



Statement to live by

I notice that we are the same and we are different.



Click the picture above for more information about Ofsted Report Cards...

Ofsted Inspection 2026... As you are aware, our school was inspected by Ofsted last week. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, staff, governors and families for the important role they played throughout the process. The lead inspector will now be writing the report, and we will share this with all families and the wider community as soon as it becomes available. Please refer to the letter previously sent via Arbor, which explains the new Ofsted framework, including grading areas and judgements. As part of these changes, there are no longer one-word overall judgements. **Thank you for your support!**

Class Transitions 2026... This week, our children have enjoyed their transition visits to their new classes. This has provided a valuable opportunity for them to meet their new teachers and support staff in preparation for September. It has also allowed our staff to begin getting to know your children even better. It has been wonderful to see so many smiles during the transition sessions, with all children describing the experience as a positive one. Our fantastic Year 6 pupils have also visited their secondary schools this week, helping them to feel confident and well-prepared for the next stage of their education in September. **Quality transitions!**

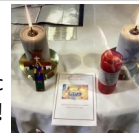


Year 2 Fundraising... Thank you to all our wonderful families and parishioners who were able to join us for our Year 2 Bingo event to raise important funds for our school. It was wonderful to see so many families there enjoying a great time with their children and to have the support of our parish community.



A great time had by all!

Year 5 Class Mass... Thank you to Year 5 for leading their class Mass. Thank you also to their families who were able to join them and to Fr. Marc for celebrating the Mass. **Faith filled community!**



Year 6 Bikeability... Our Year 6 pupils recently took part in Bikeability, developing their cycling skills and learning how to stay safe on the roads. This valuable programme has helped to build their confidence and awareness, ensuring they are well prepared to cycle safely and responsibly. The children showed great enthusiasm and maturity throughout the training! **Great work Year 6!**



Pope Leo's quote of the week...

"Don't focus on the differences. See how to live an encounter with respect — to build bridges, build friendship, recognise that we can all be friends, brothers, sisters."



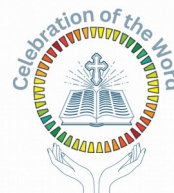
DT Week... Recently, children across our school took part in Design Technology Week. During this time, they researched, designed, made and evaluated a range of products. They had a wonderful time while developing lots of new skills, including sewing, baking, cutting and constructing—along with much more! **Well done!**



Year 4 Celebration of the Word...

Thank you to the family and friends of Year 4 who were able to join us for their Celebration of the Word. Although this took place immediately after a VERY busy residential, we are sure you will agree that the children did incredibly well!

Well done Year 4!



Attendance at school for the past two weeks...

Reception: 95% **Year 1:** 96% **Year 2:** 97% **Year 3:** 100% **Year 4:** 97% **Year 5:** 96% **Year 6:** 97%

WELL DONE TO YEAR 3!

Home-School Links

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Year 4 Residential - Emmaus Village... Our Year 4 pupils recently enjoyed a wonderful residential visit to the Emmaus Youth Village. The trip was filled with a wide range of exciting activities that encouraged teamwork, resilience and confidence. Alongside this, the children took part in meaningful opportunities for prayer and reflection, allowing them to deepen their faith and spend time thinking about themselves and others. The children represented the school beautifully throughout their stay, and it was a joy to see them supporting one another, trying new experiences and growing in independence. It was a truly memorable visit for all involved. Thank you to our wonderful staff who facilitated this visit—giving up their own time. **Growing in faith!**



Careers 2026... We were delighted to host our recent Careers Event, where a range of visitors from different professions came into school to share their experiences with the children. This inspiring event gave pupils the opportunity to learn about a variety of career paths and to ask questions about the skills and qualities needed in different roles. The visitors spoke enthusiastically about their jobs, helping to broaden the children's horizons and raise their aspirations for the future. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who gave their time to support this event and make it such a valuable experience for our pupils. Thank you particularly to parents/carers who offered to come into school and did an amazing job! **Careers for the future!**



Year 6 Residential - Derwent Hill... Our Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed an unforgettable residential visit to Derwent Hill. The trip was packed with a wide range of adventurous outdoor activities, designed to challenge the children, build resilience and encourage teamwork. From climbing and ghyll scrambling to canoeing and problem-solving tasks, the children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. Throughout the residential, pupils showed excellent behaviour, supported one another and developed their independence and confidence. It was wonderful to see them step outside their comfort zones and take on new challenges. The trip created many lasting memories and was a fantastic way to round off their time at St. Michael's. Thanks goes to our wonderful staff for organising this and for giving up their own free time to ensure the children were well cared for throughout the visit.

