



Our Lady of Good Counsel

Catholic Primary School



Headteacher's Welcome



At Our Lady of Good Counsel, you will receive a warm welcome from children, staff, parents and governors in an environment where children feel secure, happy and motivated to learn.

Our vision is to provide the best Catholic education enabling all pupils to develop as resilient, independent, ambitious people who are equipped with a lifelong love of learning.

We are part of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust, offering a one-form school located within Sleaford. At Our Lady of Good Counsel, we 'Love, Live and Learn in the Light of Christ'. Through our Mission Statement, we, as a school, want our children to learn, achieve and excel, which is inspired and underpinned by Gospel values so that they can reflect God's love in their everyday lives. Christ is at the centre of everything we do. Our actions reflect our belief that every child is a gift, created in the image of God. We recognise that each child is unique, with their own talents, which we endeavour to nurture and develop.

We offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences to help our children develop and live out our virtues of self-control, hope, justice, love, courage and solidarity. Through our Learners' Code, the children have the opportunity to demonstrate these virtues in all they do as they work to become Bronze, Silver or Gold Learners.

We have a diverse school community where all are valued, and children are taught to respect and celebrate differences. Working together as a community we have created a thriving, inspiring learning environment where all children can achieve their full potential.

Mr Paul Tibble
Headteacher



Our primary Mission

We love, live and learn in the light
of Christ

We Love

The children at Our Lady understand the importance of always being kind, and showing God's love to whoever they meet, whether they are people from within our own school community or those further afield.

We Live

Our school lives out Christ's teachings and gospel values. This ensures that we think about others before ourselves.

We believe that each and every person is made in the image of Christ and should be treated with dignity, respect and love and we guide our children to enact these values.

Empathy, compassion and forgiveness are promoted and offered to all in our daily lives.

We Learn

Through the delivery of our curriculum, we ensure that every child is provided with the knowledge, skills and spiritual development they need to interact successfully with the challenges of modern society, whilst maintaining a sense of awe and wonder for God's creation.

We set high expectations which motivate and challenge every child to be the best that they can be.



Our school provides a stimulating environment where we encompass our Catholic ethos.

It has always been a popular school with a family atmosphere and an excellent reputation for attainment, behaviour and politeness

Innovative and effective learning and teaching strategies are core and school leaders use current research to inform decisions ensuring an effective curriculum

We provide a space where pupils feel safe, supported in their pursuit of knowledge as well as inspired by their surroundings.

The classrooms are easily adaptable and laid out to the style of working that needs to take place e.g., group or paired. It is a place where positive relationships are built, and high expectations are set. Pupils are encouraged to challenge learning and take risks.

We are blessed with an excellent outdoor space which provides space to play and learn.

There are also many prayer spaces around our school for the children to use, both inside and outside of the building.

'Our school is a great place to come to and it's lovely.'

Pupil quote 2023



Our learning
environment

'Our Lady of Good Counsel is a kind and loving environment. Pupils of all faiths and backgrounds are welcomed and celebrated.'

Parent quote 2023



Our curriculum

At Our Lady of Good Counsel, we have developed an ambitious and engaging curriculum, which encourages our pupils to challenge themselves and grow as lifelong learners

It is designed and planned to ensure that pupils learn and encounter new knowledge sequentially. It also gives them many opportunities to revisit their learning to ensure that they learn more, know more and remember more.

We have a specialist teacher to teach music and sports coaches who provide specialist coaching throughout the year. Our curriculum has been designed to reflect the world and community in which our children live and prepares them for life beyond education. We want all of our children to develop a love of learning which we stay with them throughout life.

'You include every child no matter who they are. No one is ever left out.'

Parent quote 2023

Teaching and learning

Our teachers ensure that every lesson is planned and delivered in a sequential way to avoid cognitive overload. Pupils are supported and challenged regardless of their ability in every subject area. Teachers track and assess the pupils' progress and use this to inform the next lesson and any support that is needed. Teachers adapt teaching to meet the needs of all pupils.

Every class is supported by a teaching assistant who provides group and individual support and challenge. Teachers and teaching assistants also support the mental health and welfare of the pupils.



Our school believes that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, with our own unique gifts and qualities and therefore God is present in everyone, irrespective of their religion, culture, nationality or financial background.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins all that we do in school. Our pupils know that we live our lives by the teachings of the Church and through the Gospel. Through this, pupils know how to live out their faith in the world. The Catholic Social Teaching principles incorporate dignity, solidarity, the common good, the option for the poor, peace, creation and environment and the dignity of work and participation.

Pupils recognise that there is inequality in the world and will raise money for a range of charities to support other communities.

Our five school virtues are: self-control, hope, justice, love, courage

Our pupils learn how to treat others in our parish community and our wider global family. As well as the weekly learning in the 'Statements to Live By', pupils learn about British Values. This supports the pupils' knowledge and understanding of inclusion and diversity.

