



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Saint Benedict
Catholic Voluntary Academy



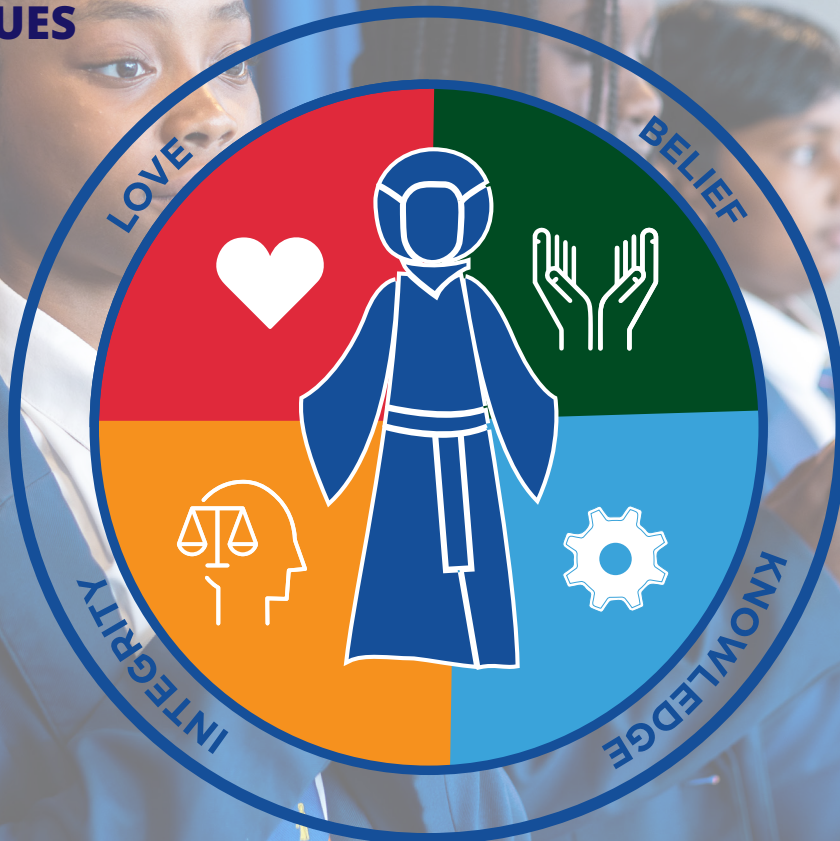
"Pupils feel safe and cared for at this school. They know who they can talk to if they have a problem," **Ofsted**.

OUR MISSION

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire' –

Saint Catherine of Siena

OUR VALUES



Welcome

Saint Benedict is a vibrant, progressive and oversubscribed school. We believe high quality teaching coupled with excellent pastoral support are key to enabling our pupils to make exceptional progress.



By offering the highest quality of education possible, including a broad range of experiences aimed at developing the whole child, each of our pupils will grow in their faith.

As a Catholic school, it is our vision for every child to be nurtured in a safe and happy environment. We will support and guide each of our children to be who God intended them to be.

Central to this are our values - everything we do is underpinned by love and the belief we have in our children - rooting all we do in the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ and the values of the Gospel.

We celebrate diversity and build resilience at Saint Benedict, preparing our pupils for life in modern

Britain through a robust Personal Development Curriculum. We place a strong emphasis on the relationship between home and school, the foundations of which are established by our Form Tutors who work hard to create a strong sense of family.

Our GCSE results have risen year on year, placing us among the highest achieving schools in Derby and our most recent Ofsted inspection graded the school as Good in every category.

We have a thriving Sixth Form, offering a range of different A level options as well as a variety of Level 3 pathways in a range of subjects. Our results at Key Stage 5 continue to grow year on year. We are also part of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust, which only serves to make our school community even stronger.

Please take the opportunity to come and have a look at our wonderful school and community - one I sincerely hope you choose to become a part of.

Hazel Boyce
Headteacher

Our Trust

Our trust exists to serve all 25 Catholic schools within our family, ensuring that every child benefits from an outstanding Catholic education. Our mission statement, 'growing in faith, serving in love, transforming our world, together in Christ' permeates all that we do and this can be witnessed each and every day in our schools.



As a family of Catholic schools, we see every child as being created in the likeness of God with a mission to make the world a better place. We are committed to offering every child the very best education possible, but also, we know that an outstanding Catholic education is about instilling in every one of our pupils a deep sense of love and service to others. As parents and carers, you can be assured that we will care for your children as if they were our own, and that we will shape and challenge them to go out and transform the world.

Our Catholic mission is to serve all families in our communities; of course, we have a deep familial connection with our Catholic families but we also welcome, with warm hearts and open arms, children from different faiths and children of no faith. We



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believe in the gift and dignity of every life and it would be an honour to serve all children in our communities. At the heart of Catholic education is a deep Christ-like love for each and every person, child or adult, who learns or works in our schools. This is the foundation of all that we do.

In contrast to some other education trusts, we do not 'brand' our schools. We believe in the leadership of our Headteachers and empower them to create outstanding Catholic schools that best meet the needs of their communities. As a result, our schools are deeply rooted in their communities to ensure that you, as parents and carers, feel a deep connection to your child's school.

Our virtues are, 'trust, togetherness and kindness.' I hope that you will see and experience this when you visit Saint Benedict.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Walton'.

Lisa Walton
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Noon'.

Sarah Noon
Chair of the Board of
Directors





"The provision for pupils' personal development is impressive. It includes a 'Beyond the Classroom' programme. For example, pupils can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and visit theatres. They have a deep understanding of equality and diversity," **Ofsted**.



Striving for excellence and enabling all to achieve

We believe that every child is capable of achieving above and beyond the national expectation of them and we work tirelessly, staff and students alike, to ensure that this happens.

As a result of this ambition the school achieves well above the local and national averages in terms of the qualifications our students leave us with and we have been improving consistently in recent years.

Our GCSE results continue to improve year on year with 41% of pupils achieving a grade 5 or higher in both English and Maths in 2023. The Average Point Score per A Level and the pass rate both rose in 2023.

The school has won 3 national awards for its attendance in the last 18 months, recognising the attendance of Saint Benedict pupils as being among the top 25% of schools in the UK. This is a reflection of many things but not least the strength of our Pastoral care and the breadth and diversity within our Curriculum.

We believe in being ambitious for all students, from the most able to those who require additional support, ensuring the learning needs of all of our children are met.

We are also proud to have our own Enhanced Resource Base, which supports visually impaired and physically impaired children.

Setting challenging targets and instilling a sense of belief that anything is possible results in students who continually strive for success and who understand that achievement is far more about hard work, persistence and learning from failure than it is about pure ability.

Caring for your child

As a larger school, we have the capacity to offer a wide range of experiences to our children but students also feel part of a much smaller 'family' with their personal tutor and team of staff on hand to help.

In addition to this we have a wide range of support for our students from our full-time Lay Chaplain, Nurture Provision and Enhanced Resource Base. This means that the needs of every child can be catered for.

Students are based in Year groups to ensure consistency is established with all pupils, to allow an age appropriate pastoral curriculum to be delivered in tutor time and to ensure tutor time is used to maximum effect, allowing both pupils and tutors to focus their efforts on only one year group, one message. Heads of Year work with Pastoral Support Assistants whose role is dedicated to that Year group. This allows for greater parental contact, swifter identification of pupils who are absent and patterns of behaviour. Any needs can also be quickly spotted and addressed.

Whether a young person needs additional work, help with organisation or support through a difficult time in their lives, all children benefit from having a caring and dedicated team around them.





"Pupils behave well in their lessons. Lessons are rarely disrupted. This allows pupils to work well," **Ofsted.**



Working with our parents and carers

We will work in partnership with you, our parents and carers, and keep you well informed about your child's progress so that you are clear in the ways you can support them.

- We will regularly report your child's progress to you, setting ambitious targets for them but supporting them closely in achieving these.
- We will organise additional information events for you at important stages throughout their time at school, assisting you to make important decisions with them.
- We will help you understand what kind of work they will be set and how you can support your child.
- We will also help you to support your child through important times of transition, from primary to secondary and from secondary to Post-16 education.

Listening to our students and developing leadership potential

At Saint Benedict we believe strongly that by being listened to and having a key role to play in terms of how their school is run, all students gain a strong sense of ownership and pride in their school.

We achieve this in a number of ways:

- Our Pupil Parliament meets regularly and has representatives of all ages. This group plays a key part in whole school decision making and is one of the first groups we consult with on new ideas for school.

- Led by our Head Boy and Girl, our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team also meet during the year to share their ideas for improving the experience of all children in the school.

- Listening to our children and working with them permeates all that we do.

Students are involved in the decisions made on every staff appointment and regularly have the opportunity to share their ideas and views. Giving young people a voice also gives them a sense of responsibility, helping them to learn how to have a voice in society when they leave us and a belief that they can change the world to make it a better place.





"Most parents and carers speak positively about the pastoral and academic care that pupils receive. Parents say, 'The staff at the school truly care about all aspects of our children's learning,'" **Ofsted.**





"Staff know their pupils well, including those with SEND. Staff identify any pupil with additional needs quickly. The school puts in place any extra support that pupils may need. Extra support is well matched to pupils' needs and is regularly reviewed," **Ofsted**.



Developing the whole child

We believe that access to a broad range of experiences outside of the curriculum is a key part of developing the qualities which will help our students to lead fulfilling and happy lives.

The school has a very active faith life with prayer and liturgy part of the everyday routine.

Opportunities to experience life-changing retreats and visits such as residential experiences, our trip to Lourdes and our link with Arusha in Tanzania, give young people opportunities to develop, not only their faith but their understanding of the world and the part they play in it.

We also run a thorough programme of careers education which begins in Year 7 with university visits and continues with our Careers Fair and regular World of Work sessions with our Alumni.

Admissions

As a Catholic academy our first priority in considering new pupils is those who are Catholic, although we welcome children from different faiths and none, ensuring every child feels fully included in our work and prayer life. Governors will comply with parental preference unless the academy is oversubscribed in which case a published criteria is applied.

An awareness of the need to be there to support the poor in society also plays a vital part in the mission of our school. Students are very aware of this fact and raise funds for a number of charities.

Students also visit care homes and perform active service in the community. We offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities from an excellent school show and many other musical and dramatic productions and we achieve a high level of success in sporting events.

The academy serves the Catholic population of the City of Derby and surrounding areas. A comprehensive list of those parishes the academy takes from, along with the admissions policy, and other relevant information can be found on the academy website.



"Pupils enjoy an extensive wider personal development programme. Pupils can take part in sports such as football, netball and goal ball. Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe online. The school provides a well-developed careers programme," **Ofsted**.







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