Well done, Year 6!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

School safety... A gentle reminder that, where possible, we always encourage families to walk, cycle or use push scooters to travel to school. This is a healthy and environmentally friendly way to travel, particularly for those who live locally. However, we kindly ask that children dismount from their bikes or push scooters at the school gate on Durham Road and push them to the designated storage racks. For safety reasons, **children and adults should never ride on the school site**, as this can be hazardous for both riders and others. Please also note that it is illegal to use electric scooters on public land (including footpaths, public roads, council parks etc.) Therefore, **electric scooters should not be brought onto the school site** and must be left outside the gate on Durham Road if families choose to use them. **Thank you for your cooperation!**



BWCET Celebration of Sport 2026!... This week our Year 5 children took part in the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust Celebration of Sport 2026! The children participated in some amazing sporting events across the day and represented our school incredibly well. What a wonderful day for all Trust schools to come together to celebrate the joy of sport.

Well done Year 5!



Year 6 Youth Festival!... On Monday, Year 6 attended the Year 6 Youth Festival which is organised by the Youth Ministry Team at the Emmaus Youth Village in Consett. There was lots of reflection, singing and some wonderful dancing! Everyone, including staff, had an AMAZING time.

Wonderful memories!



- Important Dates -

	Date	Class	Event
Summer 2	Monday 1 st June 2026.	Whole School.	Back to School.
	Monday 1 st June 2026 – Friday 12 th June 2026.	Year 4.	Multiplication Tables Check.
	Wednesday 3 rd June 2026.	Year 6.	Nexus Bus Induction as part of transition to Secondary School.
	Thursday 4 th June 2026.	Reception.	Celebration of the Word at 3pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Friday 5 th June 2026.	Year 3.	Year 3 Class Mass at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome.
	Monday 8 th June 2026 – Friday 19 th June 2026.	Year 1.	Phonics Screening Tests.
	Thursday 11 th June 2026.	Reception.	Educational Visit to Beamish Museum.
	Monday 15 th June – Wednesday 17 th June 2026.	Year 4.	Residential at Youth Village.
	Monday 15 th June 2026 – Thursday 18 th June 2026.	Year 6.	Bikeability – Cycling proficiency.
	Tuesday 16 th June 2026.	Reception.	Curriculum celebration assembly 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Thursday 18 th June 2026.	Year 4.	Celebration of the Word at 3pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Friday 19 th June 2026.	Whole School.	Careers / Enterprise Day (Date may change due to availability of volunteers)
	Friday 19 th June 2026.	Year 5.	Year 5 Class Mass at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome.
	Monday 22 nd June – Thursday 25 th June 2026.	Year 6.	Residential to Derwent Hill.
	Tuesday 23 rd June 2026.	Year 1.	Curriculum celebration assembly 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Friday 26 th June 2026.	Whole School.	Inset Day. School closed to pupils on this day.
	Monday 29 th June 2026	Year 6.	Primary Festival at the Youth Village.
	Tuesday 30 th June 2026 – Thursday 2 nd July 2026.	Year 6.	Transition days at St Roberts.
	Wednesday 1 st July 2026.	Reception.	Litter Pick at the Beach.
	Thursday 2 nd July 2026.	Year 5.	Celebration of Sport at Gateshead Stadium.
	Friday 3 rd July 2026.	Years 1 & 4.	Years 1 & 4 Class Mass at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome.
	Friday 3 rd July 2026.	Whole School.	St. Michael's Family Picnic on the school field from 2pm (Weather dependant). All are welcome. Children will be selling their Enterprise items during this time too.
	Monday 6 th July 2026 – Friday 10 th July 2026.	Whole School.	Healthy Week.
	Friday 10 th July 2026.	Whole School.	Sports Day at 1pm on the School Field.
	Thursday 16 th July 2026.	Year 6.	Leavers Assembly at 2pm. All are welcome to join us.
	Friday 17 th July 2026.	Whole School.	Whole School / Year 6 Leavers Mass at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome.
	Friday 17 th July 2026.	Whole School.	School breaks up for Summer Holidays at 3:15pm.
	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026.	Whole School.	Back to School.

Assemblies and Collective Worship – Parents Invited

Class	Curriculum Celebration Assemblies		Celebration of the Word	
Reception	Tues 23 rd June 26	9.00am	Thurs 4 th June 26	3.00pm
Year 1	Tues 16 th June 26	9.00am	Thurs 21 st May 26	3.00pm
Year 2	Tues 31 st March 26	9.00am	Thurs 22 nd Jan 26	3.00pm
Year 3	Tues 10 th March 26	9.00am	Thurs 13 th Nov 25	3.00pm
Year 4	Tues 17 th Feb 26	9.00am	Thurs 18 th June 26	3.00pm
Year 5	Tues 10 th Feb 26	9.00am	Thurs 27 th Nov 25	3.00pm
Year 6	Tues 27 th Jan 26	9.00am	Thurs 6 th Nov 25	3.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Assembly		Thursday 16 th July 2026	2.00pm	

Important Information: From time to time, due to unforeseen circumstances, the dates/events mentioned in the Fortnightly may have to be changed /cancelled. If a change/cancellation does occur, you will be notified as early as possible.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Proud to be part of...



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership