

St. Benet's Catholic Primary School Brochure 2024/2025



Ringsfield Road, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9PQ
Tel: 01502 712012
www.st-benets.suffolk.sch.uk

St. Benet's Catholic Primary School

Part of the Federation of the Catholic Schools of the Waveney Valley
Ringsfield Road, Beccles NR34 9PQ
Telephone: 01502 712012



Dear Parents, Carers and Visitors

Welcome to St Benet's Catholic Primary School!

Through this brochure we hope to show you something of the life at St Benet's Primary School. If you have never visited the school before, we hope you will be encouraged to find out more about us. As a school, as a community and as a witness of God's love in the lovely Suffolk town of Beccles.

We hope to give you a flavour of our curriculum and of the key people who bring that curriculum to life for the children in our school.

In our small school community we are able to get know each child individually so that they are able to thrive and grow in confidence. We hope to meet you soon.

Executive Federation Head

Mrs. Samantha Barlow

The School

St Benet's is a co-educational voluntary-aided school for children aged 4 to 11. The school was opened in 1898 and owes its existence to the dedication of the Benedictine Fathers of Downside Abbey and the Catholic community of Beccles. We currently have 96 pupils on roll.

St Benet's, like all Catholic schools, is distinctive because our entire educational policy and approach is inspired by and flows from the vision of life which is enshrined in our faith tradition.

Our Catholic faith perspective is not simply an added extra, but is integrated into the whole life of the school and permeates the whole curriculum.

The school attempts to provide a well-rounded, balanced curriculum, which covers a wide variety of areas of experience: English, Maths, Religious Education, Science, Music, Art, PE, Computing, DT, Geography and History.

One of our prime tasks is to create an atmosphere of welcome and respect, which promotes and makes possible the full personal development of all pupils.

Mission Statement

“At St Benet's we hold Christ at the centre and recognise him in everyone as we journey together teaching and learning, challenging each other to be all that we can be”



Links with our Parish Church

We enjoy close links with our Parish Church of St Benet's Minster. Mass is celebrated in the church and the school itself on a regular basis. The children are encouraged to contribute by being an altar server, by reading or by singing.

The Federation Governing Body

St Benet's formed a Federation with St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Bungay, in July 2010 and we have an active and enthusiastic Governing Body who is responsible for the governance of the schools with the aim of promoting high standards of educational achievement. This responsibility gives rise to a wide range of specific responsibilities which in turn require the Governing Body to establish a range of procedures.

The Governing Body consists of Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop, Staff Governors elected by the staff, Parent Governors elected by the parents and LEA Governors appointed by the Local Education Authority and Associate Governors with links to our community. Governors are also allocated specific responsibility to an individual school to ensure proper governance.

Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Samantha Barlow
Staff Representative - Ms. Carol Roberts

Foundation - Mrs. Mary Ellwood
Foundation - Maura Williams
Foundation - Father Michael Brookes
Parent Governor - Mrs. Beccie Amer

Associate Governor - Ms. Amanda Lyons

Clerk to the Governors - Ms. Kate Lewis

STAFF AT OUR SCHOOL

Executive Federation Head - Mrs. Samantha Barlow

Assistant Head Teacher - Miss. Amanda Lyons

TEACHING STAFF

Mrs Julie Huxtable - Beech (EYFS)
Miss Emily Lewis - Rowan
Miss. Carol Roberts - Oak
Mrs. Glynis Reynolds - SENCO

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Teaching Assistants

Mrs. Joanne Woodgate
Mrs. Teresa Sheen
Miss Molly McEntee
Mrs Celeste Newson

School Admin. - Mrs. Karen Watts
Finance Officer - Mr. Andy Osborne
Caretaker - Mr. Andy Osborne

School Chef - Mrs. Zoe Sheehan

Middy Supervisors - Mrs. Celeste Newson
- Mrs. Sandra Tyler
- Mrs. Marina Raywood



STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Our Day

8:45 am	Whistle Blows
9:00 am	Registration
10:30 am	Morning Break
10:45 am	End of Morning Break
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Afternoon session begins
3:15 pm	End of school

Children should arrive in the school grounds between 8.30 and 8.40 am. The bell goes at 8.45 am and the children go into class. The gate is closed at 9.00 am. Parents are asked to collect children promptly at 3.15 pm.

We are an “All Weather School” and will send the children out to play at break and lunch, unless we deem it unsafe due to extreme weather conditions e.g. thunder and lightning, very heavy rain etc. Please send your child with appropriate outerwear assuming that they will probably be going outside.

