



# St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School

School Lane, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 9DE

*'Followers of Jesus Learning Together'*



## SCHOOL BROCHURE

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your child on behalf of the staff and governors of St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School.*

*We hope that this brochure will provide you with more information about our school. We would also direct you to our school website [www.stfelixhaverhill.com](http://www.stfelixhaverhill.com) which has additional information. Our website will give you a glimpse of what goes on in school but of course it cannot replace a visit to the school when you can experience the atmosphere for yourself. Please contact the school office for an appointment so that I can show you round, talk with you and answer any questions.*

*Our school community is very much a Christian family grounded in Christ's teaching. We aim to create an atmosphere of love and respect, where we can grow in friendship with God and each other and develop our Catholic faith. However, any family who feels they can support these values is welcome to apply for a place.*

*We encourage everyone to grow in confidence and develop self-reliance during their time with us and at the same time to be aware and sensitive of the needs of others. We strive to achieve high standards of learning and discipline and to be a community where everyone is valued, nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential. Each child is God's unique creation and we work hard to achieve the best for all the children in our care. We are proud of our school and all it achieves.*

*The partnership between home, school and parish is central to our success. Your support is vital and there are always many opportunities for you to be involved in school life. Our staff work hard together to give your child a sound education and to make the time at our school as productive and enjoyable as possible.*

*Thank you for your interest in our school. We look forward to hearing from you.*

Mrs A Dodds  
Headteacher



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# ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

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St Felix is situated on the west side of Haverhill in Suffolk on a large spacious and secure site. We have been open for more than 40 years, and celebrated our Ruby anniversary in May 2013. Haverhill itself is a busy market town, with a growing population. It is situated in the Borough of St Edmundsbury in Suffolk and is close to the borders of both Essex and Cambridgeshire.

## **The History of our school**

The need for a Catholic school in the town was recognised by an active group of parents from St Felix parish. They worked to raise money, and with the help of the Diocese of East Anglia and the local authority, St Felix was opened in 1973. The school was blessed by Bishop Alan Clark. Sister Columba was the first Head Teacher and the school had just 1 class of children on roll.

## **Our school today**

St Felix continues to educate the children of the parish in the Catholic Faith. The strong Christian ethos also attracts many other parents in the town who value this choice and want the same for their children.

Since 1973 the school has grown in size and undergone rebuilding in many phases!



We have a large site and the children enjoy using the huge field, wild areas and our woodland.





The Foundation stage, Nursery and Reception, are part of the main school but have their own entrance and play areas. This means that the very youngest of children quickly become part of our school but feel safe and happy in their stimulating and busy classrooms.



Key Stage 1 – year 1 and 2 classes are situated in the main building allowing the teachers and children to work closely together. The children are used to learning and playing in the large classrooms and the open corridor. There is access to two outside learning areas but they are also able to close their classrooms off for quiet learning and reflection times.

Key Stage 2 is made up of 5 classes and works in two phases – years 3 and 4 in the lower key stage 2 and years 5 and 6 in upper key stage 2. Again the younger classes of Key stage 2 are situated in the main building and have good access to the learning and computer areas. The older children have their own building, newly built in 2010 with a purpose built studio. This is available for all the children to use for curriculum music lessons and is often used for clubs, gatherings for parents and adult classes.



The school has Wi-Fi throughout the school and the children have three suites of laptops that can be used in class and a suite of Ipads for KS1.

Class teachers are responsible for the children's welfare and delivery of the curriculum. Work is planned jointly, in Key Stage Teams of the class teachers with close liaison, communication and support from our teaching assistant team. During planning, Key Stage Teams share the preparation of work, drawing on different experiences, knowledge and expertise to ensure work is relevant and well matched to meet the needs of the children.

At the end of their time with us at St Felix, children either continue within their Catholic education by attending St Benedicts School in Bury St Edmunds or transfer to their choice of school in the local area.

