

Northern Lights Learning Trust

Venerable Bede CE Academy



Open Evening Handbook

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Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Northern Lights Learning Trust

Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

Telephone: 0191 523 9745

Email: venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk

Website: www.venerablebede.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

CEO: Jo Heaton OBE



Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to welcome you to Venerable Bede Church of England Academy, and thank you for taking the time to come along to see what we offer. Moving to secondary school is an exciting and memorable time for pupils, parents and carers alike. It can sometimes seem quite a daunting prospect, but we aim to make the transition to Venerable Bede CE Academy as exciting as possible for your child, and also make it as smooth a transition as possible. We are a medium sized secondary school, built for approximately 900 pupils, 180 pupils in each year. This does mean that we can know each pupil as an individual, and work with them and their family over their five year journey together.

We want all of the pupils who join Venerable Bede CE Academy to flourish, leaving us at the end of their five years with the knowledge, skills and qualifications that will enable them to move into the next phase of their education or training, and eventually take their place as a responsible adult in society. We also want them to enjoy their secondary school years. This should be the beginning of a partnership, a two-way dialogue between home and school. Our aim is to help all of our young people succeed, and by working together I am confident that each child will realise their God-given potential and "Soar to the Heights Together". It is equally important to us that our pupils are happy, cared for and able to work in partnership with each other and the community.

We understand that for you, as a family, choosing a secondary school is a really important decision. I would encourage you to take a look around all departments this evening and ask any questions you might have. I know that our pupils and staff will answer them honestly. I believe that our pupils are fantastic ambassadors. They can talk to you about their journey from primary to secondary school.

Hopefully, the information contained in this booklet together with tonight's presentation, will answer most of your questions and give you the information you need to make an informed choice about whether Venerable Bede Academy is right for your child. However, if you have any other questions – no matter how small – please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Our door is always open.

Warm regards,

David Airey

Mr D Airey
Headteacher



Northern Lights Learning Trust is a company registered in England & Wales (07909140) with its registered office at Benedict Biscop Church of England Academy, Marcross Drive, Moorside, Sunderland, SR3 2RE.

Transition & Application Process



We offer a full transition programme to ensure the best start for your child as they move from primary school to secondary school.

Our transition programme begins in Year 5 when pupils at our feeder primary schools will be given the opportunity to visit the Venerable Bede CE Academy for taster lessons.

In Year 6 key members of our staff (including the Pastoral Year Group Managers and SENDCo) as well as prefects visit our feeder primary schools during the Summer term. This helps to ensure that pupils' needs are identified and strategies to support them are discussed.

In the Summer term of Year 6 there is a transition evening for parents and two full transition days in school to allow Year 6 pupils to experience 'real life' here at Venerable Bede CE Academy. During this time pupils will get to meet some of their teachers, including their form tutor, and get a feel for the layout of the school to ensure that the transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible. During August there is a summer school for pupils who have particular needs or if they are the only child coming from their primary school.

During the first week in September, new Year 7 pupils will receive special attention as they settle into their new school. They will be looked after by a team of prefects who will make sure they get to lessons on time and find their way around school.

Application Process:

- Venerable Bede CE Academy is inclusive and all children are welcome.
- We are a neighbourhood academy; open to all.
- You do not need to be baptised or be a practising Christian to apply for a place.
- All children who apply will be offered a place unless the academy is oversubscribed.
- You do not have to live in the immediate area to apply for a place.
- Applying online is the simplest option. Go to <https://bit.ly/VBTFCADMIN> to complete your application. You can do this either at home or alternatively at City Hall. The online facility is open during the preference period – **11 September to 31 October 2023**.
- If you are unable to complete online, you can obtain a paper application form by calling **0191 520 5560**. You can hand it in to any Customer Service Centre or the School Admissions Team. Please make sure you receive a receipt when you hand in your application form.
- If your child is already of secondary school age and you would like them to transfer to Venerable Bede CE Academy, please complete a transfer application form from your current school and apply to school.admissions@sunderland.gov.uk. Once we receive the application we will contact you to invite you into school and discuss how we can support you through this straightforward process. Any queries regarding this contact us on **0191 523 9745**.
- Please contact the school if you would like to arrange a visit. For further details please see our website <https://venerablebede.co.uk>
- Applications can be made tonight, in **Room 20**.

Introduction to Venerable Bede CE Academy



Key Personnel

Senior Leadership Team



Mr D. Airey
Headteacher



Mrs T. Burgess
Senior Deputy Headteacher



Mr J. Exley
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs S. Holt
Assistant Headteacher/
SEDNDCo



Mrs A. Chapman-Jones
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs V. DaGama
Assistant Headteacher

Pastoral Year Group Managers



Mrs S. Osmond
Year 7



Ms C. Atwater
Year 8



Ms T. Willetts
Year 9



Mrs H. Kelly
Year 10



Mr R. Gray
Year 11

Senior Prefects



Neve
Senior Prefect



Jessica
Senior Prefect



Jessica
Senior Prefect



Jessica
Senior Prefect

"As a team, the Senior Prefects are always available to answer any questions new pupils may have"

"We hope to help make the transition into Year 7 as easy as possible"

"There are many opportunities here; everybody has the chance to get involved"

"I look forward to representing the views of the pupils positively and being of help to our new Year 7"

School Day Overview



TIMINGS	8.40 to 9.15	9.15 to 10.15	10.15 to 10.30	10.30 to 11.30	11.30 to 1.00			1.00 to 2.00	2.00 to 3.00
ACTIVITY/ DURATION		PERIOD 1 (60 MINS)	15 MINS	PERIOD 2 (60 MINS)	PERIOD 3 (60 MINS) AND LUNCH (30 MINS) TOTAL - 90 MINS			PERIOD 4 (60 MINS)	PERIOD 5 (60 MINS)
Year 7	T U T O R	LESSON	B R E A K	LESSON	LESSON (30 MINS)	LUNCH (BISTRO)	LESSON (30 MINS)	LESSON	LESSON
Year 8	T U T O R	LESSON	B R E A K	LESSON	LUNCH (HALL)	LESSON		LESSON	LESSON
Year 9	T U T O R	LESSON	B R E A K	LESSON	LESSON		LUNCH (HALL)	LESSON	LESSON
Year 10	T U T O R	LESSON	B R E A K	LESSON	LUNCH (BISTRO)	LESSON		LESSON	LESSON
Year 11	T U T O R	LESSON	B R E A K	LESSON	LESSON		LUNCH (BISTRO)	LESSON	LESSON

Travel Arrangements

The school is well served by local buses to and from school:

Parents/carers can check individual times with the bus operators for their nearest stop.

Go North East Customer Services - 0191 420 50 50

Moorside & Doxford Park	39/39A/39B
East Herrington	4 to Doxford Park then 39A
Houghton Le Spring	39A
Silksworth	2/2A/39/39A/39B
Seaham	60/X6 then 2/2A or 39/39A/39B
Information correct at time of printing. Please plan your route carefully.	

Christian Ethos



Venerable Bede CE Academy aims to provide an environment where pupils may continue to grow in their Christian faith; for pupils who are not of the Christian faith, the school seeks to provide a positive experience of a Christian community so that the Christian faith might be respected and understood. Our daily act of worship and compulsory religious education lessons promote these aims.

Pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship. This may take place in tutor groups, in the Bistro with their year group or in the School Hall as a Key Stage. Collective worship provides an opportunity for pupils to reflect on Christian themes. A termly Eucharist is celebrated at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the Summer Term.

As a school we have very strong relationships with our local parish churches (St. Paul's, Ryhope, St. Matthew's, Silksworth and St. Wilfrid's, Doxford Park). The local vicars are part of our associate chaplaincy team and are regularly in school taking worship, aiding RE lessons and providing pastoral support across the school.

Venerable Bede CE Academy
Christian Values

Joy
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

Hope
For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord...plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11

Forgiveness
Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.
Colossians 3:13

The Venerable Bede
c.673 - 735

Soar to the Heights Together

Venerable Bede CE Academy
Christian Values

Wisdom
If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
James 1:5

Perseverance
And let us work with perseverance... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
Hebrews 12:1-2

The Venerable Bede
c.673 - 735

Soar to the Heights Together

Christian Ethos



Venerable Bede CE Academy aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian faith and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

We believe that our Christian values spring from the two great commandments, 'Love God' and 'Love your neighbour'. We seek to live this out through the power of the Holy Spirit. St Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:22-23 that the fruit of the Spirit is "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". These are also underpinned by the Old Testament injunction to "To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" Micah 6:8. These values, rooted in the Christian Faith, come as a package and we aim to embed them in the life of our academies in a worked out way.

We recognise that, at times, we may highlight particular values to bring them into greater prominence, within our academies, and these are currently the five values of Joy, Hope, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Perseverance. We believe these values to be in accordance with British Values springing from our Judeo-Christian roots. Collective worship will play a major and vital part in assisting with this process of embedding these values in the life of our academies.

Our Christian ethos is embraced through the Venerable Bede CE Academy mission statement:

"Soar to the heights together"

This is embodied in scripture:

'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'

Isaiah 40:31



Pastoral Care



Five 'Pastoral Year Group Managers' lead pastoral care in each year group. They are supported by a team of form tutors. Each pupil has a form tutor who remains with them throughout their five year journey. The form tutor is the first point of contact for pupils, parents and carers.

Pastoral care and behaviour is managed by a team which includes Mrs Chapman-Jones (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Riley (Pupil Welfare and Intervention Manager), Mrs Holt (Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo) and is overseen by Mr Exley (Deputy Headteacher).

Pastoral Year Group Managers

Y7 Mrs Osmond

Y8 Ms Atwater

Y9 Ms Willetts

Y10 Mrs Kelly

Y11 Mr Gray

Pastoral Year Group Managers move up the school with their year group and then revert back to Year 7.

Attendance and Punctuality

The greatest factors in determining success at school are good attendance and a positive attitude to learning.

Pupils should arrive to school by 8.30 am to register at 8.40 am.

There is a breakfast club available to all pupils from 7.45 am.

Positive Behaviour

We have a real focus on celebrating and rewarding the positive behaviour that is displayed within lessons and around the academy. We believe that it is important to regularly reward pupils for their good behaviour. However, any negative behaviour will not be tolerated. We have three simple behaviour expectations for all pupils; to be ready, to be respectful and to be safe. Pupils are expected to be responsible for their own behaviours.

We see the importance in restorative justice. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on any negative behaviour and they are given opportunities to apologise to others for their behaviour.

Pastoral Care



School Council

Every pupil is given the opportunity to represent their form as part of their Year Council. This forum is responsible for sharing the opinions of their form group and discussing year-group issues. Representatives are then elected from each Year Council to form the School Council. This forum considers whole-school issues and allows pupils to work with staff to discuss how aspects of the academy can be improved.

Anti-Bullying

This school takes bullying seriously and we have zero tolerance towards bullying. Each tutor group has anti-bullying representatives and pupils are aware of what to do if they think they are being bullied or if they think that someone else is being bullied. Anti-bullying is firmly embedded within the Personal Development (PD) curriculum which is delivered by form tutors. We are also extremely proud to have achieved the Sunderland School award for the best whole-school approach to cyber safety.

Uniform and Equipment

All pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform each day and come to school smart, tidy, and prepared for learning. Please see the academy's website for full details of our uniform and equipment expectations.

Use of Lockers

All pupils are allocated a locker during their first week in Year 7. Pupils are expected to take personal responsibility for their own lockers.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At Venerable Bede CE Academy we have a variety of extra-curricular activities that we encourage all pupils to take part in. Some extra-curricular activities that are currently offered in school include: Art Club, Homework Club, Cricket, Netball, Rounders, Trampoline, Badminton, Rugby, Football, and Fitness Suite.

Mobile phones/electronic devices

Mobile phones and any other electronic devices are not allowed to be used within the academy. Should a pupil choose to bring their mobile phone to school, this should be placed in their locker upon arrival to school. Mobile phones will be confiscated if they are seen throughout the school day.

Dining Arrangements



Dining Arrangements

All pupils remain on the academy site for break and lunch.

Breakfast:

A free breakfast club for all pupils runs every morning, in the school Bistro, from 7.45 am.

Lunch:

Lunch is served in the Bistro, which sells a wide range of healthy foods. Cash cannot be used in the Bistro. Pupils will be allocated a personal pin number in order to add money to their account. Parents/carers may ask for a printout of food ordered by pupils.

N.B. If pupils are entitled to a **Free School Meal**, their account will be credited with £2.50 per day for lunch. If your child wishes to spend more than their allowance, they will need to add extra money to their account.





Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Pupils may have special needs for a wide variety of reasons. There may be a temporary or long-term physical disability, they may experience difficulty in one or more areas of learning, have a sensory impairment or have behavioural issues. Their needs for support are different and change over time. Many special educational needs will be met through the careful lesson and curriculum planning alongside a wide range of teaching approaches.

For some pupils this will not be sufficient; in order to assist them, extra support and planning may be required. The pupil may be entered as SEN Support on the school SEN register. This will mean that the Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo) takes a lead role in managing and co-ordinating the educational provision for the pupil. At this point there may be a request for support from external services (e.g. Educational Psychology Service, Hearing Impairment Advisory Team, School Nurse or Behaviour Support Service) for advice on how we can best support the pupil. The strategies may mean that there is some extra support from a Learning Support Assistant either in class or in a small group. Learners are tracked, monitored and reviewed by the SENDCo and there is communication with parents/ carers and the learner on a regular basis.

For a very few pupils the support given through SEN Support may not be sufficient to enable the pupil to make adequate progress. It will then be necessary for the school, in consultation with the parents and any external agencies already involved, to consider whether to ask the Local Authority (LA) to start a statutory assessment for an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP). This means the LA will collect advice from all people involved with the pupil and make recommendations about the kind of support they need.