Assembly Times

Monday	2.45 pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	2.45 pm	Whole School Assembly
Wednesday	2.45 pm	Whole School Assembly
Thursday	9 am	Class Assembly
Friday	2.45pm	Celebration Assembly

Class Structure

There are three mixed-ability classes in the school, all with two mixed Year groups, except Early Years Foundation Stage which has three. New pupils start full-time in Beech Class from the age of 4.

Beech Class caters for children in EYFS (Reception), Year 1 and Year 2

Rowan Class caters for children in Year 3 and Year 4

Oak Class caters for children in Year 5 and Year 6



Religious Education

In our voluntary aided school, collective worship and religious education are in accordance with the Roman Catholic Faith. We rely on parents to help us foster the Christian attitudes, ideal and values that are taught in school. In RE lessons, whilst following the scheme “The Way, the Truth, the Life”, we also encourage the children to cultivate a personal relationship with God and respond to Him in faith. Prayer, liturgy and regular focus on the Sacraments enable the children to deepen their faith.



INSIDE ST BENET'S CHURCH

The Curriculum

St Benet's follows the national curriculum guidelines, which provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop stimulating lessons to promote pupils' development as part of the wider curriculum.

The core subjects for Key Stage 1 (Beech Class) and Key Stage 2 (Classes Rowan and Oak) are English, Maths, Science and R.E. The Foundation Subjects are Art and Design, Computing, Design Technology, Geography, History, Music and P.E with a Modern Foreign Language in KS2

In the first year at St Benet's (Beech Class) children work towards the Early Learning Goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This consists of seven areas of learning and development with three prime areas: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design are specific areas in which these prime areas are strengthened. Three important characteristics for effective teaching and learning are “playing and learning”, ‘active learning’ and ‘creating and thinking critically’. At the end of the year children are assessed using the Foundation Stage Profile, which builds up information of a child's development throughout the year.



Assessment

Assessment of children's work is rigorous. This is done during each lesson and more formally through our own system of regular assessments. In this way, we ensure that each child is making progress and that we are providing the appropriate level of challenge. Your child's progress is regularly tracked throughout the school to help ensure each child enjoys success.

Friends of St Benet's

We are fortunate enough to have an active and hardworking PTA which is known as the "Friends of St Benet's". If you are a parent of this school you are automatically a member of the Association. The committee works closely with the Headteacher and staff PTA members and organise a range of functions and events that are of interest to children, parents, staff and the wider community. In doing so it raises funds to help with many activities and projects in this school. Meetings of the Association are advertised in the school newsletters. For further information, please contact our PTA Chairperson via the school.

Clubs and Activities

Clubs take place at lunch times and after school. At the beginning of every term, we send details of the Clubs available and request parental permission.

Club activities may include sport, music, art etc. We have a specialist Sports Provider – Premier Sport – who come into school one day a week to take PE lessons, and they run very popular lunchtime and evening clubs. In the Summer Term we hold our annual Sports Day, assisted by Premier Sport.

The School Council

We have an active School council that meets regularly to discuss issues of concern to the pupils. The school council will address the issues and look for ways of improving school-life for all. Children from all classes are represented on the council.

"The School Council is good because we listen to people and improve the school."

Ava Year 6

Catering



School Lunches

Excellent meals are cooked on the premises by our own school cook who is employed by Aspens.

The cost of a school lunch is £2.53.

We ask that you use SELECT link on our website – to choose and pay for your child's lunch in advance.

Even children entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals will need to book their lunches via this system. If you would like some help with this system or do not have access to a computer/smart phone/tablet at home, please ask the school office.

A copy of the three weekly menu is available on our website.

Free School Meals

It's now quicker and easier to apply for Free School Meals. For the majority of claimants you will no longer need to send proof of your benefits with the application form. Suffolk County Council will check your eligibility against the Government's benefits database and as long as you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, the provision of Free School Meals will commence. An application form is available from the school or can be downloaded at www.suffolk.gov.uk Children in EYFS & KSI automatically qualify for Free School Meals but we encourage parents who are in receipt of benefits to register as this will help to support school funds.

Packed Lunches

Packed Lunches may be brought into school in a clearly labelled bag. Please ensure that your child's lunch has a healthy balance. We would like to remind parents that packed lunches should be healthy and sweets and chocolates are not to be brought to school.