'The school is a joyful, vibrant community with a strong sense of genuine pride in its Catholic identity. The mission statement is lived out at every level.'

Nottingham RC Diocesan Education Service 2017



Catholic social teaching
and
British values

Beyond the curriculum

At Our Lady of Good Counsel we value the uniqueness of all our pupils and establish an ethos that develops the 'whole child'.

Our pupils are encouraged to take risks and build resilience. They are encouraged to be inquisitive lifelong learners who question and explore the world around them.

Our nurturing staff recognise and support a diversity of needs relating to learning, health, mental wellbeing, behaviour as well as emotional and physical requirements ensuring that all our pupils feel safe, secure and are able to aspire to be the very best they can be.

A young boy in a school uniform is climbing a rope structure on a playground. He is wearing a white shirt, a blue and yellow striped tie, and dark trousers. Other children in school uniforms are visible in the background, some standing and some smiling. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day, with a building visible in the background.

Developing the whole child

Our Lady's aims to give all pupils the opportunity to attend extra-curricular clubs to develop skills or to introduce pupils to new sports.

Sports clubs are rotated each term to maximise the activities the pupils are encouraged to participate in. Examples of clubs offered are netball, football, athletics, dance, footgolf, and orienteering to name a few – all of which are free.

Through participation in these clubs, the pupils learn sporting values such as fairness, team building, equality, discipline, inclusion, perseverance and respect, which, in turn, contribute to the Catholic ethos of our school.

As a school that is rooted in supporting our pupils' mental health, offering ELSA support and having qualified Mental Health First Aiders, we recognise that physical health contributes to positive mental health and well-being.

To support pupils academically, and for all pupils to reach their full potential and to be ready for the next stage of their learning journey, booster clubs are offered on an individual needs basis. These operate either at lunchtime or after school – again free of charge.

As a school, we recognise that working parents require childcare before and after school. Our Lady's provides a warm, caring, 'home-from-home' environment, offering wrap-around care from 7.45am until 5.45pm. Pupils are provided with breakfast and a nutritious hot or cold snack after school.

'The school is wonderful. Great activities are arranged for learning.'

Parent quote 2023



Achieving full potential and personal development

Mini Vinnies, Shining Stars and School Council provide a voice for all in school. As a school, we contribute to the local community by getting involved in local issues such as litter picking and keeping the local area tidy.

We build relationships between the young and old by visiting the Care homes to read to the residents and perform carols. We also write cards at Christmas and Easter to the local parishioners and residents in the local care homes. We contribute to CAFOD on a yearly basis by getting involved with their fundraising activities which help our fellow neighbours all over the world.

***I love how all the staff know the children and parents.
The school builds a relationship with the families – we're
all as one.***

Parent quote 2023

Pupils are encouraged to become active citizens and take care of the wonderful world around them as set out by Pope Francis and his letter Laudato si- 'Care for our common home' by suggesting initiatives and changes that affect the school, parish and wider community.

At Our Lady's we pride ourselves on being an inclusive school. We are ambitious for every pupil to achieve their very best. We set high expectations for learning and behaviour which are supported by our parents/carers and together we work in close partnerships to make sure that these standards are consistently high.

***'The school is very inclusive, and everyone always feels
valued and important. I feel very safe at school because there
is always someone to talk to.'***

Pupil quote 2023



Our community

All parents and carers are welcomed into our school community, irrespective of their faith and background. Children and parents/carers are greeted each day by our staff who are always happy to speak to parents/carers, extending our support, advice and guidance as and when necessary.

All parents/carers are encouraged to share the children's success by attending our Celebration of Learning events. Parents/carers are invited to school throughout the year to receive updates on pupils' progress and can contact staff via Tapestry or ClassDojo.

Our Lady's also has a very active PTA and welcomes anyone who could spare some of their time to raise money for our pupils.

Joining Our Lady of Good Counsel

Our Lady's welcomes children of all faiths and backgrounds into our school family.

The window for Reception opens in November through to January. The Admissions Team will notify parents in April if they have been allocated Our Lady's as their school of choice. Following this, before starting school in Year Reception, there will be an opportunity for new pupils to visit and parents/carers to attend an information meeting where they can ask any questions they may have.

For pupils joining mid-year, please contact the Admissions Team at Lincolnshire County Council at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions.

To ensure our school is the right learning environment for your child, you are encouraged to have a look around, see the school in operation and ask any questions. It is the first opportunity to begin to build the relationship between the school and the family.

For more information on joining Our Lady of Good Counsel, please visit our admissions page: www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk/parents/admissions



'Pupils behave well and enjoy coming to school. They are respectful of differences and proud of their school.'

'Leaders are ambitious for all pupils to achieve well, particularly those who are disadvantaged and those with special educational needs.'

'Pupils learn to be responsible citizens.'

'The early years foundation stage (EYFS) is a vibrant place. Children engage in their learning. They interact well with each other.'

Ofsted 2023

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Part of
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OF LOURDES**
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST