



# Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

A place where no child is left behind





# Welcome to Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

## Why Philippa and Paul selected Holy Trinity C of E Primary School for her children

### Foreword: Mark Standen, Head, Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Welcome to our fantastic, unique and vibrant primary school! We are different, we don't teach, we are more interested in learning. For example, our highly experienced teaching staff inspire our children, and ignite an interest in the world around them. It's not about remembering dates and names...it's about understanding the world and how it works!

#### Rewarding

We are determined to make every child's life here a rich and rewarding experience, so they leave with a love of learning,

equipped with high self-esteem, pride in their success and ready to enjoy the challenges of life.

#### Nurtured

Every child is valued and their unique qualities are recognised, nurtured and celebrated. The relationships we develop with our children, their families, our community and the wider world, enable us to create a warm, caring, happy ethos: where everyone is welcome and valued!

#### Faith school

We are a church school and as such we celebrate the life of Jesus and we express throughout our school his message of love, tolerance and acceptance.

**We don't teach...we inspire and ignite an interest in learning!**

#### Life values

We place a great deal of emphasis on values for life, and challenge our wonderful children to be:

- honest
- courageous
- forgiving
- loving
- full of hope
- compassionate
- truthful
- friendly.



#### Parent partnership

An important part of your child's learning journey is you! You will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, that you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

#### Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our wonderful school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff who listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the quality of education we can offer your child.

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question, please call the school office on 01254 702119.

**"We are really pleased that Callum goes to Holy Trinity, which is the best primary school in Darwen"**



**Philippa Newton lives in Darwen with her partner Paul Eccles and children Callum, four and Emily, 10 weeks.**

#### First impressions

"For various reasons Holy Trinity was our second choice of school for Callum," admits Philippa. "When we found out that Callum would be going there I was a little apprehensive, but we needn't have worried as the headmaster, Mr. Standen, invited us to a meeting to discuss any concerns we had and as soon as we looked around, I was very impressed."

#### Modern and welcoming

"Mr. Standen is a very friendly and welcoming headmaster and was happy to answer all of our questions and address any concerns. As he showed us around I could see immediately that the school was up to date and modern and the facilities were the same, if not better, than any other schools in the area. I was particularly impressed with their fantastic IT facilities, and the fact that all of the children have access to iPads, which is great."

#### Outstanding team; "the best primary school in Darwen"

At Holy Trinity all of the children are valued, and their unique qualities are recognised, nurtured and celebrated by the staff.

The quality of the teaching and attention to detail has delighted Philippa who says: "Callum's class teacher is absolutely outstanding, and when Mr. Standen walks around the school he stops and talks to all of the children individually. We are really pleased that Callum goes to Holy Trinity, which is the best primary school in Darwen."

#### "Lots of time and attention"

"Because there is only one reception class at Holy Trinity the children get lots of time and attention from their teacher, which can only be beneficial to them. Callum is meeting his targets and I have no qualms about his development. He is also perfectly happy, and absolutely loves going to school, and that makes me, as a parent feel very happy too."

#### "Raring to go"

Young Callum looks forward to going to school every day. "We've never had a day when Callum hasn't wanted to go to school," says Philippa. "He is always ready and raring to go. He's made lots of lovely friends and adores the teachers, so he is very happy."



# School day: a place where no child is left behind

## School hours

School hours are 8:50am-3:30pm.  
Breakfast Club open from 8am.

## School meals and snacks

Hot meals are cooked on site. Our menu is nutritionally balanced giving children a substantial meal using quality ingredients. Mid-morning snacks are available for the younger children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Various drinks are served each day including milk, fruit juice and water.

## Children have a say!

Children have a key role in all aspects of school life. For example, children who are School Ambassadors join us on staff training days and whole school staff meetings, where their voice and opinion are valued and they are treated as equals.



# Transferring to Holy Trinity School proved to be a real turning point for Emma’s children

**Emma Posteraro lives in Darwen with her husband Mario, and five children – Dylan 12, Dale, 10, Demi, eight, Sonny six and Marcella three.**

## Changing classrooms

“Dale was in Year One at his old school and absolutely hated going every day,” recalls Emma. “I didn’t feel that he was getting the help that he needed and so when a friend told me what a good school Holy Trinity was I arranged for him to be transferred there.”

## “Holy Trinity is brilliant”

“Holy Trinity is brilliant and the staff are fantastic. Now Dale is so much happier every day and he absolutely loves going. When the children first started at the school they used a buddy system so that another child was able to help them find their way around and get to know the other children and that meant they settled in really quickly.

“My children go to a Breakfast Club at the school and at the end of the day they are brought home again in the school mini bus, which is great. I’m so pleased that we moved Dale to this school, and my other children absolutely love it too. I’m really happy.”

## “Helped him to come a long way in a short time.”

The staff at Holy Trinity work hard to give the children the life skills they will need to deal with challenges they are likely to face in later life.

“The staff and the children at the school are all amazing,” says Emma. “Dale has special educational needs and he has been provided with 25 hours a week of one-to-one support from a specialist assistant, and this has helped him to come a long way in a short time.”

## Recognising success

The school tries to ensure that all children at the school have a clear and distinct voice and are valued as equals. A special Achievements Assembly is an important weekly event that rewards the success of pupils.

“The children are given awards for good learning at a special Friday assembly each week,” says Emma. “Sometimes when they get an award they are allowed to wear a different coloured jumper so that everyone can recognise the good learning they have done and they can feel proud. I think this is great because it encourages them to keep on trying to do well.”

## Children say:

“I really love going to school because it is always fun and exciting,” says Dale. And Emma adds: “I went to a parents evening recently and my daughter’s teacher told me: ‘Demi always seems really happy – she does nothing but smile all day!’ And that makes me smile too...”



**“Holy Trinity is brilliant and the staff are fantastic. Now Dale is so much happier every day and he absolutely loves going”**





# Curriculum: a place where no child is left behind

## Learning Agenda: young people have a right to be prepared for their world, not ours

What makes Holy Trinity very different from other schools is our Learning Agenda. We put the learner at the centre of what we do. Effective learners will be happy and successful in life because they are self-dependent and can adapt to demanding situations.

### Individuality

We allow children to be individuals, and our teachers develop specific learning experiences that will make the most of each child's abilities. We give time to learn, fail and try again. That's what life is all about.

### Their world!

We are proud to be different and also believe that young people have a right to be prepared for their world, not ours! And, as such, we will give them the modern learning skills they need to succeed in a modern world.



## Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.

## Key Stages

The National Curriculum at Holy Trinity is divided into three stages:

1. **Early Years Foundation Stage:** from ages 0-5
2. **Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7
3. **Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11

### Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.





# Curriculum: a place where no child is left behind

## Extended curriculum

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities, including:

- Woodland Experience, where children are supervised and have fun making dens and climbing trees
- Sculpting with clay
- Drama/Musical Theatre tours and workshops
- Visit to Manchester Science and Industry Museum
- Ukulele workshop.



## Learning outside: enhanced learning

We have a superb outside learning provision, complete with an allotment, chickens, tree-house and a Forest School.

### Forest school

Forest Schools help children to develop life skills and further enhance learning. Our Forest School has a fire pit, mud kitchen, tool area and lots more beautiful trees, plants and animal habitats. The children love it!

## Children help children: Reading Rangers

Our children help other children in the school. For example, Reading Rangers are a group of children who are interested in books and reading. These children have received special phonics training so they can learn, encourage, motivate and encourage reading in other children.

## Non curriculum days

Several times a year we have 'non-curriculum' days. For example, recently we offered the children the chance to make afternoon tea for their parents. They worked very hard every morning to make cakes and sandwiches. Then in the afternoon, they turned a classroom into a tearoom and served their families with afternoon tea.

# Returning to Holy Trinity C of E Primary School was the best thing in the world for Mick's adopted children

**Mick and Karen Ashton live in Darwen with their five children, Joe 12, Greg, seven, twins Max and Leo, five and Olga, four.**

### Secure environment

When Mick and his wife Karen adopted five children they were determined to send them to a school that provided a happy and secure environment. Holy Trinity C of E Primary School was the perfect choice. "Joe used to go to Holy Trinity but after a family breakdown he moved several miles away," says Mick. "In the eight months he was away his grades went down and he was very unhappy but then he came to live with us and went back to Holy Trinity where he blossomed and did fantastically well. In Year Six he was awarded Pupil of the Year and we were incredibly proud."

### Amazing staff

Mick attributes much of his son's success to the quality of teaching at Holy Trinity. "The staff are absolutely amazing," he says. "The teachers were so good with Joe and the headteacher is excellent."

"Our other son Greg now goes to the school and twins Max and Leo are in the reception class. I can't fault the school and all the kids are really happy. When they come out at the end of the day a lot of them go to give the teachers and the headmaster a hug. He's really good fun and has even been known to have a snowball fight with the kids, which they loved!"

### Dealing with problems

If there are ever any problems at Holy Trinity the staff will intervene quickly and deal with these effectively and efficiently. "Max and Greg occasionally have behaviour issues, but when you discuss these with the teachers they are always very understanding and easy to talk to," says Mick. "You never feel as if you are wasting anyone's time, as they are always interested and clearly love the kids. None of the children worry about going to the teachers for help."

"Communication is excellent, and a newsletter is sent out each week so everyone knows what is happening, which is really good."

### A good balance

"I'd recommend the school to anyone," he says. "The school's academic achievements are very good, but most importantly, the children are all happy and to me that means absolutely everything. The teachers seem to do a fantastic job in achieving a good balance between the children getting their work done, and allowing them to have fun."

### Children say:

"There isn't anything I don't like about Holy Trinity," says Joe. "The teachers are fair with everyone, they listen to any concerns you have and solve any problems in a cool, calm manner. I love it!"





# Inclusion: a place where no child is left behind

## More able children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.

## Special educational needs

We are committed to providing high quality provision and support for pupils who have special needs of any kind. We will work with the child's parents on developing a detailed programme of study which will respond to the child's needs...and help them reach their potential.

### Regular reviews

There will be regular reviews to check progress. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged. Children may be added to the Special Education Needs Register, and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) written to help them reach their potential.

### Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school and the curriculum.

# No child is ever left behind at Holy Trinity and Nahid and his sons could not be happier

**Nahid and Nasara Majid live in Darwen with their children Sara 17, Heera 16, Bushra 13, Ali 9 and Mohammed 5 years old.**

### Meeting individual needs

Holy Trinity School plays an important role in the lives of the Majid family. Dad, Nahid attended as a child, and so have all five of his children. The school's motto is: "No child is left behind" - something Nahid agrees with.

He says: "All children are valued and the school ensures their individual needs are met so nobody is ever left behind, which is very important."

### Equal opportunities

Ali has Down's syndrome and Nahid is very happy with the school's inclusive approach to ensure he is happy and reaches his full potential.

"Ali absolutely loves school," explains Nahid. "He has speech and language difficulties and is unable to communicate verbally, Ali's one to one support teacher has enabled his class pupils and others to sign Makaton which has enabled other pupils to interact with Ali and welcome him with open arms."

### Confidence building

The staff aim to make every child's school experience a rich and rewarding one where they develop confidence and pride in success.

"Mohammed was quite shy when he first started but now he is much more outgoing," says Nahid. "The teachers and classroom assistants really built up his confidence and he is very settled."

### Welcomes all religions

Holy Trinity was recognized as delivering outstanding worship after a diocesan inspection in 2013, the school welcomes children of all religions and cultures.

"We are a Muslim family but Mohammed enjoys all lessons, assemblies and the choir," says Nahid. "It is good for him to learn about other religions and cultures and the school encourages this. There are many Muslim families at the school, which welcomes everyone."