Snacks

All children in Early Years and Key Stage One are provided with fruit for mid-morning snacks. Key Stage Two may also bring in fruit as a mid-morning snack.

Medicine

Medicine is administered in school in accordance with Local Authority policy. If a midday medication dose is required every effort will be made to give the required dose at the correct time but no responsibility for omission can be accepted. Medicine can only be given if it is prescribed by the Doctor as part of a course of treatment, and is in its original container bearing the child's name, class and dosage instructions. Parents and carers are required to complete a prescription medication administration form. All medicines must be left with the School Office for safe-keeping. For Asthma sufferers it does help if labelled inhalers can be left at school rather than brought in each day. Please ensure you check regularly with the office to make sure your child's inhaler is still in date.

School Uniform

At St Benet's we are proud of our school uniform and often receive comments when out in the community or on a school trip on how smart we look. It is important that St Benet's is well thought of locally and that the pupils are recognised as excellent ambassadors for our schools. Application for a place at St. Benet's implies acceptance of this preferred option. As well as our overall uniform requirements, we ask that all hair accessories are discrete and in keeping with the smart look and hair is not coloured in any way from the child's natural colour.

	Autumn & Spring Terms	Summer Term
Boys	Grey Trousers White Shirt Navy Logo Jumper Federation Tie Blazer (optional for KSI) Grey Socks Black Shoes	Grey Shorts or Trousers White Logo Polo Shirt Navy Logo Jumper Blazer (optional) Grey Socks Black Shoes
Girls	Grey Skirt/Tunic/Trousers White Shirt Navy Logo Jumper or Cardigan Federation Tie Blazer (optional for KSI) Grey Tights or Socks Black Shoes	Red and White Gingham Dress Navy Logo Cardigan or Jumper Blazer (optional) White Socks Black Shoes
PE	Blue Logo Polo Shirt Navy Shorts Logo School Hoodie Trainers (KS2) Plimsols (KSI) No Jewellery is to be worn for PE	As Autumn and Winter plus Swimming Costume/Trunks Swimming Hat Goggles (optional) Towel No Jewellery is to be worn for PE

All uniform and PE bags should be clearly named.

Our uniform suppliers are Screens in Lowestoft who supply direct to you and orders should be made online. We **do not** hold supplies of uniform within school although, our PTA ("Friends of St Benet's") periodically hold a secondhand uniform sale. Please contact our "Friends of St Benet's" chairperson via the school office for further details

https://www.screensschoolwear.co.uk/primary-school-st-benets-c-21_202.html

Homework

All children are encouraged to take home a book to read. Children have a diary and a book bag. Most children also have weekly spellings to learn. We ask that all books are looked after at home and returned promptly to school. Additional homework is set in KS2.

Parent Involvement

Parents may visit school at any convenient time to see the work of the school. In addition, the school is open during the year for the specific purpose of parent-teacher meetings when children's work and records are available inspection.



Autumn Term- 'Meet & Greet' Parents Evening
Summer term- School reports and Parent Evening

Parents are invited to be involved throughout the school, in a variety of activities. Help with reading and school trips is encouraged. Speak to the School Office if you would like to offer to help in school life and activities.

Absences

If your child is absent from school for any reason you **must** inform us by telephone early on the morning of the first absence, in person or by note.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absences

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Holidays during term time are unauthorised, in accordance with the schools Absence Policy. Absence data is regularly reported to the local authority. The local authority will discuss with the school any cases of unauthorised absence and the issuing of penalty notices.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should not be brought into school, unless your child needs this when walking to or from school alone (Year 6 only). If your child brings their phone into school, this should be handed into the school office immediately they arrive at school and come and collect it at the end of the day. Phones will be kept in the office and signed in and out. If your child doesn't hand their phone in and loses it, then no responsibility will be taken by the school. Ideally we would have no phones in school!

A Safe environment in which to learn

Developing healthy attitudes early in life is essential to wellbeing. Pupils are encouraged to be physically active through their PE lessons and also at playtime and clubs.

Children's safety is paramount and regular risk assessments are carried out as well as regular maintenance of play and sports equipment. An Annual Health and Safety Audit is carried out. Staff are equipped to cope with accidents and there is a designated First Aider on site. Our caring attitude promotes children's emotional and physical well-being, as well as a building of good relationships between staff and pupils. Pupils are encouraged to care for one another through the buddy system as well as through PSHE.

Transfer to Secondary School

Year 6 children from St Benet's may move on to several different high schools including Notre Dame (Norwich), Sir John Leman High School (Beccles) and SET School Beccles, with whom we strive to develop close links for enrichment and to ensure smooth transitions for our pupils to high school.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.45am to 8.45am in our EYFS Building, by Mrs. Sheen and Mrs Woodgate, for all ages.

The price of Breakfast Club is £3.50 per child per day and should be booked and paid for in advance using WisePay. There is a maximum of 20 places available each day.

Children will be offered toast and variety of jams/spreads and a choice of cereals. Once they have eaten breakfast they are then allowed to play games or may play in the playground if the weather permits, supervised by an adult.

Breakfast Club is very popular and should be booked as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

OFSTED GOOD

St. Benet's is Good in all areas after the recent Ofsted inspection in July 2022 – some quotes from the report:-

“St. Benet's Catholic Primary School is a small school where every child is valued and well cared for. Pupils are proud of their school and enjoy lessons. Staff know and support pupils as individuals and encourage all pupils to succeed. One pupil voiced the thoughts of others by saying, ‘I love coming to school, because we all get on together and the teachers really care about me.’ The school environment is high quality, with lively, interesting classrooms and a wealth of different outdoor areas to stimulate pupils' learning.

Staff have high expectations of pupils' learning and behavior. Pupils live up to these expectations. Pupils treat each other with respect and are polite. When any minor misbehaviour or bullying occurs, staff quickly sort out the issues using a restorative approach.

A range of activities effectively support pupils' personal development. Pupils in all year groups are a credit to the school. Most pupils, including those children in Reception Year, take part in a range of interesting extracurricular pursuits.

Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They appreciate the excellent communication and are grateful that teachers are approachable and sort out any concerns quickly”.

“Children in early years enjoy listening to stories that they know well. The curriculum has been carefully planned to help them learn both indoors and outdoors. Teachers use children's interests to help inspire and motivate them. Children listen attentively and chat confidently to each other. They develop key planned knowledge quickly, for example when working hard on activities that require resilience, such as counting or construction challenges.”

“A warm, nurturing environment in Reception Year helps children to have positive attitudes to their learning. This continues throughout the school. A well-planned personal, social, health and economic education curriculum enables pupils to become kind, caring and socially responsible.”



Frequently Asked Questions.....

How do I contact school?

Please call on 01502 712012 or e-mail; office.stbenets@cpswv.org the office is manned between 8.30am and 3.30pm. Please leave a message if no one is available and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

What do I do if my child is poorly?

Please call school or e-mail; office.stbenets@cpswv.org as soon as possible and let us know the name and class of the child together with a brief explanation of why your child is unable to attend school. Remember: if your child has been vomiting, please do not return your child to school until 48 hours after the sickness has ceased. We follow the Health Authority guidance regarding returning to school after sickness. The school office can advise you on this matter or you can contact the local Health Protection Unit on Tel: 01473 329583.

What do I do about hospital, medical or dental appointments?

We ask parents to make arrangements for routine appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. However, if a non-routine or emergency appointment is required, please notify your child's class teacher by letter as soon as is possible or if this is not possible, contact the office by phone.

What do I do if I wish to take my child out of school for a holiday?

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Holidays during term time are actively discouraged in accordance with the schools Absence Policy. Absence data is regularly reported to the local authority. The local authority will discuss with the school any cases of unauthorised absence and the issuing penalty notices

Where do I get school uniform?

All uniform can be purchased from our supplier, Screens, by phone on: 01502 581010 or online at www.screensprinting.co.uk/st-benets-rc-primary-school/31-st-benets-rc-primary-school or pop in to them at Rant Score, Lowestoft, NR32 1TY

How can I help with the PTA?

The PTA is always looking for extra help! Please contact the school office for the current chair's contact details.

What do I do if I have a concern regarding my child?

Please speak with your child's class teacher at pick up to make an appointment to see them. We are always happy to help wherever we can. If you still remain concerned, please make an appointment to see our Deputy Head who is responsible for the daily management of our school. In the unlikely event you feel you need to speak with the Headteacher, please make an appointment through the school office.

What do I do if I have a concern about another child?

The school has 2 designated "Safeguarding" officers. Their names are displayed in the main school reception area. Please contact one of them to discuss your concerns.

Do you have parent's evenings and school reports?

We hold parents evenings twice a year, normally during the autumn and summer terms when you will be given the opportunity by appointment to speak with your child's class teacher one to one and see your child's work. We provide a comprehensive end of academic year report which includes details of all your child's achievements throughout the year together with attendance and assessment results.

Do you have after-school facilities?

No- but we do hold after-school clubs held 3 or 4 evenings a week normally finishing between 4-4.15pm. Please see Club information. We do charge a small fee for these.

St Benet's and St. Edmund's Catholic Primary Schools

Admission Policy 2024/25

St Benet's and St. Edmund's Catholic Primary Schools are voluntary aided primary co-educational schools for children between the ages of 4 and 11 years. The policy of the Governors is to admit up to a maximum of 15 children in the reception year at St Edmund's and 15 children at St Benet's, which is the admissions intake limit. The school's total capacity is assessed at 105 places for seven year groups at St Edmund's and 105 places for seven year groups at St Benet's.

Children are admitted into the school's Early Year/Reception class in one full-time intake at the beginning of the term in September.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available the following criteria will be applied. (In the event of a tie-break situation, distance will be measured by a straight line drawn on an ordnance survey map between the front door of the home and the front door of the school main entrance.)

Admissions criteria

The Governors are required by law to admit children who have a Statement of Special educational needs which name St Edmund's Catholic Primary or St Benet's Catholic Primary School as the school appropriate to their needs.

1. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

- (i) All looked after children.

2. CATHOLIC CHILDREN

- (i) Baptised siblings* of children of Catholic parent(s) within the Catholic Parish of St. Edmund, Bungay or Catholic Parish of St Benet's, Beccles. The Governors will require from the parish priest evidence of the child's baptism and may require evidence of the family's attendance at Sunday Mass.
- (ii) Baptised children of Catholic parent(s) within the Catholic Parish of St. Edmund, Bungay or St Benet's, Beccles. The Governors will require from the parish priest evidence of the child's baptism and may require evidence of the family's attendance at Sunday Mass.
- (iii) Baptised siblings* of Catholic parent(s) living outside the boundaries of the parish of St. Edmund, Bungay St Benet's, Beccles. The Governors will also require from the parish priest evidence of the child's baptism and may require evidence of the family's attendance at Sunday Mass.
- (iv) Baptised children of Catholic parent(s) living outside the boundaries of the parish of St. Edmund, Bungay and St Benet's, Beccles, priority will be given to those living closest to the school where they have applied. The Governors will require from the parish priest evidence of the child's baptism and may require evidence of the family's attendance at Sunday Mass.
- (v) Other baptised children of Catholic parent(s).

3. CHILDREN OF OTHER CHRISTIAN OR OF OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS (NON-CATHOLICS)

- (i) Baptised children with a sibling* attending the school on the proposed date of admission and whose parents regularly attend a Christian church. The Governors will require evidence of baptism and may require evidence of Church membership or attendance.
- (ii) Other siblings*.
- (iii) All other children

4. (l) **ALL OTHER CHILDREN INCLUDING CHILDREN OF NO FAITH.**

* Sibling refers to brother or sister, or any child who lives as a family at the same address.

Tiebreaker: In the event of over-subscription, priority will be given to pupils living nearest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line.

Applying for a place.

Parents and Guardians who wish to apply for a place for their child should do so as early as possible in the preceding academic year. Applications should be made to Suffolk County Council (or your own local authority in you do not live in Suffolk) online.

The Supplementary Information Form should be completed and returned to the school applied for.

Both forms should be completed and returned by the date specified on the Suffolk County Council website (usually 15th January for school entry the following September).

Earlier applications are welcome but will receive no priority.

Visits from prospective parents are positively encouraged and appointments can be made through the school office.

The Governors place all applications in order of priority according to the Admissions Policy criteria. This list is then submitted to the Local Authority where decisions on those gaining admission will be made and parents will be notified of acceptance, under the Co-ordinated Admissions timetable by Suffolk Local Authority. We regret that the governors are unable to indicate acceptance of a place at the school directly.

In the event of the Local Authority refusing a place, the parents or guardians of the child have the right to appeal in writing to the Statutory Appeals Office. Arrangements for independent appeals are co-ordinated by legal services as part of Suffolk's Primary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. These details are included in the 'Schools in Suffolk' admissions guidance booklet for parents.

Mid-year Applications

Applications made during the course of the academic year follow the same procedure as above with applications being made directly to the individual school offices.

