



Cardinal Hume
Catholic School



Prospectus 2026 – 2027

Proud to be part of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust





It is my pleasure to welcome you to Cardinal Hume Catholic School. We are high-achieving, successful and oversubscribed academy and, since 2019, have been part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, a family of schools from across Gateshead, Durham and Sunderland.

Our distinct Catholic ethos, high standards of discipline and commitment to every member of our school community makes this a truly special place to learn. We are a forward-thinking school and aim to ensure that all of our students are afforded the highest standard of education.

The school was judged to be Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted in May 2024 - a delightful achievement under a framework which is now more robust than ever before.

We were awarded World Class School status in 2021 and are a leading-edge Hub school in Science, Computing and Modern Foreign Languages. We support many other establishments, as well as developing trainee teachers as they embark on their careers in education. Extensive building developments in recent years have resulted in additional teaching space, a bespoke Sixth Form area and state of the art gym facilities.

Our focus on high quality teaching throughout the school provides a stimulating and challenging classroom experience; this has resulted in excellent academic outcomes for many years. We offer a curriculum that is rich, varied and ambitious for every student and deliver a wide range of academic and technical qualifications, while ensuring that 60-70% of students are entered for the English Baccalaureate at the end of Year 11. Furthermore, we actively encourage progression from Sixth Form to top Russell Group universities and high-quality apprenticeships.

Catholic education is, however, about much more than classroom teaching and curriculum delivery. We are also responsible for the spiritual, moral and character formation of the young people in our care. This is a responsibility that we take very seriously in our mission to form well-rounded citizens who are ready for the wider, 21st century, world.

The array of careers-related opportunities, extra-curricular activities and successful sporting teams demonstrate clearly our commitment to the wider development of our students. We have a very strong pastoral system, based on high standards of behaviour, mutual-respect and compassion, and this is the foundation of everything we do in school.

Choosing a secondary school is a very important decision for all families. To help you make an informed choice, I encourage you to visit the school, meet the staff and the students, view our facilities and learn more about the provision that we offer. I am sure that you will see that we aim to live out our school motto – Fide, Labore, Caritate – in all that we do. It simply means: in faith, hard work and kindness.

Mr B. Robson
Head Teacher

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Head Teacher: **Mr B. Robson**

Deputy Head Teacher: **Mr D. Addison**

Deputy Head Teacher: **Mr C. Jones**

Deputy Head Teacher: **Mr B. Stevenson**

Senior Assistant Head Teacher: **Mr M. Errington**

Senior Assistant Head Teacher: **Mrs L. Gray**

Senior Assistant Head Teacher: **Mrs C. Young**

Assistant Head Teacher: **Mrs D. Craig**

Assistant Head Teacher: **Mr D. Gribbin**

Associate Assistant Head Teacher: **Mr N. Evans**

Senior Leader: Operations: **Mrs B. Davies**

Chair of Local Governing Board: **Mr J. Sinclair**

Vice Chair: **Miss M. Elliott**

Number on school roll at end of year (2024/25)	1483
Number of students in years 12 and 13 (2024/25)	229
Number of incoming pupils for year 7 (2025/26)	260

Cardinal Hume is a Voluntary Aided Catholic Academy providing for the educational needs of 11-19 year old students from East Gateshead.

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The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

Cardinal Basil Hume

Born 1923, died 1999



A Welcome from the Acting CEO

It is a privilege to introduce myself as the Acting CEO of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and to welcome you to Cardinal Hume Catholic School.

Cardinal Hume is a school where faith, hard work and kindness are not only spoken of, but lived every day – Fide, Labore, Caritate. Rooted in the teaching of Christ, the school's mission is to fully develop every member of the community through encounters with faith, a commitment to excellence, and a deep care for others. It is a place where students are encouraged, in the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero, to "aspire not to have more but to be more."

As a Trust, we are deeply committed to supporting and nurturing the unique identity of each of our schools. At Cardinal Hume, this means providing an environment where every young person is challenged to reach their full academic potential, supported in their growth in faith, and inspired to make a positive difference both within and beyond the school community. Staff and students work together to foster respect, discipline and compassion, creating a vibrant school family where all can thrive.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most significant decisions you will make. As you explore this prospectus, I hope you will gain a real sense of the warmth, ambition, and values that define life at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. We would be delighted to welcome your child into this community, and to work in partnership with you as they grow in knowledge, character and faith.

With every good wish, **Lucie Stephenson, Acting CEO** – Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust



Bishop Thomas William Wilkinson

Thomas William Wilkinson was born in 1825. He was a priest for 60 years and a bishop for nearly 21 years.

His father was a well-known barrister who was appointed as the county court judge of Northumberland in 1847. Wilkinson was educated at Harrow before entering the recently established University of Durham. He was ordained there in 1845 and was appointed to a clerical position at the Anglo-Catholic and semi-monastic community of St Saviour's, Leeds. Within eighteen months both he and his other companions had converted to the Catholic Church.

Wilkinson spent the next two years at Oscott College training for the priesthood although he was actually ordained at Ushaw in 1848. His first appointment following ordination was as a missionary at Wolsingham where, for the next four years, he not only ministered to the population of the town but also to the rapidly expanding mining community of Crook, as well as engaging in directing building at Ushaw.

In 1865, and in recognition of his work, he was appointed as a canon of the chapter of the diocese of Hexham. Following a breakdown in health five years later, Wilkinson was forced to retire from active work and, for the next 20 years, he spent most of his time directing his estate at Thistleflatt. In 1889, Wilkinson was appointed bishop of Hexham and Newcastle but he also spent a great deal of time exercising jurisdiction over Ushaw, with the result that he was appointed president there in the following year.

During his presidency, Wilkinson was able to place the college finances on a proper footing and, through an excellent relationship with the procurator, raise enough money for repairs, alterations and improvements, including the building of a new dormitory, the reconstruction of the sanitary block and the modernising of the system of gas lighting. He remained president and bishop until his death on April 17th 1909 at the age of 84. He is buried at Ushaw College.



Born George Hume in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1923 to a Scottish father and French Catholic mother. He is remembered for his work with the homeless, his love of football and for bringing his church to a state of harmony not previously seen for 400 years.

Hume decided to become a monk at the age of ten. He joined Ampleforth Monastery in 1941, taking the name Basil, and his solemn vows in 1945. He studied in Oxford and Fribourg then was ordained in 1950.

Returning to Ampleforth, he became Assistant Priest in the village and a teacher in the school, eventually becoming Head of Modern Languages and school rugby coach. He also taught dogmatic theology to the monks in training.

Hume progressed fast: he was elected to represent Ampleforth in the General Chapter of the English Benedictine Congregation in 1957, then elected Magister Scholarum. In 1963, he was elected Abbot of Ampleforth and it was in this role that his talent for keeping the peace and promoting harmony started to show. He became Archbishop in 1975 and was promoted to Cardinal in 1976 and became president of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences between 1978-87 and president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 1979-99.

He encouraged work with young homeless people through the Society of St Vincent de Paul and in 1986 founded the Cardinal Hume Centre for young people at risk. He even opened the Cathedral Hall to those sleeping rough. Throughout his life he remained a humble and approachable man, preferring to wear a monk's habit instead of his Cardinal's robes.

So adept was Cardinal Hume at promoting harmony, the position of Roman Catholics in Britain moved from one of slight suspicion to one of unthinking acceptance. The Queen rewarded his remarkable achievements shortly before his death on 17th June 1999 with the Order of Merit.

Mission Statement

The mission of **Cardinal Hume Catholic School** is founded on the teaching of Christ and seeks to fully develop each member of our community through faith, hard work and kindness.

Our motto

Fide Labore Caritate
In Faith Hard Work and Kindness



Living Our Values

At Cardinal Hume, we encourage every member of our school community to “Aspire not to have more but to be more” (Archbishop Oscar Romero).

Our Aims

Fide

- To provide opportunities for students to grow in their faith through encounters with Christ in the word, liturgy and sacrament.
- To create an environment where students live their faith, respect the beliefs and views of others and celebrate difference.

Labore

- To ensure each unique individual searches for excellence in all they do and works hard to fulfil their potential, so that talent is unearthed and used to enrich God’s kingdom.
- To enable all students to be more by securing the attributes, learning and academic outcomes needed for a happy and successful adult life.

Caritate

- To teach students to show respect – for themselves, others and the environment – within a culture founded on moral principles, mutual consideration and high standards of discipline, where all can thrive.
- To share the light of Christ in our school, local, national and international communities, demonstrating faith in action through charitable giving, the gifts of service and the sharing of talents.

Outstanding Judgments

Both Ofsted and the Diocese have judged our school to be Outstanding.

Ofsted May 2024

“ Pupils receive an exceptional quality of education at this school. ”

“ Pupils become increasingly expert in the subjects that they study. ”

“ Staff and pupils have created an inclusive and welcoming environment. In line with the school’s Catholic ethos, differences in society are promoted and celebrated. ”

“ Pupils are encouraged to become the best version of themselves. This drive for self-improvement is captured in one of the school’s mantras: ‘aspire not to have more but to be more’. Pupils take up this challenge and use the array of opportunities provided by the school to realise it. ”

“ The school has developed highly ambitious curriculums across the breadth of the subjects that pupils study. These are bespoke and tailored to the needs of pupils who attend this school. ”

“ Subjects are enriched with opportunities that develop pupils’ cultural awareness. ”

“ Removing barriers to disadvantaged pupils’ achievement is central to the school’s approach. ”

“ Pupils with SEND thrive during their time at the school. ”

“ Students in the sixth form show impressive command of the subjects that they are learning. ”

Our Building and Facilities

The children and staff of Cardinal Hume Catholic School are housed in a state-of-the-art, bespoke design that has the education, welfare and comfort of the school community at its core.

Every classroom is equipped with the latest wireless technology as well as hard-wired computer facilities, interactive projectors and broadband access. The classrooms, specialist areas and other learning environments in and around the new school are designed in order to maximize students' learning opportunities and also to provide teachers with facilities and provision that are second to none.

The school is equipped with first-class sports facilities, gym, climbing wall, dance studio, music recording facility, film and AV studio as well as a dedicated and purpose built Sixth Form centre which contains study, ICT and social spaces.

One of the most striking features is the library and atrium space at the heart of the building. The library is placed centrally to allow ease of access for the whole school. The area below the library is part of a huge indoor social space that is large enough to accommodate all children.

The outdoor facilities are also very impressive, consisting of grassed and hard-court areas dedicated to sport and PE, coupled with a variety of purpose built social and recreational areas for student use during break and lunchtimes. Access onto and off the site has been carefully planned and designed to ensure the safety of the students travelling on foot, by car or bus.

Vehicles and pedestrians have their own dedicated access routes. School buses travel onto the site in order that students may alight safely. A network of CCTV cameras, hi-tech security systems and carefully designed landscaping ensure that students, staff and anyone who uses the building or site is safe and secure.



Our School Day and Beyond

School Sessions

	MONDAY – THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Registration	08.40 – 09.00	08.40 – 09.00
Period 1	09.00 – 10.00	09.00 – 10.00
Period 2	10.00 – 11.00	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.15	11.00 – 11.15
Period 3	11.15 – 12.15	11.15 – 12.15
Period 4	12.15 – 13.15 (Lunch for Years 7, 8, 9)	12.15 – 13.10 (Lunch for Years 7, 8, 9)
Period 5	13.15 – 14.15 (Lunch for Years 10, 11)	13.10 – 14.05 (Lunch for Years 10, 11)
Period 6	14.15 – 15.15	14.05 – 14.50 (IAG)
School Ends	15.15	14.50

Sixth Form lunch will usually occur either period 4 or 5, depending on subjects studied. Sixth form students may have a timetabled lesson from 3.15 – 4.15, Monday – Thursday.

School Holidays

Parents will be informed when holidays are agreed by the Trust Board.

The dates to note will be added to the school website and the school app.

Attendance

Excellent attendance is expected of all students.

Parents are expected to follow the school procedures for reporting absence on those occasions when it cannot be avoided. Members of our Welfare and Attendance Team will work with students, families and the Local Authority to mitigate against students' education being adversely affected by missing school.

Holidays Taken During Term Time

We strongly advise parents not to take their child on holiday during term time.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, holidays taken during term time will not be authorised and the school can apply to the Local Authority for a Penalty Notice.

Journey to School

Scholars' buses are provided by the Local Authority for all students travelling from Birtley, Wardley, Heworth, Leam Lane, Felling, Windy Nook, Low Fell and Gateshead.

Pupils from the Ouston area can also take advantage of a private service (charges apply) to offer them a more direct route to/from school each day. Please contact the school for further information.

Our School Day and Beyond

Before and After School

Clubs and Societies involving a variety of different activities take place in the school.

These are intended to give the students the opportunity of developing personal interests as well as entering more fully into the community life of the school.

School Meals and Kitchen

The Bistro@ Cardinal Hume is open from 8am for breakfast and remains open until lunchtime.

The Bistro is managed by our BWCET Catering team, offering a wide range of affordable and nutritious meals and snacks. Credit for school meals should be made via Parent Pay or using the credit machines in school. Biometric thumb print technology is used to allow students to purchase food and drinks.

Breakfast Study Hub

Research shows that good starts of the day help students to be more effective and efficient in their studies.

Cardinal Hume has a Breakfast Study Hub to help our students make the best possible start to their school day. The Breakfast Study Hub allows students from across the school to get breakfast and get ready for their day ahead. Facilitated by staff and Sixth Form volunteers, students can eat, and enjoy some social time with friends, or get some input from staff and Sixth Form on organisation or homework issues. This friendly and inclusive space is available from 8.10 and students can turn up without booking a place.

Library

The library is open from 8.15am to 4.05pm each day (8.10am to 3.30pm on a Friday).

There are over 8,500 books for students to borrow and 36 computers which can be used for homework and independent study. The library is a calm and welcoming space which also hosts books clubs, chess club and reading interventions throughout the week.



In the Classroom: An Ambitious Curriculum



Cardinal Hume provides a broad curriculum for all with an increasing element of personal choice offered as students become older. The academic work of the school is organised into departments, run by experienced Heads of Department and well qualified staff.

Each department offers a variety of courses that are adapted to suit the varying abilities of students and uses a variety of teaching styles such as whole class teaching and group work to suit the objectives of the lesson. During the course of the school week, 24 hours are spent on departmental teaching and a further 2 hours 25 minutes on pastoral care, personal development, careers, guidance and PHSE.

In Year Seven students are broadly streamed according to their ability. Year Seven is regarded as a diagnostic year and streaming is not considered as final. All students follow a common curriculum and their progress is carefully monitored so that banding can be adjusted at any stage. Students with special learning needs are taught in smaller groups.

At the beginning of Year Eight students are set within their bands for individual subjects or groups of subjects, according to their ability.

In years 7-9 pupils are assessed using modular tests as well as a synoptic end of year examination.

Years Ten and Eleven are identified as a two-year programme of study leading to Key Stage 4, assessed through the GCSE or Vocational examinations during years ten and eleven.

At this stage students study subjects at greater depth. They follow a common core curriculum, but also choose from a list of optional subjects, ensuring, through staff guidance, that the choice is balanced. Parents are closely involved in the option process. Parents' Evenings afford the opportunity of discussing children's potential with staff.

To help pupils prepare for the demands of external examinations, there are four internal examinations throughout key stage 4.

In Years Twelve and Thirteen most students choose to return to school to pursue Sixth Form Courses which lead to qualifications at GCE Advanced Level, National Diplomas and Certificates.

Regular assessments and mock examinations are scheduled throughout Key Stage 5.

In the Classroom: An Ambitious Curriculum

Key Stage 3

All students study a broad range of subjects which include:

English	Chemistry	Music and/or Performing Arts
Mathematics	Religious Education	Geography
Physics	French or Spanish	Computing
Biology	History	Art
Design Technology	Physical Education (including Dance)	Food Preparation and Nutrition
PSHE, Citizenship and RSE		

The students gain experience of a variety of subject areas in a broad and balanced programme of study.

All pupils in Year 7 must also attend a 30 minute lunchtime reading session each week.

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 all students will study:

Religious Education	Double or Triple Award Science	Biology
English Language and Literature	Mathematics	Chemistry
Physical Education	PHSE, Citizenship, RSE	Physics

The Option System – Route A

Students study a Modern Foreign language and two further subjects from:

Art	Geography and/or History	Business Studies
Music	Sport	Design Technology
Food Preparation and Nutrition	A second Modern Foreign Language	Performing Arts
Computer Science		

The Option System – Route B

Students study two options from the following:

Art and Design	Health and Social Care	Business Studies
Engineering	Sport	IT
Hospitality		

Then they add an extra GCSE from:

Geography	History	Modern Foreign Languages
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Sixth Form

We offer a broad curriculum to cater for all students who wish to continue with education post 16. The courses offered are:

1. A comprehensive range of GCE Advanced Level courses available in:

Art and Design	Geography	Biology
History	Chemistry	Design and Technology
Mathematics	Further Mathematics	Physics
Music	English Language	French
English Literature	Spanish	Politics
Business Studies	Religious Studies	Sociology
Computer Science	Psychology	Criminology
Dance	Economics Law	

2. Two year National Vocational qualifications:

Disclaimer – Not all courses will run

IT	Business	Health and Social Care
Science	Performing Arts	Sport
Early Childhood Development		

There is also the opportunity to continue to study GCSE Mathematics and English for all students who wish to improve their grades. A brochure outlining Sixth Form opportunities is supplied to all students in Year 11.



Personal, Spiritual and Character Development

Catholic Life and Mission

Cardinal Hume Catholic School is built on the principles of Catholic education developing each student as an individual throughout their time here.

Daily activity is underpinned by the gospel values and the school motto of *Fide, Labore, Caritate*, (Faith, Hard work and Care). Staff and students are expected to uphold these values on a daily basis. Relationships within school are very positive and allow students to develop in a safe, supportive environment based on trust and respect.

Catholic life permeates the curriculum with students frequently challenged to recognise the moral, spiritual and cultural implications of the topics they study. Students are challenged to develop their faith with the support of our school chaplain. All students are encouraged to experience and engage in a wide variety of prayer and reflection opportunities.

Holy Mass and celebrations of the Word connect both staff and students to the liturgical calendar of the church. Assemblies and tutor time are also an opportunity for all students to acknowledge and celebrate other faiths and festivals.

Collective Worship

The spiritual dimension is of fundamental importance to the life of our school.

In addition to timetabled Religious Education lessons, each session of each day begins and ends with a prayer. This may take the form of a year group or House assembly, or a short act of worship celebrated under the guidance of the pastoral tutor, class teacher or chaplain.

Each member of staff is committed to the development of the Catholic ethos of the school. Parents are reminded, however, that the school exists to provide a Catholic and Christian education for its students and therefore parents are expected to be in sympathy with its aims and objectives..

Community and Parish Participation

Community links play a vital role in the life of Cardinal Hume Catholic School, volunteering opportunities in the local parishes and the community are varied and available in all year groups.

These opportunities are more frequent as students' progress through school, with many students in Years 7-10 taking part in the Faith in Action award, culminating in the opportunity to complete the John Paul II Award in sixth form. Recent years have seen students doing community work in St Joseph's, St Benet's, St Oswald's and St Peter's parishes. A highlight of the school calendar is the Christmas Carol service where the local parishes are invited into school. Students can also take part in local and national events such as *The Flame and The Source*.



Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships, Sex and Health Education are statutory subjects.

They will be covered in Religious Education, Biology lessons, IAG Health lessons and in RSE lessons, following the Life to The Full Programme of study which will teach Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church.

RSHE aims to address the needs of young people where they are at in today's world. It provides knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It encourages the acquisition of attitudes which allow students to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

RSHE is fully inclusive of all students and all lessons and resources will meet the new statutory requirements for RSHE and fulfil the Model Catholic RSE Curriculum produced by the Catholic Education Service. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.

Music for All

The Music and Performing Arts department runs a wide range of ensembles and clubs for pupils of all ages and ability.

The school choirs rehearse during lunchtimes, with the orchestra rehearsing every Wednesday after school. Students are usually expected to have reached grade 2 standard to play in the orchestra, but there are no auditions for the choirs.

Rehearsals continue throughout the year in preparation for a number of performances; the annual Advent services, the spring cabaret, occasional lunchtime events and other liturgical events in school as well as numerous events around the region to which our pupils are invited.

Instrumental lessons are offered for orchestral strings, clarinet, flute, saxophone, brass and drum kit. All students who play one of these instruments at their junior school are guaranteed lessons when they join us in year 7. There are also opportunities for some pupils to take up an instrument for the first time.

Whilst these are subsidised, there is a small charge for instrumental lessons, enabling us to continue to offer an excellent range and quality of tuition. Instruments can be borrowed at no extra cost from the Gateshead Music Service.

Personal, Spiritual and Character Development



Annual Productions

Each summer term the school produces a large-scale musical, with performances in the penultimate week of term.

The production involves a large team of staff and students who are involved in singing, dancing, acting, technical and backstage work, promotions and artwork. Recent productions include School of Rock, The Wedding Singer, Grease, Return to the Forbidden Planet, Alice in Wonderland and Billy Elliot.

Rehearsals take place during lunchtimes and after school, with some weekend rehearsals before opening night. The show is very hard work but lots of fun, and standards are very high – several of our recent stars have gone on to study at top ranking performing arts schools.

Sporting Opportunities

All pupils at Cardinal Hume take part in Physical Education lessons and follow a broad and balanced curriculum.

Students are given equal access to all sports through both lessons and a varied schedule of extra-curricular sport. As a school, we are extremely proud of our sporting successes and we have achieved recognition on a local, regional and national level. We are also lucky to have outstanding sporting facilities at Cardinal Hume that are enjoyed by our students and the local community.

Outdoor Adventure and Education

The school recognises the huge contribution outdoor education makes to personal, spiritual and character development and all students have access to a full calendar of outdoor adventure activities and residential visits throughout the year.

We also run the Duke of Edinburgh Award from Year 9 and World Challenge in Key Stages 4 and 5.

School Trips and Visits

We run a wide and varied programme of educational trips and visits, including overseas trips, here at Cardinal Hume.

These are invaluable experiences and provide memories that stay with our students forever. We also run regular school trips that provide invaluable opportunities to learn outside the classroom and put context to content students have studied in school.

These opportunities are spread across the school to ensure students in all key stages can access them.

Summer School

Before they start in Year 7, all incoming students have the opportunity to attend summer school towards the end of the six-week summer break.

This is a great opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and work with Cardinal Hume teachers so that they feel ready for the transition to secondary school.

Careers

Careers Education is an integral part of the school's pastoral programme.

The careers programme is delivered as part of the pastoral enrichment programme through the year groups. Students will get the opportunity to speak with a Careers Advisor in both KS4 and KSS to help them make the best choices for their next steps in education and employment. In July, Year 10 and Year 12 students will be given the opportunity of a work experience placement as an introduction to the world of work.

The school is delighted to acknowledge its strong links with industry and commerce, essentially with the local employers through whom the majority of work experience placements are organised. Careers education is also embedded across the school curriculum, where students learn which careers subjects can lead to, with a focus on developing transferable employability skills across the curriculum. Students will also experience many opportunities to meet and interact with employers and employees.



Exemplary Standards, Exemplary Students

At Cardinal Hume Catholic School we aim to create an atmosphere based on respect for all that celebrates the individuality of all members of the school community and promotes the search for excellence.

It is the statutory responsibility of Governors, the Head Teacher and all staff to promote excellent behaviour and discipline in every part of school life to enable outstanding teaching and learning to take place and for all of our students to reach their potential. This, in line with the Equality Act of 2010 and Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance, is done without discrimination towards any student or member of staff and any discriminatory behaviour within our school community will not be tolerated.

Our aim is for Cardinal Hume Catholic School to be a safe place for students and staff and that lessons are free from disruption. This can be encouraged positively through both praise and reward and by following the school's code of conduct. This system, applied consistently, is an extremely effective way of motivating our students, and is utilised by all staff to celebrate success and raise aspirations.

These high standards and expectations we have for our students are set by our Governors through the Governors' Statement on Behaviour Standards. This is set out with the aim of maintaining the highest standards of behaviour in school and creating an atmosphere where pupils feel happy, safe and able to fulfil their potential.



School Uniform

Students are expected to wear their school uniform with pride; they are ambassadors for Cardinal Hume Catholic School.

It is important that all students abide by the high standards set by the school and that they are seen as positive representatives of our school by the wider community.

Our uniform policy is compliant with both Government and DfE guidance. There are also non-branded items that can be purchased from a range of outlets as well as second hand uniform options facilitated by Michael Seghal and Sons.

Our school uniform is outlined in the table below and a full copy of the policy is available on the school website.

BOYS	GIRLS
Black School Blazer embroidered with the school badge	Black School Blazer embroidered with the school badge
Black formal trousers	School Skirt or black formal trousers
White formal shirt	White formal shirt
School tie	School tie
Plain black leather formal shoes	Plain black leather formal shoes
Black socks	Black socks / tights

Exemplary Standards, Exemplary Students

Physical Education and Kit

All students take part in Physical Education lessons and are excused only on medical grounds; written confirmation would be required by the school and in the majority of cases students would still be expected to change into their PE kit for lessons.

