to a zoo or museum and participation in sporting fixtures.

Permission will be sought for educational visits. The care of the children is of paramount importance and the highest priority of teachers who will act in 'in loco parentis' at all times.

Parents are asked to contribute to help fund educational visits. These contributions are voluntary, and no child will be left behind because of non-payment. However, the school does reserve the right to cancel the event if enough funds are not received.



# Residential Visits

Residential visits are crucial to develop children's independence and resilience. We offer a progressive programme of residential visits, such as:

Year Group	Nights	Location	Focus
Year 2	1	Overnight Camp in school	Developing Independence
Year 3	2	Warren Barn	Nature
Year 4	2	Buckfast Abbey	Spirituality
Year 5	2	City Visit TBA	Culture & Arts
Year 6	4	Heatree Activity Centre	Outdoor Education

We hope that no child will miss out on residential visits due to financial constraints. The Headteacher is happy to discuss financial support options wherever necessary.



Thank you for reading our prospectus. The staff and governors are very proud to be a part of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Primary School and we look forward to welcoming you and your family.

We would be pleased to show you the school in action. If you would like a tour, please make an appointment via the school office on 01803 613095.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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Applications to  
Our Lady of the Angels  
should be made through the  
Torbay Admissions Service.

The application window for the next new  
Reception cohort runs from November to  
mid-January in the preceding year.

In-year applications can  
be made at any time.

