



*to renew all things in Christ*

# St Pius X RCVA Primary School

## School Prospectus

<http://www.st-piusx.durham.sch.uk/homepage/>

*Thornfield Road,  
The Grove,  
Consett  
Co. Durham  
DH8 8AX*

Head Teacher: **Mrs J. Cruise** B.A.(Hons) P.G.C.E. NPQH  
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
in partnership with  
Durham County Council Education Authority,

***You and the governors have a very clear vision and sense of purpose. You believe 'every child belongs somewhere', and have therefore developed an inclusive approach, with a reputation for high-quality provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Parents and carers who spoke to me, or made their views known through Ofsted's online survey, Parent View, praised the school's warmth, family atmosphere and caring ethos.*** May 2019 OFSTED

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# Foreword

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to St. Pius Xth School. I hope your child will be happy in the learning environment we aim to create at St. Pius.

Our aim is for each child, your child, to be cared for and their potential to be realised. Please read our Mission Statement as it encapsulates our aims so well. The Mission Statement has been recently reviewed, in consultation with pupils, parents and stakeholders. If you have any queries about this or anything else at any point in the future then do not hesitate to contact me.

Here at St Pius School, staff and governors are committed to providing an inclusive, nurturing environment , in which all members of our St Pius family have the opportunity to reach his/her full potential. We recognise that every child is unique and has special skills, talents and interests. It is our mission to ensure that this is recognised and pupils learn their own self-worth and that of others.

We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

J. Cruise

## **Access to Documents and Information**

In accordance with our **Publication of Information Policy** we publish this prospectus and you are able to request

access to the following documents:

Statutory Documents  
Accessibility Plan  
Ofsted Reports  
Complaints Procedure Policy  
Charging Policy  
L.E.A. and Diocesan Policy Statements  
SEND Policy and Local Offer Information  
School - Broad Aims and Objectives  
Curriculum Development/Management Plan  
R.E. Policy  
Internet Safety Policy  
Data Collection Policies  
Subject Policies

**Relevant Policies and Curriculum information can be accessed on our school website. Please look at it regularly for updates.**

## **DISCLAIMER**

It must be appreciated that this information is correct at 1st September 2014, but it must not be assumed that there be no change affecting the relevant arrangements before the start of or during the school year in question.

### **Mission Statement**

**The motto of our school's Patron Saint, Pius X, is:**

**'To Restore All Things in Christ'**

**St. Pius' aim therefore is to:**

**DELIVER THE WHOLE CURRICULUM IN 'CHRIST'**

**i.e. enable the children to live and learn in a School Community founded and nurtured on**

**:-**

### **Gospel Values**

**the Teaching of the Catholic Church**

**a recognition of the Wonder of Creation**

**the Celebration of Liturgy and Learning**

**SO THAT**

**each child will discover and develop:-**

**own special gifts/talents**

**self-reliance**

**respect for the opinions and needs of others**

**AND CONSEQUENTLY**

**move on to Secondary School with confidence in own self-worth and**

**in own potential to live a full and happy life as:-**

**a citizen of this world**

**a member of the Church**

**a Child of God**

**an heir of Eternal life**

### **General Aims of The School**

We at St. Pius X School aim to "renew all things in Christ". We will endeavour with the help of the Holy Spirit...

To share the Church's vision

To nurture the faith

To see every child as unique

To promote a feeling of self-worth

To promote the Home/School/Parish

To promote the JOY principle

To deliver the National Curriculum

To have due regard and enthusiasm for National/LEA initiatives

To have effective day to day Communication

To promote the acquisition of essential concepts and skills

To develop an enjoyment of the world in which we live through aesthetic and creative activities

To learn to communicate thoughts clearly and accurately

To nurture the ability to question and enquire and to think and reason logically

To learn a wide range of skills including good personal relations

To involve all staff in continuing process of curriculum development

To ensure that all children progress at an appropriate pace

To set realistic targets

To provide a variety of groupings

To provide a stimulating environment

To assess by a range of techniques

To keep a record of each pupil's all-round development

To ensure that the structure of posts and responsibilities is appropriate to the school's present needs

To have an effective INSET policy

To liaise with parents

To liaise with local Nursery School and Secondary School

To liaise with Cluster Schools when appropriate

To make use of the environment

To share resources

To value all staff

To encourage participation of parents in the life and purpose of the school

To be a welcoming and listening school

## School Governors

Miss M.T. Grogan( Staff rep)  
Rev. Fr. Tom (Vice Chair)  
Ms Louise Harris (L.A Governor)  
Mrs. C. Smith ( Associate member)  
**Mr Shaun McGee (Chair)**  
**Mrs M. Stemp ( Foundation Governor)**  
**Mr. M. Ede (Parent Governor)**  
**Mrs D. Spratt ( Foundation)**  
**Miss M. Eccles ( Parent Governor)**  
**Mrs L Bushby ( Foundation Governor)**

## Staff

Head Teacher **Mrs J. Cruise** Co-ordinator for, SEN,  
PSHCE, Child Protection.  
2nd in Charge KS 2 Co-ordinator **Miss M. Grogan** Y5,Y6.  
Co-ordinator for ICT, Maths, Assessment. P.E.  
Teacher **Mrs L. Urwin**Y3,Y4.  
Co-ordinator for English, French, History  
Teacher **Mr. John Devanney**  
**Co-ordinator Science, Art & design technology**  
**Miss J Crilly** R, Y1. Co-ordinator for R.E . Early Years, Geography  
Teacher **Mrs P Charlton**  
Inclusion **Mrs. J. Cruise**  
Peripatetic Violin Teacher **Mrs S Hill**  
School Support Assistants:  
**Mrs. S Arckless** TA  
**Mrs. S. Makepeace** TA  
**Mrs J. French** TA  
**Mrs C McGinn** TA  
**Mrs J. Bird** TA  
**Mrs L. McCullagh** TA  
**Mrs C McElhone**  
Clerical Assistant **Mrs. C. Smith**  
Supervisory Assistants  
**Miss L. Renwick**  
**Mrs M. Hewitson**  
**Miss N. Renwick**  
School Meals Staff:  
**Mrs J. Kennedy**  
**Miss. J. Orr**  
Caretaker **Mr. S. Forster**  
Transition Worker Beth Meggerson  
ICT Technician Mr P Clarke

## Professional Development of Staff (CPD)

In order that our school improves and meets the challenges of change, especially in the core subjects, all staff are involved in appraisal, Professional Development operates within a yearly cycle, sets targets, and identifies training needs. Whole staff developments are presented as layered targets, with all staff assigned a role in school improvement.

## Pupils

St. Pius's is a Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School promoted by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and within Durham County Education Authority. Children are admitted to the Reception Class in September, if their 5th birthday is before 31st August of the following year. At present there are 4 classes.

**Class 1** Reception, Y1

**Class 2** Y1, Y2

**Class 3** Y3, Y4

**Class 4** Y5, Y6

These are called **mixed-age classes**. This enables us to provide a varied education within a caring family environment. At different times pupils can be found working in **small groups** with a high degree of individual help. We have 5 classroom assistants and the Head Teacher teaches across the school on a regular basis.

All pupils are encouraged to become **independent learners**.

We also hope develop **positive attitudes** towards each other and the school environment. The pupils are divided into **3 Teams, Hilda, Aidan and Caedmon**. Pupils receive reward points or stickers for good work or behaviour. There is an element of friendly competition when the monthly winning team is announced and rewarded. Our Behaviour Policy, available of the school website, or by request, outlines our behaviour systems.

## School Hours

8.45a.m. **OPEN** 3.15p.m. **CLOSE**

8.55 - 9.00 Registration

9.00 - 9.30 Whole school Collective worship – Monday only.

9.30 - 10.35 1st Lesson

10.35 - 10.50 Break

10.50 - 11.55 2nd Lesson

11.55 - 12.15 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson (some interventions take place in this session)

12.15 - 1.15 Lunch

1.15 - 2.15 3rd Lesson

2.15 - 2.25 approx break (for KS1 only)

2.25 - 3.15 4th Lesson

**Total teaching time:** Infants - 22 hours 5 minutes

Juniors - 24 hours 35 minutes

ST PIUS X RCVA PRIMARY SCHOOL, CONSETT  
ADMISSION POLICY 2021-22

St Pius x RCVA Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and instrument of government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The admission policy criteria will be dealt with on an equal preference basis.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the coordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round for reception year admission in September.

**Parishes served by the school**

The school serves the parish of St Pius X in Moorside.

**Published Admission Number**

The governing body has set its published admission number (PAN) at 15 pupils to be admitted to the reception year in the school year which begins in September 2021.

**Application Procedures and Timetable**

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round (not in-year applications), a Common Application Form (CAF) must be completed. This is available from the local authority in which the child lives.

The parent will be advised of the outcome of the application on 16 April or the next working day, by the local authority. If the application is unsuccessful (unless the child gained a place at a school the parent ranked higher) the parent will be informed of the decision, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and has the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If the parent is required to provide supplemental evidence to support the application (e.g. a baptismal certificate), this evidence should be provided at the time of application. If not provided, evidence may be sought by the governing body following the closing date for applications. This information must have been correct at the date of closing for applications.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15 January 2020.

**Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)**

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

### **Late Applications**

Late applications will be administered in accordance with the home local authority Primary Coordinated Admissions Scheme. Parents are advised to ensure that the application is submitted before the closing date.

### **Admission of Children below Compulsory School Age and Deferred Entry**

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A child's parents may defer the date at which their child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which an offer was made. A child may take up a part-time place until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school in writing, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

### **Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group**

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the headteacher of the school. The governing body will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the headteacher who has statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

### **Summer Born Children**

The parents of a summer born child, i.e. a child born between 1 April and 31 August, may request that the child be admitted out of their normal age group, to the reception class in the September following their fifth birthday and that that the child will remain in this cohort as they progress through school.

Parents who want to make this request should make an application for their child's normal age group at the usual time. The application to the local authority should include this request and in addition it should be made in writing to the headteacher of the school. The local authority will liaise with the governing body that will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the headteacher, who has statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

Parents will be informed of the outcome of the request before primary national offer day.

If the request is agreed by the governing body, the application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If the request is refused, the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an

in year application for admission to year one for the September following the child's fifth birthday.

Where a parent's request is agreed, they must make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year.

One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parents, therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference schools.

### **Waiting Lists**

In addition to their right of appeal, applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out below and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until the last day of the summer term. Inclusion on the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

### **Infant Class Size Regulations**

Infant classes may not, by law, contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher (subject to the provisions in the School Admissions Code for 'excepted children'). Parents do have a right of appeal in accordance with the infant class size regulations if the school is oversubscribed and their child is refused a place.

The governing body will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

### **In-Year Applications**

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. For information on making an in-year application, parents should contact the local authority admission team at School Admissions and Transport, Children and Adults Services, County Hall, Durham, County Durham, DH1 5UJ on 03000 265 896 or by email at [schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk). Parents will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.

If there are no places available, a request can be made that the child is added to the waiting list (see above).

### **Right of Appeal**

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made by the local authority to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process are available by writing to the chair of governors at the school address.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the diocese and the governing body for the current school year. The governing body has this power, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number (subject to the infant class size exceptions).

For children attending the school's nursery, application to the reception class of the school must be made in the normal way, to the home local authority. Attendance at the school's nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered at the school.

### **False evidence**

The governing body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where a child is already attending the school, the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained by deception.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

*First priority in each category will be given to children who will have an older sibling attending the school in September 2021.*

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2&3)
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Pius X in Moorside (see note 3)
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see notes 4&5)
6. Siblings of pupils already attending the school who do not fall into categories 1-3
7. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader. (see note 6)
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader. (see note 7)
9. Any other children.

### **Tie Breaker**

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. In assessing home to school distance the LA uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify and measure the shortest route utilising only the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN) which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes or any other method of measurement. Routes are measured from the centre point\* of the child's house, or in the

case of a flat from the centre point\* of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point\* of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.

\* In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out in a public place and supervised by a person independent of the school.

### **Notes and definitions**

1. An **Education, Health and Care Plan** is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A **looked after child** has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A **previously looked after child** is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

3. '**Catholic**' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

4. **Catechumen** means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. For the purposes of admissions this refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.
5. **Eastern Christian Church** includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism or reception should contact the Diocese who will decide how the question of baptism or reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

6. **Children of other Christian denominations** means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Applicants must provide a baptismal certificate or where child baptism is not practised, a letter confirming their church membership from their minister or faith leader.

7. **Children of other faiths** means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

Applicants must provide a letter of support to confirm their faith membership from their minister or faith leader.

8. A child's "**home address**" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.

9. **Sibling** includes:

- (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
- (ii) The child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

10. A **parent** means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child (having care of a child means that the child lives with and is looked after by that person).

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the local authority's admission guidance for parents.**

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the local authority's admission guidance for parents.**

and Remissions can be viewed on our school website or a copy can be given on request from the school office.

At St Pius X RCVA Primary School, we are committed to equality of access to all curricular and extra-curricular activities. Therefore, we strive to reduce the cost of all trips and clubs to ensure no child misses out. When funding is accessed to reduce the cost of trips and activities, we ensure this is reflected in the cost per child or per family. School fundraising ensures that trips and educational visit costs are kept to a minimum.

Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals can be exempt from some charges. Anyone who is struggling to meet the cost of any club or visit should speak directly to Mrs Cruise, or a member of staff, in confidence to ensure pupils do not miss out.

Please see policy for further details.

## **Administration of Prescribed Medication**

### **Authority to administer prescribed medical treatment**

Named staff will administer prescribed medication, on completion of a permission form which details dosage, time to be given, length of treatment time etc. Staff are not authorised to administer any medication that has not been prescribed to the named pupil. We are also unable to administer medication without the spoon/ oral syringe intended for application or intake. A record of time and dosage is retained by the member of staff administering the medication. This is retained in the school office.

### **Supplies and storage of medicines**

Medicines are stored in the main school office or in a fridge as appropriate. Medication should not be left in pupils' bags or trays.

### **Treatments for Asthmatic Pupils**

The parents/guardians of a pupil who requires such medication and has reached the stage whereby he/she is able to take responsibility for self-administration should:-

- a) be encouraged to notify the Head Teacher of such a requirement
- b) supply details of the type of medication, predicted/expected dosage and use on the appropriate medical form from the school office or school website.

### **Pupils with Significant Medical needs**

A "Care Plan" is determined for the pupil which is then implemented and monitored: a training programme determined by the School Health Service which meets the needs of the named pupil. Information is circulated to all staff. Training is delivered where appropriate.

**Note: The School Doctor or School Nurse should be consulted if there is any query or problem with a medication or its administration.**

### **Changes in Course of Treatment**

Where any changes take place to the medication prescribed by the registered medical practitioner written confirmation by the parent/guardians must again be requested. The Medication Record will be amended accordingly by the School Secretary or the Head Teacher.

### **End of Term**

All agreements/ authorisations regarding the administration of medication will expire at the end of each term. If the administration of medication needs to be continued all relevant information must be confirmed in writing at the commencement of the new term or before the new term.

We hope this will clarify the procedures to be followed in St. Pius Xth for the care and protection of all the pupils and staff. Durham County Guidance on Administration of medication can be accessed from the school website. Meetings with the school Nurse can be arranged at a parents request, if there are any additional concerns.

**Excellent attendance of pupils is high priority and therefore administering medication to a child who is otherwise able to attend school is a high priority to staff and governors.**

### **Content and Organisation of the Curriculum**

The curriculum is currently delivered using mixed age planning umbrella topics across all classes which allows for completion of relevant programmes of study on a 2 year cycle, within mixed age and mixed ability classes. This allows children of all ages to access activities and task matched to their needs whilst maintaining some links across the whole class.

Subject Areas

**Core Subjects** English, Maths, Science, ICT, R.E.

**Foundation Subjects** Design & Technology, History, Geography, Art, Physical Education, Music, MFL(French).

The New Primary Curriculum 2014 has refined the content of the delivered curriculum.

In Primary schools there is an **Early years Foundation Stage** Curriculum followed by **TWO Key Stages, KS1 and KS2**. Within each stage particular levels of achievement are specified. The school hopes to foster curiosity, enthusiasm, enjoyment in all aspects of learning, i.e. a well balanced broad curriculum.

St. Pius's children will of course be treated as individuals going from level to level as they are ready to do so. St. Pius Governors hope that too much emphasis is not and will not be put on competitiveness about levels. Parents need to know that in schools children are seen as individuals who grow at a personal rate and consequently are not constantly worrying about keeping up with others or attaining levels, come what may, but rather allowed, encouraged to do their own best at their own rate, because **OWN** best is valued. Individual targets and goals will be shared with individual children and their parents. Our pupil tracking systems will ensure that rates of progress are kept under review and teaching adapted to meet the needs of your child.

In order to acquire a high standard in all subjects the school uses a wide range of resources in the form of books, equipment, apparatus and the following sets out in a little more detail our approach to the Core Subjects

### **Whole School Food Policy**

The school has a policy to ensure pupils are given access to fresh drinking water throughout the day. Pupils are issued with a school water bottle. A healthy tuck shop runs each Friday with a maximum spend at 50p per child. School dinners offer a nutritional, balanced diet. Parents are asked to ensure packed lunches provide healthy food choices, no sweets or sugary

drinks. No cans, bottles or flasks allowed. Snacks before after school clubs, should also be healthy – a piece of fruit is ideal. All Foundation Stage pupils and Key Stage 1 children can access free fruit daily.

Key Stage 2 pupils can bring a piece of fruit into school if they wish to do so.

## **CORE SUBJECTS**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The teaching of **Christ and his Church** are central to everything we do at St. Pius'.

Religious Education lessons are based upon the "**Come and See**" Programme which balances the doctrinal and experiential approach. Collective Worship take place each morning, either in assembly or class based. Prayers are also said together at lunch time and at the end of the school day.

**Assembly** with the Head Teacher occurs at least once a week. Periods of Special observance take place in Lent, Advent, May and October.

Pupils are prepared for the **Sacraments** of Eucharist and Reconciliation in Year 4 in partnership with the Parish and Parents.

A Mass is sometimes celebrated in school on a Friday, with pupils planning and taking a lead in readings and reflections. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

### **ENGLISH**

Our aim is to increase the pupils command of Language in listening, speaking, reading and Writing, spelling and correct use of grammar.

**Speaking and Listening** develops pupils' understanding of the spoken word and the capacity to express themselves effectively in a variety of speaking and listening activities matching style and response to audience and purpose.

**Reading** develops the ability to understand and respond to all types of writing as well as the development of information retrieval strategies for the purposes of study.

**Writing** develops a growing ability to construct and convey meaning in written language matching style to audience and purpose.

We have a mixed approach to reading, using a combination of texts. These are colour coded to age and interest levels. We consider talking, listening, writing and comprehension, love of stories, all very important to your child's development. We encourage children to take story books home to share with you. We encourage parents and pupils to read a range of materials and to remember that your child will 'read' every day in school, sometimes individually and sometimes in a group. Therefore 'home readers' are for your, and your child's, enjoyment. These books will be changed by a staff member at least weekly but more regular exchanges can be done by parents, following a conversation with a class teacher. Pupils will be assigned a book band colour for home reading and they must select books from this section to ensure a step by step approach. However, the greatest source of enjoyment is often from library books, comics, leaflets and 'real' books shared with or read to your child so that he/she learns about the whole world of information and enjoyment out there!

### **MATHEMATICS**

Our aim is that mathematics will not only be taught because it is useful but because it should be a source of delight and wonder. The special power of mathematics is in its capacity not just to describe and explain but also to predict - suggest possible answers to practical

problems. We will develop children's knowledge, skills, understanding and use of number, algebra and measures.

They should use shape and space and handle data in practical tasks, in real life problems and to investigate within mathematics itself. We will achieve these aims through the following National Curriculum Attainment Targets.

The new National Curriculum for mathematics, sets out what a child should learn at each age / stage. Programmes of study are set out year by year, requiring pupils to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in Number, Addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, measurement, Geometry and statistics.

Learning times tables is a crucial tool for learning as pupils progress through the school and an area in which you as parents can help.

Having mathematical discussions with your child in a variety of contexts within the home will greatly increase a child's understanding of the world of mathematics.

## **SCIENCE**

In considering a science policy to embrace all primary age ranges we have formulated our approach so that:

- (a) balance
- (b) progression
- (c) continuity are achieved

Pupils will have the opportunity to work scientifically and learn about the world around them. The New National Curriculum 2014 details year by year coverage. A two year programme has been devised to ensure coverage across the mixed age setting.

## **ICT**

We have a web-site and also have the facility for pupils to access their own learning platform at home and at school through the new Durham Learning Gateway.

This allows parents the facility to share their child's work at home and to give them the opportunity to extend this work at home if required.

Pupils access ICT through other subjects and explicitly through ICT lessons. They have access to PC's laptops, netbooks and ipads.

There have been significant changes to the ICT curriculum under the new 2014 reforms and programmes of study include Computer programming.

Pupils are taught about internet safety, cyber bullying and privacy settings as part of the curriculum and also as part of our links with other agencies including Viva Anti-bullying. Advice to parents is also available through our links with Durham County Council ICT support teachers, who hold events in our school and partner schools to make parents aware of potential dangers and how to reduce these.

ICT access forms a huge part of our provision and access for pupils with Special Educational Needs. It also gives us huge scope for individual and personalised learning. We currently have Lexia and Symphony Maths personal learning programmes that children can access in and out of school.

## **FOUNDATION SUBJECTS**

The subjects are:-

**History:** people, events and life in the past

**Geography:** places, environment and human life in the present

**Design and Make Technology:** using materials to design and make objects

**Art:** drawing, colour, types of media and famous artists.

**Music:** listening and performing with voice and instruments

**P.E.** sport, athletics, swimming, dance and gymnastics. Specialist coaches from Leisureworks, St Bede's Partnership and Sunderland FC work with children as part of our School Sports Premium Funding.

**MFL:** Modern Foreign Languages, French is introduced throughout the school. Pupils across all classes access French teaching as part of our partnership with St Bede's Language College.

The school has a contract with Durham Music Service and ALL pupils at Key Stage 2 have had instrumental lessons in either, ocarina, violin, viola or African Drumming.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

The school aims to meet **EACH** child's individual needs; classrooms and all areas of school organised into appropriate learning environments, where each child feels at home, where staff encourage each child to strive to learn for learning's own sake rather than to get from book 1 to book 6 in a Reading or Maths scheme and score over peers in the process. Each child needs to see himself/herself, as first and foremost an individual but an individual

**BELONGING** to a family, a year group, a class, a school, where help with particular special needs will be forthcoming. A statement of intent for Inclusion of pupils with SEND and other information relevant to the Local Offer for SEND can be accessed on the school website, under the SEND section. This can also be accessed on the County Durham Family Information Service website.

Staff expertise in dealing with specific needs can also be discussed with the relevant staff or Headteacher.

## **SEX EDUCATION**

A Love and Relationships' Policy has been produced in partnership with the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. A copy is available on request or can be downloaded from the school website.

## **ARTS**

We have a good tradition of experiences in the field of the Arts. We work with actors, musicians, storytellers, sculptors, etc.

We have an excellent choral tradition and produce a Christmas Play which involves all pupils.

We are regular participants in local drama events and support live shows at Consett Empire theatre or through travelling plays that visit school.

## **ASSESSMENT**

This is how we find out what your child has learnt. Day by day we observe pupils and mark work, offer praise and set targets for them to aim for. We keep a file of work and mark them as working in a certain level of the National Curriculum. Reception pupils have a Baseline Assessment and Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment in June at the end of Reception Year.

We use ongoing assessments and optional SATs, reading tests, published and online resources and teachers' professional judgement to level and set targets for all pupils.

Where a child is working below National Curriculum levels, we use PIVOTs, P levels to breakdown progress and targets in to achievable and measureable steps.

We try to take a sensible approach to end of Key Stage 2 SAT tests and encourage all pupils to do their very best. We appreciate and recognise the importance of individual progress without creating an over emphasis on levels and comparing pupils with one another. Individual progress and attainment in relation to prior attainment is important. Recognition of a child's wider talents is also key to success.

## REPORTING

We will give a verbal report whenever it is requested. We value your interest and support as we regard you, the parents, as being the first teachers of your children and our partners in continuing their progress.

There is a Parents Evening in the Autumn term and again in the Spring Term. Targets will be discussed so that parents will support the work of the class teacher. Pupils new to a Key Stage or Class will be able to discuss the 'settling in' of the pupils.

Once a year you will receive a written report. If you have serious concerns please make an appointment to discuss any points you want clarified. When your child is ready to transfer we pass on any records we have and will produce a brief report if requested by the receiving school. You are welcome to view any of these by appointment.

## School Routines

If your child is ABSENT for a session or is unable to take part in an activity such as swimming, the school must be informed in person or writing on the day concerned. This is a very important safety measure and gives us all peace of mind. If the school has no message by 9.30a.m. contact will be made with the emergency number to establish the whereabouts of the child.

Absence without a note is regarded as unauthorised. Repeated absences will be investigated by the Education Welfare Officer.