Behaviour Policy

At St Benet's we have high expectations of pupil's behaviour and use praise and reward to encourage children to behave in a caring, courteous and thoughtful manner. From time to time teachers may feel that additional help is required in order to attain the desired standard of behaviour. This will be the time when teachers will seek the support of parents. It is by working in partnership that success is more easily achieved. If you would like more information on our Behaviour Policy please see the school website.

Safeguarding Children

The school is committed to promoting the Health and Welfare of all pupils. We are required by law to follow procedures laid down by Suffolk Area Child Protection Committee, if we see signs which suggest that one of our pupils may be at risk in some way. Use of the procedures in this way is an obligation placed on the school by legislation and in no way infers that the parent /carer are being accused of wrong-doing. We have two safeguarding officers at our schools and their details are displayed at the man school reception. All staff and governors are trained and follow Safeguarding procedures and a copy of the Policy is available on our website.

Inclusion

It is our aim that all children receive a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that is appropriately tailored to the needs of the individual.

We aim to meet the needs of those children with special educational needs and disabilities within the whole class where possible.

Where necessary the SENCO will seek the support of further specialist advice and support.

School Transport

The responsibility for ensuring that children attend school regularly rests with parents, but the Education Committee has a duty to help with the provision of transport if you live beyond a certain distance from the school. In carrying out this duty the Education Committee may use its own vehicles, private contractors or local bus services. The administration of the Suffolk School Transport Service is undertaken from the County Education Office at County Hall, Ipswich, and any enquiries should be made there.



TERM DATES 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

4th September 2024 - 20th December 2024

PD DAYS 2nd and 3rd September 2024

Half Term – 28th October – 1st November 2024

Christmas Holidays – 23rd December 2024 - 7th January 2025

Spring Term 2025

PD Day 6th January 2025

7th January 2024 – 4th April 2025

Half Term - 17th February – 21st February 2025

Easter Holidays – 7th April – 21st April 2025

Summer Term 2025

22nd April 2025 – 18th July 2025

Half Term - 26th May – 30th May 2025

PD Days (professional development days for teaching staff) are non-pupil days,
children do not attend school on these days

ST BENET'S PARISH AND ST BENET'S SCHOOL



Situated in the picturesque Waveney Valley, St Benet's Catholic Parish was founded towards the end of the century by Benedictine monks of Downside Abbey (Bath, Somerset). The architect who designed the minster, in the first decade of the twentieth century, was Frederick Banham. The land was provided by John George Kenyon, owner of the Gillingham Estate. The area covered by the parish extends from Haddiscoe in the north to Brampton in the south; Barnaby to the east and Kirby Cane to the west.

The link between the school and the parish has always been close. The school and the church are on adjacent sites, so that the parish church can serve as a school chapel. The church was built between 1900 and 1908, and was planned as the minster church of a large priory. The parish continues to be served by monks of the Benedictine Abbey of Downside Abbey and our present parish priest, who also serves as School Chaplain and as a Foundation Governor is Father Martin Gowman.



St Benet's school first opened in 1898. For many years the school was entirely in the building on the upper playground that is currently the Early Years setting. Later the senior class moved into the hall (which had originally been built as a temporary church). In 1955 Fr Benet Innes, Parish Priest and monk of Downside arranged for a new bungalow presbytery to be built and handed over the large presbytery to the school to be adapted for use. After £2300 was raised by appeal, the new buildings were officially opened. The School then consisted of the hall, the current offices and Class Two. School numbers were around 100 and the ages were 5 to 15 year olds. Two new classrooms were later built, which are currently Class 3 and 4. In the late 1950s St Benet's became a 5-11 Primary school, and is as we see it today.

In 2010 St Benet's school was federated with St Edmund's School in Bungay, which is just 6 miles away to the east. Together we became The Federation of Catholic Primary Schools of the Waveney Valley. We have a single governing body and an Executive Headteacher running both settings. Both schools, St. Benet's in Beccles and St. Edmund's in Bungay, continue to be supported by the Benedictine community at Downside Abbey. The school is now an academy and run by the 'St John the Baptist Multi Academy Trust'. A link is on our website.

The information and particulars contained in this prospectus relate to the school year indicated on the front cover and are correct at the time of publication. It should not be assumed that there will be no change affecting the relevant arrangements or some matter particularised –

- (a) Before the start of, or during the school year in question,
- (b) In relation to subsequent school years

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BECCLES AND SURROUNDING AREA PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE WEBSITE BELOW:

<http://www.beccles.info> and www.visitbeccles.co.uk