# HOW TO FIND US

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## LOCAL MAP



## DIRECTIONS

### From the West – M11, Cambridge etc.

Take the A1307 through Linton towards Haverhill. Go straight over the first roundabout and at the second turn left, signposted Clements Estate, local traffic. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left, School Lane. Take the 1<sup>st</sup> left and follow road to the end

### From the East – Colchester, Sudbury, Halstead etc.

Take the A1017 through Sturmer and take the first exit at the roundabout. Go straight over the next 3 roundabouts and turn right at the 4<sup>th</sup> (Clements Estate, local traffic). Then take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left, School Lane. Take the 1<sup>st</sup> left and follow road to the end

### From the North – Bury, Newmarket etc.

Follow the A143 and turn right onto Withersfield Road. Turn left into Eastern Avenue and follow road to the end (changes into North Avenue). At the end turn right into Burton End and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> right School Lane. Take the 1<sup>st</sup> left and follow road to the end.



# THE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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"As true followers of Jesus learning together, our school strives to be a community where everyone is valued, nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential and where Christ's teaching guides responsible attitudes towards each other and the wider world."

## OUR AIMS

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The family of St Felix is one in which everyone is given the opportunity to live and learn in a Catholic Community. Each person is encouraged to grow in faith and explore their relationship with God and each other. Christian beliefs and values are experienced as an essential and relevant part of everyday life. Within this context we value and improve each other's individual talents and achievements. This enables us to contribute to the life of the Parish and the wider community, and become more responsible and effective Christians.

### TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR MISSION WE AIM TO:

- provide the opportunity to live and learn in a Catholic community.
- grow in faith and explore our relationship with God and with each other.
- recognise our own God-given worth and the unique value of others, whilst respecting differences.
- strengthen our shared faith with our parish and other Catholic schools in our Deanery.
- encourage links with the wider community in which we live, developing an appreciation and respect for other faiths and cultures.
- encourage the shared responsibility of home, school and parish.
- support and encourage each other to develop and grow to our full potential.
- provide a broad, balanced and relevant education.
- strive for academic improvement and excellence, achieving the very best.
- foster understanding and enjoyment of the world in which we live.
- develop creative and aesthetic awareness.
- encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- value and care for all, encouraging respect for others and ourselves.
- provide a secure and positive environment where individuals develop increasing independence, and everyone's achievements are celebrated.



# BRITISH VALUES STATEMENT

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At St Felix we promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

Actively promoting these values means challenging pupils, staff or parents/carers who express opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ views. St Felix RC Primary School takes opportunities and is committed to promoting these fundamental British values in the following ways:

## **Democracy:**

Pupil voice, as well as parent/carer voice, plays a central part in developing school improvement priorities. The school is clear in demonstrating how pupils should contribute and co-operate and consider the views and needs of others. The School Council meets regularly and takes part in decision making on a range of topics.

## **The Rule of Law:**

Staff consistently reinforce high expectations of pupils. Whenever appropriate pupils are taught the value and reasons behind these expectations; that they are there to protect us and that everyone has responsibility and there may be consequences when rules are disregarded.

## **Individual Liberty:**

Within school, everyone is actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. The school provides pupils with opportunities to learn about what makes a good choice. Pupils are encouraged to express their views and teaching and learning incorporates their preferences and interests.

## **Mutual Respect:**

At St Felix, our Christian values of respect and tolerance permeate all areas of school life. This engenders a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and facilitates the fulfilment of potential. All staff demonstrate respect to everyone with whom they come into contact. They consistently model and promote the behaviours and attitudes that are the foundation of positive relationships. The strong school ethos encourages everyone to consider and support each other and to celebrate the worth and individuality of every member of the school community.

## **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

The school’s curriculum aims to develop understanding of the world. The RE and RSHE schemes of work provide opportunities for pupils to develop tolerance of and empathy towards those from different faiths, beliefs and cultures.



# THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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Religious education and worship at St Felix are in accordance with the Roman Catholic Faith; the spiritual dimensions are the foundations of the life of the whole school. We aim to provide a caring Christian community for all those at St Felix, both for the children and all adults working in the school.

The school community celebrates Masses and other services at the school and at the Parish Church; all children are encouraged to participate fully through prayer, singing, and public speaking. Parents and parishioners are often welcome to attend these celebrations.



Our Parish Priest visits the school on a regular basis and, together with other members of the Chaplaincy team, provides valuable support. In Year 3, baptised and practising Roman Catholic children complete a parish based preparation programme for First Holy Communion, in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.



# RE AND WORSHIP

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## Religious Education

Religious Education at St Felix School is the cornerstone upon which our school philosophy and aims are founded and we endeavour to reflect our Mission Statement in all our actions and attitudes in our teaching and in our relationships with each other.

## Curriculum

At the core of our Religious Education Curriculum are the beliefs and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church and we aim to lay a foundation of understanding and belief that will remain with our children throughout their lives. We use both "Come and See" and "The Way, The Truth and The Life" Religious Education programmes, which are the nationally recommended scheme for use in Catholic Schools. This includes the teaching of other World Faiths, which helps our children to develop an understanding of and a respect for the beliefs of others in our multi-faith society. Our teaching has a cross-curricular emphasis, celebrating our learning through art, drama, dance and music.

## Liturgy

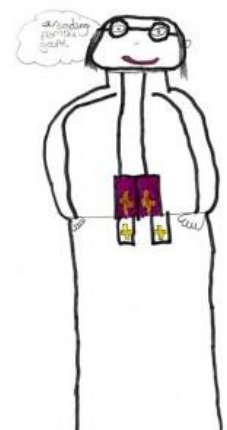
We have a carried range of liturgical celebrations throughout the year as a whole school community, including beginning and end of year Masses, Harvest Festival, Advent Service, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Pentecost and Remembrance Day.

As well as liturgical celebrations, the children take part in daily class prayers, reflective prayers, class Masses, whole school and Key Stage assemblies.

Children in Year 3 who are Baptised Catholics are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the parish.

## The Wider Community

St Felix School has strong links with our Parish Church of St Felix and we are regularly visited by our Parish Priest. Through our fundraising events and charity collections we encourage the children to put their faith into action, and recognise Catholic Social Teaching as the basis of their engagement with the world



# CARING FOR YOUR CHILD

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The person most closely concerned with your child's welfare and development on a day-to-day basis is their class teacher. They are available to provide help, support and encouragement to deal with any problems, which may arise. Children are encouraged to talk to their class teacher and discuss any concerns. The Head of School willingly sees parents when the need arises; for non-urgent appointments please contact the school office in the first instance.

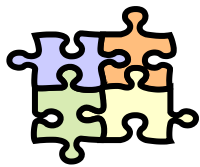
The safeguarding of children in our school is of paramount importance and is regarded as everyone's responsibility. In accordance with Suffolk County Council policy the school has a named person (Mrs A Dodds), Alternate DSL (Mr D Wolmarans and Mrs T Naylor) and governor (Mr Michael Bradshaw) who have responsibility for the Safeguarding of Children. A copy of the school policy can be provided on request.

We show respect and consideration towards each other at all times. Our Behaviour Policy has been developed by children and teachers to reflect the care we have for one another and the importance of restorative justice within our school community. Whilst at school your child will be expected to follow our code of behaviour ('Bullying', of any form is not tolerated).

All adults working in the school take every opportunity to recognise good effort, attainment, behaviour and care; the children are praised and rewarded for their positive contributions at all times.

We recognise and appreciate the responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all aspects of their growth and development. Our school will provide a Relationships and Sex Education programme in line with Diocesan guidelines as part of our Personal Development Curriculum.





# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS



## Provision for Children with Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND)

We believe that for **all** pupils to thrive, they require a caring, positive and emotionally enriched environment in which they see themselves as successful learners.



We aim to ensure that all children are able to access the curriculum and make the maximum progress they are capable of achieving whatever their area or level of need.

Sometimes, if a pupil is not making expected progress, further assessments and the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle are carried out to identify areas of need. If necessary, a Pupil Plan would be put in place that sets out specific outcomes for improvement. These outcomes are regularly reviewed by the Class Teacher and SENDco in partnership with parents. Please see our School Information Report for details of the provision we offer at St Felix School.

### Partnerships with Pupils and Parents

We feel it is of paramount importance that each pupil is aware of the progress they have made and what they need to do next. At each review, pupils and parents are asked for their views and these are taken into consideration when planning the next steps for learning.

### Partnerships with Outside Agencies

We recognise that the roles and responsibilities of External Support Services have a vital role to play in the identification, assessment and support of our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We liaise closely with the following services to help us meet the more complex needs of our pupils

Educational Psychologist  
Speech and Language Therapy Service  
Occupational Therapist  
School Nurse  
Educational Welfare Officer  
CAF and CYPS  
Behaviour Support Services  
Precision Teachers  
CISS -County Inclusive Support Service

### Partnerships with other schools at the point of Transition

In the Summer term, prior to transition to Year 7, the needs of all pupils, including those with SEN are shared with key staff at the receiving school. Pupils have an opportunity to meet with staff and experience a range of visits prior to starting in September. Some visits are tailored to the needs of the individual pupil. All records are then transferred to the secondary school.



# THE CURRICULUM

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*This is a Catholic school which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and Catholic doctrine and practice therefore permeates every aspect of the school's activity. We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27).*

*Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process.*

*We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected."*

Curriculum Directory for Catholic School, 2015 CES

## **Our Curriculum Drivers:**

**Possibility  
Community  
Responsibility**

At St Felix, these are our curriculum drivers which are underpinned by our Catholic faith. We believe our pupils should be made aware of the many opportunities that exist for them in the modern world and aspire to fulfil their dreams through hard work and a realisation that we are all part of a global family which brings with it both rights and responsibilities

We have designed our curriculum with pupils' learning at the centre. We recognise that a curriculum has to be broad, balanced and offer pupils opportunities to grow as individuals as well as learners. We aim to ensure pupils enjoy learning and feel prepared for life after school. Our curriculum will be delivered in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 - *please our Curriculum Policy for more details*

## MATHS

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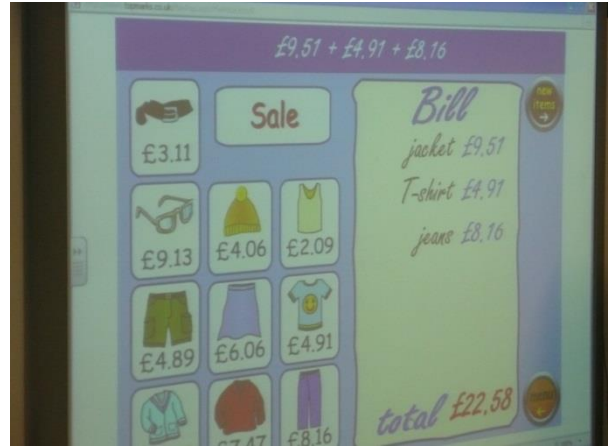
Mathematics is highly valued. At St. Felix we recognise the importance of mathematics as a life skill. Therefore, high quality mathematics teaching takes place daily in school. Provision in school is in-line with the new National Curriculum focusing on developing:

- fluency;
- problem solving;
- reasoning

St. Felix prioritises the mastery of Mathematics skills. This means that we understand that children learn best once they have secured and consolidated concepts. We ensure children grapple with challenging skills and contexts, ensuring that learning is extended by depth of cognitive skills, rather than covering content for older ages.

For this reason the school has adopted the White Rose Maths Hub programme which is built on the following principles to develop problem solving:

- **develop mathematical thinking:** children are encouraged to question, compare and generalise;
- **develop mathematical language:** children use accurate and precise terminology and spoken and written language is prioritised;
- **develop a deep conceptual understanding:** children use concrete objects, pictorial representations and number to master mathematical concepts, making connections between their learning.



Our children are generally taught in their mixed ability class groupings, with some classes having mixed year groups. However, work is appropriately differentiated and adapted in order to extend all ability levels.

Our curriculum meets the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum for all subjects.

## ENGLISH

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At St Felix, we believe that a child's desire to read for pleasure and information will support them to speak and write fluently, so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others. We believe that there is something for every child to enjoy reading. In order for children to enjoy learning across the curriculum it is paramount that children learn to read fluently with a thorough understanding of what they have read. With a focus on ambitious texts being read independently by the children as well as being read aloud to them, they will encounter new language and knowledge.

Within the English curriculum the children:

- Will read high quality, well-chosen texts from a diverse range of authors, illustrators, genres and forms, as well as exceptional illustrations. This will allow the children to see themselves reflected in what they read and to have the opportunity to investigate other lives, worlds and perspectives.

- Will be engaged in high quality phonics daily teaching. Phonics is the teaching of letters and the sounds that they represent. Children will learn to read competently and spell accurately as well as facilitating a love of reading
- Will listen to adults reading aloud regularly each day
- Will have access to book areas that are exciting and attractive
- Will be given time and space to enjoy books independently and with adults
- Will have regular opportunities planned into curriculum time each week to talk about books
- Will develop their drama and performance skills
- Will be taught spelling, grammar and punctuation explicitly
- Will read aloud to an adult regularly and be assessed regularly
- Will take home a reading book every day and have the opportunity to borrow a library book each week
- In line with the DfE revised core criteria for defining an effective phonics programme children will “practise by reading texts which are entirely decodeable for them, so that they experience success and learn to rely on phonemic strategies”. We organise our reading books in line with the Nelson Thornes PM Benchmark reading scheme. Emergent readers have access to Big Cat phonics, Songbirds and Bug Club

Phonics books. Once children are more competent they will have access to Big Cat books, Lighthouse and Nelson Thornes PM books.

## Phonics

At St Felix we follow the Letters and Sounds principles and practice of high quality phonics. We use the Jolly phonics actions and images to engage children and so that we have a consistent approach for all learners.

Each daily discrete phonics session follows the recommended teaching sequence including:

- Revisit & review
- Teach
- Practise
- Apply

The six phases of the Letters and Sounds document provides a structure for the teachers to follow and plan children’s progression.





For more information on the English curriculum, please see the following:

**Phonics screening parent's information:** <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/school-year/assessment-at-primary-school/phonics-screening-check/>

**What is Phonics?** <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/phonics-videos>

**How to pronounce pure sounds** <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/phonics-videos>

Or contact the English leader via the school office at St Felix



# FOREST SCHOOLS

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## Forest School at St Felix

We are very lucky to have our very own Forest School on site here at St Felix, as well as two trained Forest School leaders as members of staff. Our first set of Forest School sessions began in September 2013 and involved all of the children from Reception heading out into the woodland for a morning or afternoon every week during the autumn term. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have developed many new skills



## What are Forest Schools?

Forest Schools began in Scandinavia and have been developing in areas of the UK for the last few years. In a Forest School, children play and learn outdoors in a natural environment, in most weathers.

## Why is there a Forest School at St Felix?

Many children learn best outdoors and benefit from the child-led learning available at Forest School. Children can use the skills they learn in Forest School when they are learning inside the classroom too.

Forest Schools help children to:

- have the confidence to try new things
- set goals and feel proud when they achieve them
- be determined and persevere
- learn new words and how to explain things clearly
- keep fit and strong
- learn how to work in a team and be happy working alone

## Where is the Forest School based?

We have a small area of woodland on the school site, so the children come to school as normal in the morning and easily walk to the Forest School at the start of their session

## What do the children do at Forest School?

The children lead their own exploration in Forest School and so every session and every child's experience differs. At Forest School, children often choose to dig, run, jump in muddy puddles, climb trees, saw fallen branches, make mud pies, collect sticks, swing on branches or the rope swing, cook on the fire, make up their own games, build dens, look for creatures and many, many other things!

# **THE SCHOOL DAY**

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School starts at 8:50am and doors are open from 8:45am. Lunch is from 12-1pm (11:45 for EYFS) The school day ends at 3:15pm

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

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At St Felix, we endeavour to provide a range of interesting and stimulating after school activities to supplement the children's work in school.

The activities available will differ from term to term but have included:

- chess club
- book club
- arts and crafts
- multi-skills (range of sporting activities)
- dance
- football
- gymnastics
- environment
- choir
- cookery
- lego

## **EARLY MORNING / AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

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Recognising that parents sometimes need help with before and after school care, the school has an early morning / after school club. This is a joint partnership with Dellar Sports Coaching.

Early morning club will run from 7:45am-8.45am and after school club from 3.15pm-5pm. Spaces are limited to 30 per session – some places available on a paid basis and some being offered free of charge to pupils for whom the school is in receipt of Pupil Premium grant from the government. Speak to the office staff if you need more information about this and how to book online

Children will be provided with a drink and a snack at both sessions. There will be a range of activities on offer: both sports and non-sports activities such as reading, opportunities to do homework, arts and crafts, board games etc



# SCHOOL UNIFORM

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## Reception to Year 6

### Girls

- White shirt
- School tie
- School blue cardigan or jumper (with school crest)
- Grey pinafore dress; grey trousers or grey knee length skirt
- Grey tights or white or grey socks
- Smart black shoes

### **Summer** (Easter to October):

- As above or school-blue gingham dress/playsuit with white or grey socks; or as above with shorts.

### Boys

- White shirt
- School tie
- School blue jumper (with school crest)
- Grey trousers
- Grey or black socks
- Smart black shoes

### **Summer** (Easter to October):

- As above or with grey shorts.

If hair is long enough to be tied up, hair tied up – with: blue, yellow or white hair bands.

### **Please note:**

- Grey trousers, skirts and pinafore dresses should be formal in style (not be made of clingy or stretchy fabrics.)
- Fashion boots, mid or high heeled shoes are not part of the school uniform.
- **Earrings are not part of the uniform** and must be removed before children come to school.
- Watches of a suitable size are permitted – the school recommends analogue watches.
- Pupils should have coats regularly in school, as outdoor play will take place in the event of light rain.
- A school backpack is available to purchase. If you prefer your own, please ensure it is a similar size.

### **PE**

- White T-Shirt – with school logo.
- Blue shorts
- A spare pair of socks
- A pair of trainers – white or black
- Pupils in Years 3-6: a plain black or dark blue tracksuit top and trousers for outdoor PE lessons. School tracksuits are available to purchase for y5-6
- Tights are not permitted uniform during PE
- All jewellery and watches must be removed for PE.



## Nursery

### Girls

- Yellow Polo Shirt
- School blue cardigan or jumper (with school crest)
- Grey pinafore dress; grey trousers or grey knee length skirt
- Grey tights or white or grey socks
- Smart black shoes

#### **Summer** (Easter to October):

- Above or school-blue gingham dress with white or grey socks.
- Summer (Easter to October):
- Above or shorts with polo shirt and jumper.

### Boys

- Yellow Polo Shirt
- School blue jumper (with school crest)
- Grey trousers
- Black or grey socks
- Smart black shoes

#### **Summer** (Easter to October):

- Above or shorts with polo shirt and jumper.

If hair is long enough to be tied up, hair tied up – with: blue, yellow or white hair bands.

#### **Please note:**

- Grey trousers, skirts and pinafore dresses should be formal in style (not be made of clingy or stretchy fabrics.)
- Boots and mid or high heeled shoes are not part of the school uniform.
- **Earrings are not part of the uniform** and must be removed before children come to school.

### **PE**

- Blue shorts
- A spare pair of socks
- A pair of trainers – white or black
- If hair is long enough to be tied up, hair tied up – with: blue, yellow or white hair bands.
- Tights are not permitted uniform during PE
- All jewellery and watches must be removed for PE.

Uniform can be ordered through <https://www.stfelix.kiwiiclothing.co.uk> or via 01440 730330

Payment is made online or over the phone and uniform is delivered to school. Non fitted items such as hats/ties/bags are kept in stock in school and can be purchased directly from school



# **OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

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**St Felix is one of six schools which make up OLWCMAT**

## **OUR FOUNDING VISION**

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust will delivers outstanding educational, spiritual and moral outcomes for all children regardless of their faith or backgrounds within an ethos based on full inclusion, high expectations, innovation, outstanding teaching and learning, and a relentless focus on the needs and potential of every child. Our vision is that every school within the Trust has a reputation for excellence in their local communities and beyond.

## **DEVELOPING THE PERSON**

Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all the children in our schools and to prepare them for success in life, however and whatever that might mean to them as they grow and develop. All children in the trust will have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full, in the recognition that they all have talents to offer and that although these talents are different, none is more important than another and all are needed in our ever changing world.

## **CATHOLIC-ROOTED, CHILD-CENTRED**

The Trust is a Catholic-based, child-centred MAT. We are founded on Catholic values which underpin every social, academic and pastoral relationship and the related behaviours which act as live witness to our Faith. Inspired and supported by these values, we seek to develop the characteristics of effective learners in our children so that, whatever their future holds, they can approach this with character, confidence, resilience and a Christ-centred moral compass.

## **HAVING THE CONFIDENCE TO ENGAGE**

The learning culture is one where the children and staff have the confidence to engage and need not fear failure along the way. The children are supported to be confident, active learners so that they push themselves beyond their perceived limits in the safe knowledge that our best learning takes place when we don't get it right first time, and is a valuable expression of engaging confidently in learning. The children enjoy working with adults and other children, and also understand that they have God-given gifts, with which it is their responsibility to do the best that they can for themselves and others.

The Trust is committed to the high quality development of all staff, which is key to excellent provision for pupils. This in turn leads to high all-round learning and achievement. The Trust's approach to professional development is enhanced by a sharing of expertise, best practice, resources and opportunities across the Trust. This ensures the capacity for continuously self-improving academies.

## **THE GOVERNORS**

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Our Governors play a very important part in the life of our school.

As a Catholic School, the Governing Body is made up of Foundation Governors (who are appointed by the Diocese), Staff Governors and Parent Governors. They are entrusted with ensuring the school is well run and promotes the highest pupil achievement. The Governing Body's key duties include setting the strategic direction, policies and objectives and approving the school budget and reviewing progress against it. The governors also act as a critical friend to the school by supporting and challenging Mrs Dodds and the staff to ensure that the teaching and learning standards are high and that all pupils make good progress in a safe, engaging and rich learning environment.

In addition the Foundation Governors on the Governing Body have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school and to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed.

## **THE HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (H.S.A.)**

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The H.S.A. has two main functions:

- to raise funds to enable the school to buy facilities or equipment is outside the normal school budget and thus enhance the education of the pupils
- to promote a friendly and social atmosphere within the school and the local community

The H.S.A. fulfils its aims through a number of events held throughout the school year. These have included a Summer Fair, Christmas Fair, Auction of Promises, Raffles and Coffee Afternoons. A number of the events are aimed at the whole family. The combination of events enables both children and adults to socialise and establish a wider network of friends within the school community.

All parents, carers and staff are automatically members of the Association, which is led by a committee made up of volunteer parents. Meetings are held regularly and new parents are always very welcome.

Please ask at the school office if you would like more information

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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For the most up to date information on standards, inspections or term dates please see our website: <http://www.stfelixhaverhill.com>