Family HOLIDAYS are no longer authorised. Any pupil with 10 or more days of unauthorised absence will be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer and parents will receive a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. Medical and dental appointments also require notification in person or writing. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school unaccompanied.

## Punctuality

Be PUNCTUAL in the morning. Pupils may enter the building from 8.45 a.m. to get ready for the day at 8.55a.m..

The school door will be locked for security reasons from 9.00a.m.

## Keeping up to date with relevant information and events

Read the NEWSLETTERS which comes out regularly. Make any responses to requests the next day if possible. Check your PARENTS NOTICE BOARD regularly – I encourage you to leave by the main entrance after leaving your child in class.

Indemnity Letters for educational visits should be returned promptly and certainly by the deadline date. Money can be paid any time before the visit.

DINNER MONEY for Key Stage 2 pupils, should be placed in a named purse/envelope/bag, is due on the first day of the week. Failure to do this causes the clerical work to become a real time-consuming chore. Make cheques payable to D.C.C. not to the school. All pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are now eligible for a free meal without charge.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS STILL IMPORTANT TO REGISTER ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS REGARDLESS OF THE NEW INITIATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN TO RECEIVE A FREE LUNCH. THIS INFORMATION IS CRUCIAL TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL**

## **FUNDING TO SUPPORT PUPIL LEARNING. PLEASE SEE MRS SMITH FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Pupils wishing to change to a packed lunch must give TWO WEEKS NOTICE in order that the kitchen can change the order.

Peanuts must not be included in packed lunches as we have pupils with serious allergic reactions to such foods  
Application forms for Free School Meals are available from the secretary.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** comprises: - Royal Blue Sweatshirt/cardi

Gold polo-shirt

Plain trousers or skirt

Summer dresses or shorts are encouraged in hot weather

The school uses the company Emblematic to supply logo items. Matalan stores stock our school colours at a lower cost. There is no requirement to purchase items with logos. School Coats are also available for purchase. School PE kits can also be purchased.

Ensure that footwear is sensible, no high heels, large trainers or very heavy boots.

Ensure that uniforms are named using indelible ink on the inside hem.

The wearing of make up or jewellery is not permitted as it is distracting and possibly hazardous.

EAR PIERCING - Our policy is as follows.

- All parents of pupils whose ears are pierced must sign to take responsibility for personal injury to the pupil or anyone else on the school site. It is not the proper responsibility of the Governors or staff or other parents since such piercing are not recommended. Those pupils who currently have pierced ears will receive a form for you to sign. All new piercing will require the completion of this form.
- All pupils who have just had a piercing must take part in PE lessons except swimming. They may bring a non-allergenic elastoplast to cover the said piercing during this initial period, but it is not the responsibility of staff to deal with this in any way.
- All pupils must be able to remove their own piercing for PE lessons, after the initial healing period.
- The school is not responsible for any loss, theft or damage to the said jewellery.
- Pupils who arrive at school with dangly earrings will be asked to remove them for the whole school day.

P.E. KIT should be left in a bag in school for half a term.

Indoor : shorts / teeshirts / simple gym shoes

Outdoor : boots / trainers / tracksuit bottoms

Swimming : Trunks / one piece suit, towel

( long hair in a hat or tied back)

All clothing and footwear must be MARKED with initials or name.

Hardwearing READING FOLDERS & P.E. bags are available to buy from the school.

Toys from home are not allowed into school. They get lost, or broken or cause squabbles.

Any change of address or emergency contact number must be passed on to the school.

## **Homework and Home- School Agreements**

All children are encouraged to read aloud with parents/carers at home. A comment sheet for your remarks and signature is in the folder which goes home every night.

Specified homework tasks in English/Spelling and Maths are issued in line with the Home-School Agreement which we encourage you to take seriously.

## **Clubs**

Coaches and staff deliver lessons and training in cricket, athletics, tennis, basketball and cross country. Teams are trained in season by experienced coaches and school staff. Seasonal clubs are also offered in some of these areas, Multi-skills, football, movie club, recorder

Music tuition on the violin is offered after testing at 8/9 years old. A small charge is made for hire of the instrument except for those pupils eligible for Free School Meals. Pupils who have a particular talent for music are offered early access to tuition wherever possible.

## **Behaviour and Discipline**

We encourage, in St. Pius's, positive attitudes and self discipline. Qualities such as caring, sharing and respect for others are praised. Team points are used as a reward.

It is our aim that the children display independence and a sense of responsibility. School rules are kept to a minimum and are there for the care of the children and organisation of the school. Poor behaviour occurs only

occasionally. If there are persistent behaviour problems, parents are contacted and efforts are made to identify causes. Withdrawal of privileges may be used as a punishment. Behaviour at the swimming baths and during educational visits must be exemplary. Behaviour support agencies and systems will be employed where serious behaviour occurs, with the consent and cooperation of the parent / carer.

At home time please wait on the yard and pupils will be escorted there by staff. Taxied pupils are taken to the school gates.

If there is to be any change in collection arrangements you must inform us. Any sensitive information will remain confidential. Staff will question any unknown person coming to collect pupils.

No smoking is allowed on the premises or in the school grounds.

No chewing gum is allowed on the school premises, outside as well as inside.

Park vehicles observing the No Parking road markings and drive carefully arriving and departing. Parents vehicles are not allowed to enter the premises. Parents should not attempt to move or reverse vehicles whilst children and parents are walking from the school grounds.

We participate in a Walk One a Week initiative.

We urge parents to walk to school where possible. Those traveling by car are asked to park away from the school, at the far end of Thornfield Road and complete the journey on foot.

Healthy

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ofsted Inspection

Our school OFSTED report can be accessed through a link on the school website. Please take time to read it, and previous reports. You can also feedback on how you think we are doing by using the 'Contact Us' form on the website, or through Parent View. There is also a link on the school website for Parent View.

## **Transition**

### **Transfer from Nursery to School**

Visits to the Nurseries and EYFS settings are made by EYFS staff. Parents and pupils are invited to visit the school and given an opportunity to meet staff and gather relevant information. The school holds a 'Treasure Hunt' with community partners, School Meals Providers, School Nurses, PSA's etc to give children and their families an opportunity to view the school, meet staff, find their way around and collect information and resources to support transition. Where there is a need, additional visits can be arranged by parents and children. Information on the child is gathered from previous settings, parents and carers and other agencies supporting the pupil at the time of transition.

Our philosophy is very much about supporting successful transition, rather than causing pupils to falter as they join us. We therefore encourage parents to share information on social, medical, emotional or health needs so that staff are well prepared and well informed. We encourage parents to bring children into their classroom each morning to make the separation from parent or carer as relaxed as it can be. Staff will intervene and support as and when the time is right.

### **Transfer to Secondary School**

At eleven years of age, most pupils transfer to St. Bede's Comprehensive School, Lanchester. Others may choose to go to Consett Academy.

In Years 5 and 6 in Primary School they are visited by staff from St. Bede's who talk about the school and answer their questions. Children attend special event days and taster sessions at St Bede's. Visits to the Academy or other schools are arranged directly to ensure those pupils moving to different school get an opportunity for transition visits.

Our transition worker Beth Meggerson will work with the pupils in school during the Spring and Summer term, then support their transition to secondary school during the Autumn term. Various other activities such as Maths Challenge morning are organized for groups of pupils. A parents meeting at St. Bede's School is also arranged. Sporting events within the Catholic Cluster are also used as a vehicle for transition. St Bede's produce plans for

transition events annually and these are shared with the school cluster. The cluster employ the PSA's to work with families where there is a need. Pupils with SEND are well supported during transition through links with the Inclusion departments of the receiving school.

### **Complaints Procedure**

At St Pius School, we encourage open dialogue with staff during our early opening time from 8.45 a.m. until 8.55a.m. However, staff and the headteacher encourage parents to contact the school by telephone or to arrange an appointment at a convenient time to discuss any issues that arise. We would ask you to be quick to respond to any concerns that you have so that problems and concerns can be resolved. However, any problems which emerge please make an appointment to see the Head Teacher.

Our Complaints Policy is printed on the school website or can be collected from the office on request.

**Absence Data** We ask you to support our target for excellent attendance by ensuring your child attends school when well enough to do so. Please trust that staff will contact you if your child appears unwell or deteriorates throughout the day. Persistent absence significantly impacts upon a child's learning and development and puts him / her at a huge disadvantage.

We encourage good attendance through a weekly class award and individual awards.

**Once again, I would like to welcome your child to our school and look forward to working with you.**