BOYS	GIRLS
Purple polo shirt with school logo impackapparel.com	Purple polo shirt with school logo impackapparel.com
Reversible rugby top impackapparel.com	1/4 zip training top impackapparel.com
Black shorts	Sports leggings
Black football socks	Black shorts
Sports trainers (not fashion)	Black football socks
Football boots (moulded studs)	Sports trainers (not fashion)
	Access to football boots (moulded studs)



Equipment

It is essential that every student is fully equipped for each school day to allow them to access all aspects of their learning.

Every student should have an appropriate school bag and the required equipment for each lesson.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the curriculum and complements teachers' directed study in class.

It allows students to develop and express their thinking more fully, provides extra practice and fosters self-discipline and independent study. Homework is set weekly in most subjects (once every two weeks if there is a single lesson each week) and is compulsory. Students are provided with a homework planner which they use to record all homework tasks.

Use of ICT

ICT facilities are available in every department in the school and used to support teaching and learning in all subjects.

All classrooms have digital projectors which connect with state-of-the-art digital teaching resources. Our school library has ICT facilities and there are numerous learning resources available through our computer network and intranet, as well as from the internet.

Students can access many of these resources from home by directly logging into the school network. Students can attend extra-curricular clubs both at lunchtime and after school to learn new digital skills or catch up with class work.

Student Leadership Opportunities – Awards and Rewards

Cardinal Hume will always look to reward students for the high quality of their work, behaviour and overall contribution to school-life.

Praise and recognition of effort and achievement play a vital role in life at Cardinal Hume School. One of the main ways we celebrate student success is through our house point system. Students are awarded house points for demonstrating our key attributes: hard work, courage, faith, being healthy and active, resilience, and kindness.

These points not only contribute to individual recognition but also count towards the overall house totals, encouraging both personal growth and a sense of friendly competition. This system helps to create a positive and motivating school environment where effort and character are consistently valued and rewarded. In addition, celebration assemblies take place twice a year – at the end of the Christmas and Summer terms – where each subject will recognise students for effort and achievement.

The pinnacle of school awards is our School Colours system. Our school colours system is based upon our school motto – Fide, Labore, Caritate – and students can work towards each of these three strands with the ultimate accolade being the award of full colours – the completion of all three strands.

Investing in Young People

In a school of over 1500 students, it is important that each individual feels secure, confident and valued. Our pastoral system is designed to do just that.

On entry to our school, each student is allocated to one of five houses: Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert, Hild or Oswald. Students then have a Head of House and an Assistant Head of House as well as their form tutor who they see each morning. Tutor time ensures that students start the day off in the right way and are prepared for the day ahead. This includes prayer, equipment checks, uniform checks and notices relevant to that group.

Progress in learning is also enhanced by a system of target setting, supported by a team of Year Progress Leaders who ensure that each individual is provided with the necessary help to achieve their potential.

Essential to the valuing of the individual is the system of praise, whereby students are awarded house points for academic and social achievement set against a background of healthy inter-house competition.

Contributions to the life of the house and therefore the school, be they physical, mental or spiritual are also recognised through the Praise system ensuring that the achievement of each student can be acknowledged irrespective of academic ability.

Academic Support

This mission of Cardinal Hume Catholic School is to allow all students to fulfil their potential.

We understand that there are times in a child's school career where some extra input will be beneficial to their progress and prospects. In Year 7, students who find the transition to a more independent context difficult, we offer mentoring from the Year Progress Leader who will meet with students regularly and provide a space for homework support.

For students who need some additional support, we have a successful Peer Mentoring scheme, which carries on the "Buddy" approach used in many of our primaries. A year 7 student can be allocated a 6th form Mentor who checks in with them on a regular basis and helps them to integrate into the school community and systems.

As students move through the key stages, school offers a range of interventions to support progress. Each year has a Year Progress Lead who will identify students for whom additional academic or organisational support would support achievement in subject areas. They also provide visits and trips to inspire students who might have low aspirations to seek to stretch their own vision.

In the crucial GCSE years, Cardinal Hume supports students' hard work with focussed study support sessions, run by our caring and experienced teaching staff. These sessions run after school and have a clear area of focus. At certain key times of the year school will be extended to 5pm for groups of Year 11 students, which enables intensive intervention and catch-up to take place. For students who are most in need, a well-established and successful tutoring system is in place where one to one and small group sessions in key areas are delivered in school or online. All of this is underpinned by lunch study sessions and online masterclasses.

Our interventions are most effective when they are delivered to students whose parents and carers fully buy into the provisions and extra academic offerings available at Cardinal Hume. To help parents/carers to be effective partners in their child's learning, each year has a parents' meeting where they key priorities of the year are outlined to parents by senior staff and tips for supporting students for the year are outlined. Parents and carers are encouraged to support the progress of their students by emphasising the vital role superb attendance has in a child's success.



Supporting Social and Emotional Wellbeing

The school recognises that throughout their time with us, some students may need support with their social and emotional wellbeing, and we make every endeavour to ensure that appropriate support is available if required.

In addition to our pastoral and welfare teams, we have a School Counsellor, a team of trained wellbeing champions, lunchtime wellbeing groups as well as staff trained in Mental Health First Aid. We strive to be reactive to factors that can affect a student's social and emotional wellbeing and mental health and aim to create an environment where students feel secure and know who to turn to if they need support.

Safeguarding

We have an embedded culture of safeguarding at Cardinal Hume Catholic School with a dedicated Safeguarding Team.

All staff receive annual safeguarding training and students are routinely given information on how to keep themselves safe. Pupils know who to report a concern to and that they will be listened to.

Further details of our safeguarding arrangements can be found in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy available from school or on the website.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The school's provision for children with special educational needs aims to:

1. Create an environment where children with special educational needs feel welcome and where their special needs are addressed as far as resources allow.
2. Integrate students with special educational needs into the full life of the school.
3. Minimise, as far as possible, the educational disadvantage that results from special educational needs.
4. Make the necessary provision to maximise the performance of special needs students.

A copy of the SEND arrangements can be obtained from the school.

Parent Partnership

It is the partnership between parents, carers, staff and students and the connections with the wider community which make Cardinal Hume a special place to attend and learn.

We recognise the importance of communication between home and school and the essential part our families play in working with us to support the children and young people in our care.

Parents Evening and Events

For each Year Group, there is an information evening where parents are invited into school to find out more about the school year and to meet key staff.

There is also a Subject Teacher's evening, where parents and carers have the opportunity to discuss their child's work in detail in each subject. In addition, we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to school for the many productions and events throughout the year, and there are information evenings before important choices such as Year 7 Induction, Year 9 Options and progression to Sixth Form.

Reporting to Parents

Parent and carers receive detailed information about progress in subjects 3 times a year in Years 7, 8 and 9, twice in Years 10 and 11 and regularly in Sixth Form.

A consistent presentation and grades scales are used to allow parents and carers to understand accurately academic progress as their child moves through the school.

Communication and Parent App

Letters, text messages, emails and the school website are key communication methods. The school office can be contacted by telephone or via the school's info@ email address.

Family Learning

Throughout the year, we invite parents and carers to participate in subject based learning with their children, to gain an insight into how their children are taught and to help them support their child at home.

Many subjects from Mathematics to Food Preparation and Nutrition are offered.



Parent Partners

Our Parent Partners group is a voluntary group set up to allow the regular sharing of good news, news items and any concerns that parents or carers may have.

Our Parent Partners contribute to all aspects of the school's development and work and are an invaluable part of the school's self-evaluation processes.

Parent Views and Surveys

We welcome feedback and actively seek this through our parent surveys.

Parents and carers are of course welcome to contact the school at any time via their child's Head of House or Head of Year.

Parent Pay

Payments for school lunches, trips, additional revision resources and so on can be made through a single, secure Parent Pay portal.

Parent Code of Conduct

The school requests that parents and carers to adhere to a basic standard of conduct, so that enquiries can be responded to appropriately and to protect the safety and wellbeing of everyone in school.

A copy of the Parent Code of Conduct is available on the school website or on request from the school office.

School Website

We take pride in our school website and work hard to ensure that all the information required by parents and carers is available in an accessible and up to date form.

Parents and students will be able to find useful information on everything from uniform, events, revision, resources, news about the school and community and much more.

Proudly Leading the Way



We are committed in our pursuit for further excellence and ongoing improvement, and we are proud of our place in the local and educational community.

World Class School

Cardinal Hume Catholic School achieved the World Class Schools Quality Mark in 2019 and was subsequently reaccredited in 2021.

World Class Schools is a network of high achieving non-selective schools who work together to share ideas, best practice and to create opportunities for students to demonstrate exceptionality. The opportunity to participate in National Awards, complete creative projects, compete in essay competitions and team challenges, along with visits to universities and access to a World Class Alumni Association have all been accessed by students in recent years.



BWCET Centre for Teaching

Cardinal Hume Catholic School is a lead school in the BWCET Centre for Teaching and is proud of the work it does to help develop both existing and the future generation of teachers.

This opportunity allows the school to access and deliver cutting edge training, research and development opportunities for our staff including the National Professional Qualifications.

The Centre for Teaching helps to facilitate Initial teacher training through a variety of accredited partner providers. Collaboration within and beyond our Trust are powerful tools for securing excellence.

3D Health and Fitness

3D Health and Fitness Cardinal Hume opened in April 2017, providing fantastic facilities for the school and wider community.

The site consists of a fully equipped gym, exercise class studio as well as Cardinal Hume's existing facilities including sports hall, astro-turf pitches, MUGA, climbing wall and dance studio.

As a result, Cardinal Hume is a thriving centre for sport and fitness activity well beyond the school day, and at weekends, for the people of Gateshead.



Examination Results

Note: Result in 2020–2023 were impacted by assessment changes in response to the COVID pandemic

Key Stage 4 results

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of pupils	209	243	241	257	240	245	233
Progress 8 score	0.3	N/A	N/A	0.37	0.6	0.7	Est. 0.71
Attainment 8 grade	52.8	58	56.5	58.9	56.1	54.5	54.5%
Percentage achieving 4 or above in Mathematics and English	77%	88%	89%	83%	83%	85%	76%
Percentage achieving 5 or above in Mathematics and English	53%	68%	63%	70%	65%	60%	55%
Standard Pass requires 4s in English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Language and a Humanity	40%	62%	64%	58%	61%	54%	54%
Strong Pass requires 5s in English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Language and a Humanity	28%	49%	44%	48%	46%	38%	41%

Key Stage 5 results

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A Level pass rate (A-E)	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.5%	100%	99%	99%
Vocational pass rate / average grade	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
GCE A* – A	18%	22%	35%	37%	42%	24%	34%	23%
GCE A* – B	49%	46%	65%	74%	67%	52%	64%	54%
GCE A* – C	74%	76%	91%	94%	86%	82%	85%	80%

Admissions



Our Family of Schools

The school attracts young people from a wide geographical area and welcomes applications from all backgrounds.

We are an increasingly diverse community, which enriches the life of our school. While we regularly have children arriving from 30-40 different schools, a list of our cluster feeder schools is outlined below.

Policy Summary

We wish to make the admissions policy clear and accessible to all parents and carers.

We understand that choosing a secondary school can be daunting and overwhelming, so we hope to make the process supportive and transparent throughout.

Please see our website for details of our open event which takes place each October for Year 6 parents and carers. In the meantime, if you require assistance, do not hesitate to contact the school office, or email our admissions team at: admissions@chs.bwcet.com

Cardinal Hume has been hugely oversubscribed in recent years and, as a result, has had to routinely apply oversubscription criteria. A summary of the Admissions Policy for 2026-27 is outlined below.

This provides key information but must be read in conjunction with the full policy. This can be found on the school website, cardinalhume.com, in the Admissions section.

Admissions Policy 2026-27: A Summary

Cardinal Hume Catholic School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families.

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity.

It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. The admission policy criteria will be dealt with on an equal preference basis.

Admissions

Catholic Feeder Schools

Parish	Primary School
St Alban's, Pelaw	St. Alban's Primary School, Pelaw
St. Anne's, Harlow Green	St. Anne's Primary School, Harlow Green
St. Augustine's, Leam Lane	St. Augustine's Primary School, Leam Lane
St. Joseph's, Birtley	St. Benet's Primary School, Ouston
St. Joseph's, Birtley	St. Joseph's Junior School, Birtley
St. Joseph's, Gateshead	St. Joseph's Primary School, Gateshead
St. Oswald's, Wrekenton	St. Oswald's Primary School, Wrekenton
St. Peter's, Low Fell	St. Peter's Primary School, Low Fell
St. Wilfrid's, Gateshead	St. Wilfrid's Primary School, Gateshead

Published Admission Number

The admissions authority has set its published admission number (PAN) at 260 pupils to year seven in the school year which begins in September 2025.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by separate procedure and can be found in the full version of this policy.



Oversubscription Criteria

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority:

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA	
ORDER OF PRIORITY	1 Catholic looked after children and previously looked after children
	2 Catholic children who attend a Catholic feeder primary school
	3 Other Catholic children
	4 Other looked after and previously looked after children
	5 Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church
	6 Other children who attend a Catholic feeder primary school
	7 Other children who have an older brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
	8 Children of a member of School Staff who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which application for admission to the school is made.
	9 Children of another Christian denomination whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader
	10 Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader
	11 All other children

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

1. Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.
2. The attendance of a sibling at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in 1 above. In the case of category 7, if there are more applicants than places, places will be allocated via the random selection process.

Tie Breaker

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance.

Distance will be measured in a straight line (as the crow flies) from the front door of the child's address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, (using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system) with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Full Policy

Please read the full Admissions Policy for 2026-2027 at: [Admissions – Cardinal Hume Catholic School](#)

Concerns and Complaints

Our Aims

We always wish to work in partnership with parents and other stakeholders, and strive to ensure that we mitigate against dissatisfaction with the school.

However, the Complaints Policy is necessary to provide you with the information you need to raise concerns or make a complaint.

The aim of the Complaints Policy is to ensure that a concern or complaint is managed sympathetically and efficiently, at the appropriate level, and resolved as soon as possible.

We will try to resolve every concern or complaint in a positive way with the aim of resolving the issue in a transparent manner. Most concerns can be resolved informally and we will treat seriously and confidentially all concerns, whether raised informally or formally.

We need to know as soon as possible if there is any cause for dissatisfaction. Parents and pupils should never feel, or be made to feel, that a complaint will adversely affect a pupil or impact on their opportunities at the school.

The policy distinguishes between a concern or difficulty which can be resolved informally and a formal complaint which will require further investigation.

Policy Summary

There are three stages outlined in the Complaints Policy:

- Stage 1: Informal
- Stage 2: Formal Complaint
- Stage 3: Committee Hearing

How can I raise a concern or make a complaint?

A concern or complaint can be made in person, in writing or by telephone.

They may also be made by a third party acting on behalf of a complainant, as long as they have appropriate consent to do so.

We will consider making reasonable adjustments if required, to enable complainants to access this complaints policy. If you require help with your concern or complaint in any way, please contact the school office.

How can I access the full policy?

The full policy can be accessed on the school website, cardinalhume.com, in Policies section under Statutory Documents.

Alternatively, please contact the school office and a member of the team will be happy to assist.



**Cardinal Hume
Catholic School**

Fide, Labore, Caritate

Faith, Hard Work, Kindness





Cardinal Hume Catholic School



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Proud to be part of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust