



St Benedict's
Catholic High
School

1971

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT



Through love of Christ, delight in Virtue



SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Documentation included:

Home School Agreement

Online Safety – Acceptable Use Policy

Student Internet Agreement

Using images of Children

Smart Device/Mobile Phone Policy

Privacy Policy

Please complete the online School Agreement Form



HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

INTRODUCTION

At St Benedict's Catholic High School, we are a community of faith and learning rooted in Gospel teachings and inspired by the Charism of St Benedict. Our virtues and values are entrenched in the wisdom gifted to us through the Rule of St Benedict and these permeate every aspect of our school life. Through our love of Christ, we serve our community and through that service we create global citizens who strive not only for academic excellence, but for a fulfilled life guided by Christ and Virtue.

We believe that parents/carers and other responsible adults are the first and foremost educators of their children and that we are called to support them in their God-given task. This home school agreement emphasises our commitment to work with parents, pupils, and the wider community to provide the very best education possible.

THE SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO YOU

We acknowledge our responsibility to support parents in their task of nurturing their children towards human wholeness within a Christian community.

Therefore we will:

- Demonstrate our faith and our school foundation in the teachings of Jesus Christ, by what we teach and the way we live and worship in our school.
- Demonstrate to your child the value of virtuous behaviour through our virtue-based learning system, inspired by Christ's teachings and the charism of St Benedict.
- Ensure that your child is valued for who they are and helped to develop spiritually, morally, emotionally, and academically.
- Do our best to provide the best possible education for your child and help them make as much progress as they can.
- Care for your child's health, safety, and welfare.
- Challenge your child to strive for the highest standards of personal, social, and intellectual development and aim for excellence in everything.
- Set homework which is suitable for your child and mark it regularly.
- Supply you with information about your child's progress and provide opportunities for you to talk to teachers.
- Send home regular progress reports (either electronically or by paper).
- Recognise and reward your child's achievement and effort.
- Respond appropriately to any difficulties your child may have.
- Treat your child as an individual with respect encouraging them to human wholeness.
- Inform you of any concerns regarding your child's work, behaviour, health, attendance, punctuality, and work with you to resolve these concerns.
- Keep you well informed about school policies and activities through regular letters and newsletters.

Respond to any complaint received, within a reasonable time, usually within 5 working days.

Signed: 

Headteacher

Date: May 2025

PARENT/ CARER AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT COMMITMENTS

We acknowledge that we as parents/carers and other responsible adults we are the primary educators of our children and have an irreplaceable role to play in supporting our children's learning at school and at home.

Therefore I / we shall try to:

- Support the Christian values of the school community.
- Ensure my child respects the virtues of our school and aims to demonstrate behaviour in-line with that of our virtue-based learning system.
- Support the leadership of the school.
- Ensure that my child attends school regularly, on time and suitably equipped.
- Send my child to school in correct school uniform.
- Support the school's behaviour policies and guidelines.
- Inform the school of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour.
- Encourage my child to be enthusiastic about learning and enjoy school.
- Support my child in homework and other opportunities for home learning.
- Avoid taking family holidays in term time. **All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the Headteacher, are accumulated and parents who fail to ensure regular attendance of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The amount is £60 (per parent per child) if paid within 21 days and £120 (per parent per child) if paid between 21 and 28 days. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice will result in prosecution, except in limited circumstances.**
- Inform the school as soon as possible when my child is absent and provide an absence note on their return. (By telephone: 01946 692275, email: attendance@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk, Text: 07860055717)
- Encourage my child to participate fully in the wider aspects of school life.
- Attend parents' evenings and any other meetings called to discuss my child's progress.
- Inform the school by telephone, letter or email of any complaint and allow reasonable time for a response.

STUDENT COMMITMENTS

I acknowledge the many different and unique talents that God has given me and my responsibility to use them wisely.

- I will attend school and be on time to lessons.
- I will do all my classwork and homework to the best of my ability.
- I will actively take part in all lessons.
- I will show dignity and respect to all members of staff, visitors, and each other.
- I will follow instructions from adults and make it possible for all pupils to learn.
- I will move quietly and safely around the school.
- I will treat the school buildings, school property and all personal property with respect.
- I will wear the correct uniform and be smart in appearance.
- I will have the correct equipment for each lesson.
- I will take responsibility for my own actions and behaviour.
- I will use social media and the internet safely and appropriately.
- I will only eat and drink in the Dining Hall / Winter Garden.
- I will always place litter in the bins provided.
- I will use appropriate language.
- I will behave appropriately outside of school.

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL ICT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

I understand that I must use school ICT systems in a responsible way, to ensure that there is no risk to my safety or to the safety and security of the ICT systems and other users.

For my own personal safety:

- I will only use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) systems in school, including the internet, email, digital video, mobile technologies, etc. for educational purposes.
- I will only log on to the school network/Microsoft Teams, other systems and resources with my own username and password. I will treat my username and password like my toothbrush – I will not share it, nor will I try to use any other person's username or password.
- I will follow the school's ICT security system and not reveal my passwords to anyone and change them regularly.
- I will only use my school email address for educational purposes. I will check my email regularly and carry out routine "housekeeping" of my email messages.
- I will not give out my personal information or that of others such as name, phone number or address. I will not arrange to meet someone unless this is part of a school project approved by my teacher.
- I will make sure that all ICT communications with pupils, teachers or others is responsible, polite, and sensible. I will not use strong, aggressive, or inappropriate language and I appreciate that others may have different opinions.
- I will 'log off' when leaving a computer.
- I will be responsible for my behaviour when using the Internet. This includes resources I access and the language I use.
- I will only save files to the network that are related to schoolwork. I will not use filenames that could be considered offensive.
- I will not deliberately browse, download, upload or forward material that could be considered offensive or illegal. If I accidentally come across any such material, I will report it immediately to my teacher.
- I will immediately report any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages or anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it online.
- I am aware that when I take images of pupils and/or staff, that I must only store and use these for school purposes and in line with school procedures and must never distribute these outside the school network without the permission of all parties involved, including in school breaks and all occasions when you are in school uniform or when otherwise representing the school.
- I will ensure that my online activity, both in school and outside school, will not cause my school, the staff, pupils, or others distress or bring the school community into disrepute, including through uploads of images, video, sounds or texts.
- I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school and that the school has the right to take action against me if I am involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour that are covered in this agreement when I am out of school and where they involve my membership of the school community (e.g., cyberbullying, use of images or personal information etc.)
- I understand that the school ICT systems are primarily intended for educational use and that I will not use the systems for personal or recreational use unless I have permission to do so.

- I will not try (unless I have permission) to make large downloads or uploads that might take up internet capacity and prevent other users from being able to carry out their work.
- When I am using the Internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information that I access is accurate as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.
- I will always respect the privacy and ownership of others' work online and will not access, copy, remove or otherwise alter any other user's files without the owner's knowledge and permission. Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos).
- I understand the risks and will not try to upload, download, or access any materials which are illegal or inappropriate or may cause harm or distress to others, nor will I try to use any programmes or software that might allow me to bypass the filtering/security systems in place to prevent access to such materials.
- I will only use my personal hand-held/external devices (USB devices) in school if I have permission. I understand that, if I do use my own devices in school, I will follow the rules set out in this agreement, in the same way as if I was using school equipment.
- I will immediately report any damage or faults involving equipment or software; however, this may have happened.
- I will not open any attachments to emails unless I know and trust the person or organisation that sent the email due to the risk of the attachment containing a virus or other harmful programme.
- I will not install or attempt to install programmes of any type on a machine, or store programmes on a computer, nor will I try to alter computer settings.
- I understand that all my use of the Internet and other related technologies can be monitored and logged and can be made available to my teachers.
- I understand that these rules are designed to keep me safe and that if they are not followed, school sanctions will be applied, and my parent may be contacted, and any illegal activities will be reported to the Police.
- **Please complete the sections on the online form to acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to the rules included in the Acceptable Use Agreement. If you do not complete the online form, access will not be granted to the school ICT system.**

PUPIL ICT ACCEPTABLE USE – PUPIL AND PARENT/CARER AGREEMENT

ICT including the Internet, learning platforms, email and mobile technologies and online resources have become an important part of learning in our school. We expect all pupils to be safe and responsible when using any ICT. It is essential that pupils are aware of online safety and know how to stay safe when using any ICT.

Pupils are expected to read and discuss this agreement with their parent or carer and then to complete the online form any concerns or explanation can be discussed with their class teacher. A parent or carer is also asked to complete the online form to acknowledge that this agreement is in place.

- I have read, understood, and agree to follow the terms of this Acceptable Use Agreement when:
- I use the school ICT systems and equipment (both in and out of school)
- I use my own equipment in school (when allowed) e.g. mobile phone, tablet, USB stick, etc.
- I use my own equipment out of school in a way that is related to me being a member of this school e.g., communicating with other members of the school, accessing school email

ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL – USING IMAGES OF CHILDREN

Occasionally, we may take photographs of the children at our school. We may use these images in our school prospectus or in other printed publications that we produce, as well as on our website, social media pages or on project display boards at our school. We may also make video recordings for school-to-school conferences, monitoring, or other educational use.

From time to time, our school may be visited by the media who will take photographs or film footage of a visiting dignitary or other high-profile event. Students will often appear in these images, which may appear in local or national newspapers, or on televised news programmes.

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, we need your permission before we can photograph or make any recordings of your child for promotional purposes.

Conditions of use:

1. The agreement form is valid for the period of time your child attends this school.
2. We may re-use any photographs or recordings after your child leaves this school.
3. We will not use the personal details or full names (which means first name and surname) of any child in a photographic image on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in any of our other printed publications without good reason. For example, we may include the full name of a student in a newsletter to parents if the student has won an award.
4. If we name a student in the text, we will endeavour to not use a photograph of that child to accompany the article without good reason.
5. We will not include personal e-mail or postal addresses, or telephone or fax numbers on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in other printed publications.
6. We may use group or class photographs or footage with very general labels, such as “a science lesson” or “making Christmas decorations”.
7. We will only use images of students who are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of such images being used inappropriately.

Please note that the press are exempt from the Data Protection Act and may want to include the names and personal details of children and adults in the media.

RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR MOBILE PHONES

Smart devices/mobile phones can be brought into St Benedict's and stored in student's bags. Smart devices/mobile phones can be used to communicate with parents on the way to and from Campus Whitehaven.

Smart devices/mobile phones must be switched off and in bags, whilst in the school building and during school hours until the school site has been exited. This includes breaktime and lunchtime. Headphones and portable speakers should not be seen, heard, or used.

In case of emergency, students should alert a member of staff who will assist with the issue raised.

Consequences

Smart devices/mobile phones must not be seen or heard during the school day. Any smart devices/mobile phones being used, seen, or heard by any member of staff during the school day will be confiscated immediately regardless of whether this is being used or not and returned to the student's parent, after 3.30pm (Mon – Wed) and after 2.30pm (Thursday and Friday). Parents will be informed. Phones will be stored securely and labelled with the name and form of the student.

Please note: St Benedict's Catholic High School is not liable for any loss or damage.

Failure to hand over a device will be dealt with in line with our behaviour policy and may lead to time within our reflection room. Persistent failure may result in suspension from school.

A member of the office staff will securely store the confiscated phone and a message will be sent via Edulink to inform parents.

The following sanctions will apply: -

- For a first offence - Confiscation until the end of the day (Parents to collect)
- For a second offence - Confiscation until the end of the week (Parents to collect)
- For a third offence - A meeting will be arranged between Parents and a member of Senior Team to discuss a solution going forward.

Such a confiscation is in line with Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

EXAMS AND MOBILE PHONES

No student will bring a mobile phone into an exam room.

The school follows exam board policies regarding mobile phones in examination situations and it is advisable for students to leave their mobiles at home during exam periods. Students are made fully aware of the serious consequences of mobile phones being taken into exam rooms.

PRIVACY NOTICE

How we use student information

The categories of student information that we collect, hold and share include:

- Personal information (such as name, contact details, unique student numbers, student photograph);
- Characteristics (such as ethnicity, religion, language, nationality, country of birth, free school meal eligibility, and student premium eligibility);
- Safeguarding information (such as court orders and professional involvement)
- Special educational needs (including the needs and ranking)
- Medical and administration (such as doctors' information, child health, any first aid or accident information, dental health, allergies, medication, dietary requirements, and notes from meetings/GPs/other health care professionals)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences and absence reasons and any previous schools attended).
- Assessment and attainment information (such as Key Stage results, reports, feedback, test data, exam entries and results, post-16 courses enrolled for and any relevant results)
- Special Educational Needs information (such as Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), Student Support Plans, and notes from review meetings and professional assessments)
- Rewards information
- Behavioural information such as exclusions and any relevant alternative provision put in place
- Information on trips and visits, catering, free school meals management, identity management and authentication
- Mode of transport information
- Post 16 learning information and destination data

Why we collect and use this information.

We use the student data for the following purposes:

- To support student learning;
- To monitor and report on student attainment progress;
- To provide appropriate pastoral care;
- To assess the quality of our services;
- To comply with the law regarding data sharing;
- To keep children safe (food allergies or emergency contact details)
- To meet statutory duties placed upon us for DfE data collections

Who we share student information with

We routinely share student information with:

- Other educational establishments that the students attend after leaving us;
- Cumbria County Council;
- The Department for Education (DfE);

- Other public services that have a lawful right to collect student information;
- Youth support services (students aged 13+);
- Third parties as listed in Appendix 6 of the GDPR policy;
- Inspira (for destinations data).
- The Public Health Department (for the organisation and administration of the agreed immunisation programmes)

We do not share information about our students with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

Why we share student information

We are required to share information about our students with our local authority (LA) and the Department for Education (DfE) under section 3 of The Education (Information About Individual Students) (England) Regulations 2013.

Data collection requirements:

To find out more about the data collection requirements placed on us by the Department for Education (for example; via the school census) go to <https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-censuses-for-schools>

Youth support services

Students aged 13+

Once our students reach the age of 13, we also pass student information to our local authority and / or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:

- youth support services
- careers advisers

A parent or guardian can request that **only** their child's name, address and date of birth is passed to their local authority or provider of youth support services by informing us. This right is transferred to the child / student once he/she reaches the age 16.

Students aged 16+

We will also share certain information about students aged 16+ with our local authority and / or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:

- post-16 education and training providers
- youth support services
- careers advisers

For more information about services for young people, please visit our local authority website.



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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