### "Both really happy"

Nahid says that both his sons enjoy their time at Holy Trinity. He explains: "I sometimes have to pick Ali up early for medical appointments during school time and if Mohammed sees me he gets upset because he thinks I've come to pick him up as well and he doesn't want to miss out on anything at school. They are both really happy there."

**"He has speech and language difficulties and is unable to communicate verbally, Ali's one to one support teacher has enabled his class pupils and others to sign Makaton which has enabled other pupils to interact with Ali and welcome him with open arms"**



# Clubs: a place where no child is left behind



There is a full programme of clubs and activities to enhance the school curriculum, and give the pupils opportunities to succeed in other areas:  
film club • tag rugby • cross country • netball • pyramid club • sewing.

# Elaine recommends Holy Trinity School as the very best place for young children to learn

**Elaine Barker lives in Darwen with her daughter Taryn, age five.**

## Changing perceptions

"When I was younger Holy Trinity School didn't have the best reputation and I thought things were still the same," explains Elaine. "I am the head of education for a national children's charity and I was really concerned, but I was persuaded to go in and meet Mr. Standen, who I was told was one of the best and most forward thinking headteachers you could ever meet. I soon found out that this was true."

## Treated with respect

"I made an unannounced visit and Mr. Standen put everything to one side and spent two hours showing me around. He explained that all children are treated with respect and as individuals, and no child is ever held back or pushed forward for another. Education at Holy Trinity is an absolute partnership between the school and the parents. I was really impressed and decided to enrol Taryn. I'm so glad that I did."

## Pride in the school

Holy Trinity School has excellent facilities and equipment, as well as a unique outdoor forest area, which is a source of great fun and pride. "The forest area is really great," says Elaine. "The school even has their own chickens and the children can enjoy being responsible for something. They care a great deal and you can tell that there is a lot of pride in the school from the children, the staff and the Governors."

## Communication and leadership

The headteacher produces a weekly newsletter and has also developed a new mobile phone app, which is something that Elaine values. "The app and the weekly newsletters are very useful," she says. "Mr. Standen is an excellent leader and not afraid to share his vision for the future and making sure that everyone comes on board with it. "Discipline is great because you don't see a lot of it. If any of the children do get into trouble the staff spot it early and deal with it quickly and efficiently, but they treat the children like little grown ups, talking them through what has happened so that they understand."

## First choice

"I've completely changed my perception and would recommend the school to anyone. A school that was my initial first choice recently informed that a place had become available but there is no way that I would move Taryn, as she is just so happy. When she leaves Holy Trinity School in Year Six I know she will be a better person, with good life skills that will be valuable to her in later life, and you cannot ask for more than that."

## Children say:

Taryn only has one thing to say about Holy Trinity School, and that's: "I absolutely love it!"

**"When she leaves Holy Trinity School in Year Six, I know she will be a better person, with good life skills that will be valuable to her in later life, and you cannot ask for more than that"**





# Admissions: a place where no child is left behind

## Visiting the school

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our school are invited to visit and look around at any time

## Applications

The Local Authority Admission's Office deals with all new admissions to Holy Trinity C of E Primary School. Please click on <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/School-admissions.aspx>, or contact:

Mail Admissions  
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council,  
Children's Services Department,  
10 Duke Street,  
Blackburn,  
BB2 1DH

Tel: 01254 666605  
Fax: 01254 666884  
E-mail: [Admissions@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Admissions@blackburn.gov.uk)

# Getting involved: a place where no child is left behind

## Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, teachers and the Local Education Authority. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.

### Do you want to be a Governor?

If you would like to be a School Governor please contact the school office.

## Parental Involvement

We have a parent teacher group, PTFG, which helps to raise funds for the school. If you are interested in joining, and helping the school raise funds, please contact the school office.



# How to find us



Holy Trinity VC CofE Primary School  
Bank Top  
Darwen  
BB3 2RW

Telephone 01254 702119  
e-mail: [holy.trinity@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:holy.trinity@blackburn.gov.uk)  
Web: <http://www.holytrinitydarwen.co.uk/>  
Twitter: @holytrinityVC for the latest news and information.

