

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Development Plan – 2025/26

A school where “each one of us is a valued member, who can grow in love”

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share our school development priorities for this year. This plan shows how we are working to give your children the very best education and prepare them for their future. Here is what we are focusing on:

Teaching and Learning Excellence

What we are doing:

Religious Education

- We are implementing the new Religious Education Directory – designing and teaching all new lessons
- Introducing the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory to enrich your child's spiritual development

Outstanding Teaching Across All Subjects

- Focusing on 'Independent Practice and Overlearning' – this means giving children plenty of time to practise new skills until they become confident and automatic
- Working towards obtaining a Quality PE Sports Mark Award to recognise the excellent physical education offered to the pupils

Reading, Writing and Maths

- Refreshing our approach to Maths Mastery in Early Years and Year 1, prioritising accurate and fluent mathematics
- Helping every child become fluent in their number facts for their year group
- Securing core writing skills across the school, plus beautiful handwriting.

Supporting Every Child

- Developing our staff's expertise in Executive Functioning (the thinking skills that help children plan, focus attention, and manage tasks) and Sensory Circuits (activities that help children be ready to learn)

Home Learning

- Introducing digital educational tools alongside traditional homework to give your child more opportunities to practise independently/overlearning at home

What this means for your child:

Your child will receive consistently excellent teaching that helps them be ready to learn and build knowledge step-by-step. They will have plenty of opportunities to practise until they are confident, and we will quickly spot and fill any gaps in their learning.

Leadership and School Improvement

What we are doing:

Preparing for the New Ofsted Framework

- Training all staff on the 2025 Ofsted Framework, which applies from 10 November 2025 and uses a new 5-point grading system
- Using the new Ofsted toolkit to support our self-evaluation and continuous improvement against the new framework

Technology Upgrade

- Upgrading our IT infrastructure, including servers, devices, school management software and assessment tracking system

Curriculum Design

- Evolving our curriculum offer so that is ambitious, yet continues to be broad and balanced, and gives all pupils the knowledge they need to achieve and thrive in later life
- Maximising the benefits and unique advantages of our small Catholic primary school setting in terms of curriculum delivery and utilising staff expertise

What this means for your child:

We are making sure our school is well prepared for inspection and that we have the best systems in place to support your child's learning. Our curriculum will be tailored to our school community while meeting the highest standards.

Attendance, Behaviour and Wellbeing

What we are doing:

Attendance

- Placing high priority on improving attendance and punctuality, working closely with parents and other agencies to communicate expectations

Emotional Support

- Working towards the Gold Attachment Awareness Award
- Ensuring pastoral support is well matched to pupils' needs and targeted at those who may need extra guidance or care

What this means for your child:

Your child will feel welcome and want to be in school, and on time. We will work in partnership with you to ensure excellent attendance, and provide support when your child needs it.

Personal Development

What we are doing:

- Enhancing pupils' understanding of the world of work and career pathways by leveraging the expertise and experiences of our parent community and former pupils.

What this means for your child:

Even at primary age, building understanding about the world of work helps develop your child's character dispositions such as perseverance, resilience, and a sense of what they can achieve. It also helps them understand that they can work towards long-term rewards and continue despite setbacks

Early Years Excellence

What we are doing:

- Building our understanding of the new Ofsted Framework for early years provision, ensuring we have a clear and ambitious vision for giving children the best start to their education

What this means for your child:

Children in our early years will be well prepared to reach a good level of development by the end of Reception, securing important foundational knowledge in literacy and mathematics.

How we will keep you informed

We will share termly updates with the governing board, letting them know how the school is progressing against these priorities. You can also find this plan on our school website.

How you can help

- **Attendance:** Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time
- **Home Learning:** Support your child with homework, and the new digital learning tools
- **Reading:** Read with your child every day all the way to Year 6 – this makes the biggest difference to their progress
- **Communication:** Stay in touch with your child's teacher and let us know if you have any concerns

We are committed to providing the very best education for your child at Sacred Heart. If you have any questions about our development plan, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support.