If you would like a copy of the SEND Policy, you may request one from school or visit our website. For SEND enquiries, please contact the SENDCo or the Pastoral Year Group Manager.

We will do our very best to work with you to support your child and help them overcome any barriers to learning.

Curriculum



Our **DEEP** curriculum is constantly reviewed and developed to create a challenging, appropriate, relevant, and inclusive curriculum for all of our pupils. There is an emphasis on promoting strength and success in traditional academic subjects balanced with a desire to foster personalisation our provision. We aim to provide rich opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, a wide range of skills and to enjoy memorable learning experiences.

Learning starts firmly with the National Curriculum and focuses on knowing more and remembering more. The allocation of time to each subject area is in accordance with the demands of the National Curriculum and is taught across a fortnightly timetable (25 hours per week). The distribution of periods within the lower school timetable is as follows:

Subject	Number of periods per fortnight
English (including Literacy)	8
Maths	6
Science	6
Religious Studies	4
Geography	4
History	4
Spanish	4
Physical Education	4
Technology & Computer Science **	4
Personal Development	2
Art	2
Music	2

**** Design Technology and Computer Science operate a carousel system. Students will experience graphics, resistant materials, food, textiles and Computer Science.**

Curriculum



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy is an inclusive school. We are committed to providing the best possible learning opportunities for all of our pupils, and enabling our pupils to achieve optimum success. Our mission is to provide a broad, balanced curriculum, meeting all statutory requirements, and enshrining our vision, opportunity and achievement within a Christian learning environment. As a comprehensive school our curriculum should provide the opportunity for all to succeed.

Through our **DEEP** curriculum, we hope to inspire, in our pupils, a love of learning that will stay with them long after they reach the school-leaving age. We believe in encouraging each pupil to have high self-esteem and to realise that, by believing in themselves and through hard work, they can reach their true potential as a child of God.

To do this, we offer a **DEEP** curriculum that is built on our five Christian values (**Joy, Hope, Forgiveness, Wisdom, and Perseverance**) and is surrounded by our three simple behaviour expectations: to be **Ready, Respectful and Safe**.

Ready • Respectful • Safe

Perseverance • Joy

Through our **DEEP** curriculum,
EVERY pupil is going to...

Develop
a love of learning, academic excellence and
perseverance in a Christian context

Engage
in a wide range of opportunities in **joyful**, meaningful
contexts to develop self-worth and mastery of
knowledge and skills

Encourage
themselves and others to be aspirational and make
wise choices so that they are prepared for life

Practise
equality of opportunity by valuing diversity, actively
challenging prejudice and demonstrating **forgiveness**
and **hope**

Northern Lights
CURRICULUM INTENT

Ready • Respectful • Safe

Perseverance • Joy

Through our **DEEP** curriculum, every child is going to:

Develop a love of learning, academic excellence and perseverance in a Christian context

Engage in a wide range of opportunities in joyful, meaningful contexts to develop self-worth and mastery of knowledge and skills

Encourage themselves and others to be aspirational and make wise choices so that they are prepared for life

Practise equality of opportunity by valuing diversity, actively challenging prejudice and demonstrating forgiveness and hope.

Teaching & Learning



At Venerable Bede CE Academy we believe that every child deserves a high-quality learning experience in every subject across the curriculum. We believe in creating an inclusive environment that fosters pupils' love of learning through a fascination in the world around them and a curiosity to learn more.

We do this by:

- Having an effective and diverse curriculum, allowing pupils to be prepared for 21st century life.
- Having well qualified, skilled teachers who know pupils well.
- Valuing every pupil as an individual and adapting learning to meet specific learning needs, including differentiation, extension and enrichment.
- Fostering skills such as resilience and independence through home learning.
- Encouraging pupils to practice metacognition skills in their learning - evaluating what they have done well and what they need to do to improve.
- Developing skills of retrieval. This will help pupils to recall previous knowledge whilst also moving forward to learn that which is new.
- Giving clear, effective feedback in order for pupils to make progress.

To facilitate long-term learning, the skills and content for each subject are spaced and interleaved throughout our curriculum. Additionally, classroom pedagogy is built around the effective use of retrieval practice for pupils to remember knowledge over time. In every classroom across the school there is a genuine belief that high aspirations will be realised and challenges met. We know our pupils, we know what motivates them and we know how they can achieve their potential. We create a wonderful atmosphere within our classrooms and across the school so that pupils can be engaged and inspired by their learning.



Your local school

A neighbourhood school; open to all.

We pride ourselves in being part of the community. All members of the community are welcome to visit us, please see below to for details. Our pupils are excellent ambassadors and are always keen to be involved in local projects.

To arrange a visit please contact us:

Venerable Bede CE Academy

Headteacher: Mr. D Airey (BScHons)

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