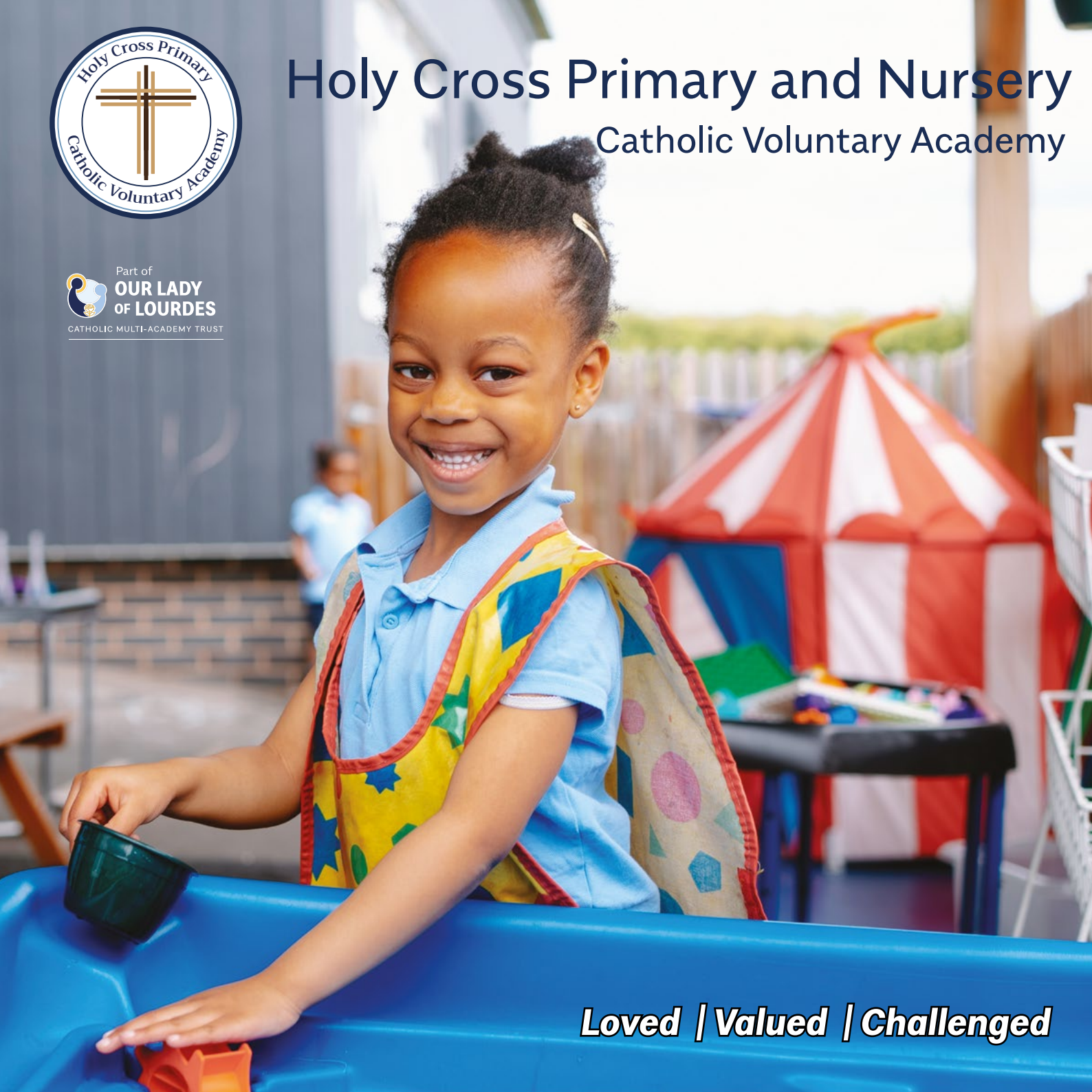
Holy Cross Primary and Nursery

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Part of
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



Loved | Valued | Challenged

Headteacher's Welcome



Welcome to our Catholic school, where faith, learning and community come together, and every child is encouraged to flourish.

We believe every child is known, loved and valued as a unique child of God. Through inspiring teaching, high expectations and exciting opportunities, we nurture each child's talents, build confidence and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Our Catholic faith and Gospel values guide all that we do. We encourage our children to show love, compassion, respect and forgiveness, while developing the confidence to make a positive difference in the world.

Working in partnership with our families and parish, we create a welcoming and supportive community where every child feels a sense of belonging and is encouraged to achieve their very best.

Above all, we want our school to be a place of joy, hope and possibility, where every child feels safe, happy and inspired to shine.

Guided by faith, inspired by Gospel values and united as a community, we ensure every child is LOVED, VALUED and CHALLENGED.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school.

Mr Paul Tibble
Headteacher







Our primary Mission

Loved, Valued, Challenged

At Holy Cross, we are very proud of our school motto and our Catholic ethos: Loved, Valued, Challenged.

Loved: We love one another as Jesus taught us – our friends, our families and those who we may never meet.

Valued: We value everyone – everyone is important; pupils, staff, parents, governors and members of the community– no matter their race, religion ability or need. We try to live like Jesus taught us.

Challenged: We challenge each other – not only with our learning but challenge each other to be more merciful to others, have a little more understanding of others' needs and challenge each other to be better people.

> ***'We get to learn lots of things and I like it when people are loved, valued and challenged.'***

Pupil quote 2023

Our Vision

At Holy Cross, we aim to develop a caring Catholic community based upon the life and example of Jesus Christ, which envelopes the life and lives of everyone and everything in our school. It is through Christ's message of love and forgiveness that the children, staff, teachers and parents and governors, preserve the essential Catholic ethos of the school.

The school aims to provide a challenging curriculum that reflects our philosophy, broadly balanced and relevant, and to support the development of the whole child to his/her full potential. At Holy Cross, everybody matters, therefore we encourage all to show respect to each other and the environment.

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy is a vibrant, caring school community whose mission and motto 'Loved, Valued, Challenged' is reflected in every aspect of school life. It has been at its current site since 1967 but has its origins in Hucknall dating back to 1939.

It has always been a popular school with a family atmosphere and an excellent reputation for attainment, behaviour and politeness.

Innovative and effective learning and teaching strategies are core and school leaders use current research to inform decisions ensuring an effective curriculum.

We have a vibrant, inspiring, dynamic and technological learning environment. It is child-centred and inspires independence.

Learning takes place in a range of settings in and around the school grounds, from the bright, learning centred classrooms, well-resourced inviting libraries, to our outdoor learning environment. This includes sports pitches, wooden learning pods, trim trails, playgrounds, reading areas and the creative child-led EYFS outdoor 'Forest Kingdom'.

The design of all classrooms provides direct safe access to outdoor learning opportunities providing for the needs of all pupils.

'Pupils say that they feel happy and safe at school. They say it is easy to make friends. '

Ofsted 2023







'Pupils understand the importance of being kind and respectful to everyone. They say that the teachers 'talk to us and help us sort out our problems'.

Ofsted 2023

Our learning environment

Our curriculum

Our curriculum based on our motto of Loved, Valued, Challenged that is rooted in Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching principles, is knowledge rich and ambitious for all our learners.

Our curriculum follows seven themes that will allow our children to develop deeper knowledge and understanding in as they progress through each year group.

Teaching and learning

Our curriculum is enhanced through additional opportunities to engage in individual and group activities. These include:

- Instrumental music tuition
- Singing coaching, school choir
- Engagement in achieving national awards
- Parish and community work
- Sporting events and competitions
- Trips, visits and inspirational visitors
- Teaching and learning

'Children in the early years make a strong start to their education. They settle quickly into the class routines. Children show high levels of focus and enjoyment in their learning.'

Ofsted 2023

Our teachers ensure that every lesson is planned so that pupils can be challenged and supported whatever their ability. Teachers track pupils' progress carefully and use this to inform their day-to-day and medium-term planning.

Every class is supported by a teaching assistant who provides small group and individual support and challenge. They also deliver daily 'subject surgeries' for pupils who may not have fully understood the concept taught in the lesson – helping them for new learning in the next lesson.









Catholic social teaching and British values

Within our school we recognise, not only the importance of helping students to flourish academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their role as citizens, able to make the strongest possible contribution to the Common Good of all.

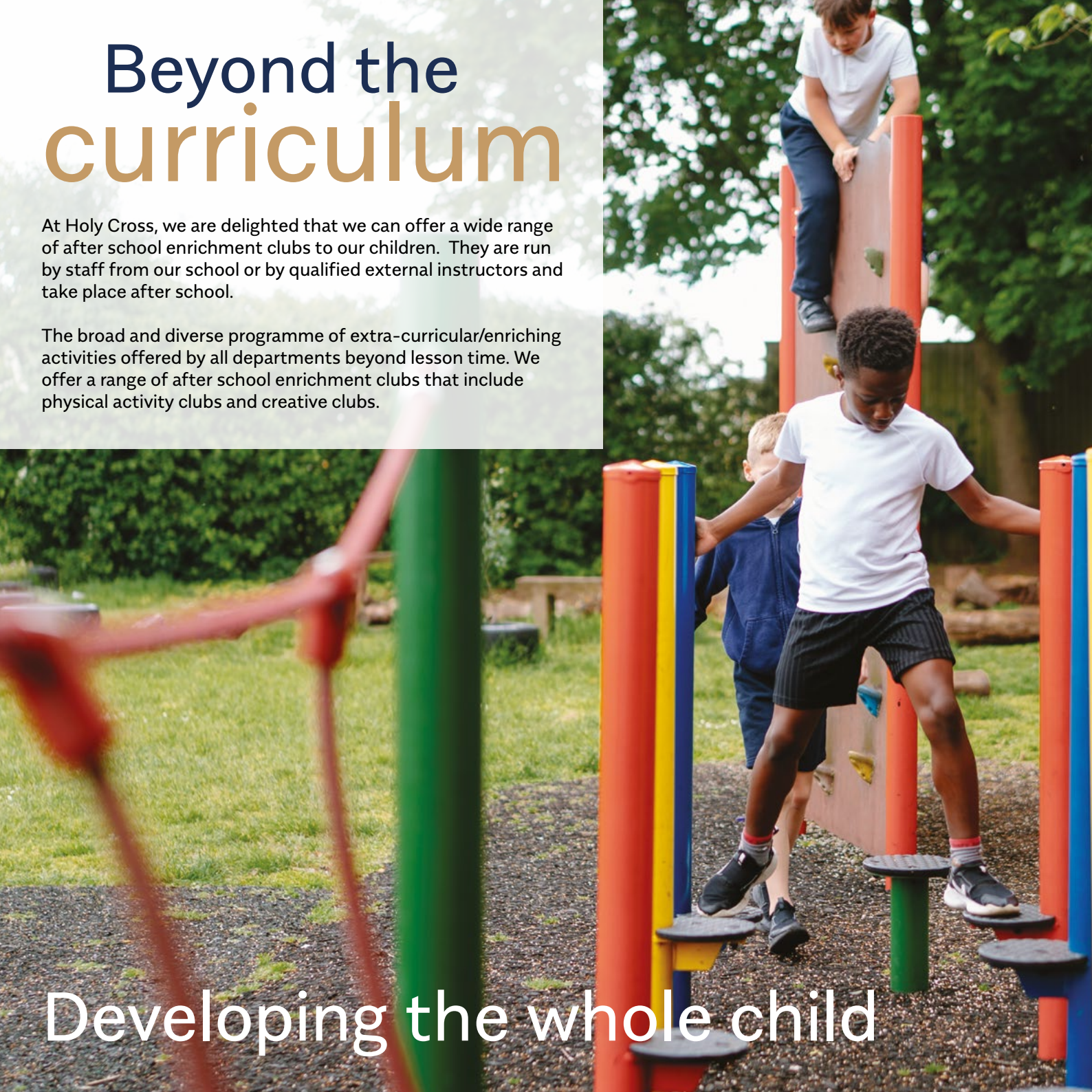
We teach the importance of British values by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important.

Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching.

Beyond the curriculum

At Holy Cross, we are delighted that we can offer a wide range of after school enrichment clubs to our children. They are run by staff from our school or by qualified external instructors and take place after school.

The broad and diverse programme of extra-curricular/enriching activities offered by all departments beyond lesson time. We offer a range of after school enrichment clubs that include physical activity clubs and creative clubs.



Developing the whole child



Enrichment activities

We want every child at Holy Cross to participate in our cnrichment clubs as we have seen that students who take an active role in the enrichment activities display higher levels of self-esteem, a heightened sense of belonging, increased attendance and develop positive friendship groups.

This can help improve the students' moral and social development, health and wellbeing and academic performance. You will see from the range of clubs and opportunities that we have on offer that there really is something for everyone. Please see our school website for the current range of clubs and enrichment opportunities available.

Sporting activities

Our pupils take part in a wide range of sports both within the curriculum, and through extra-curricular clubs. We recognise that sport should be enjoyed by children at every level, but we also appreciate the value of nurturing a natural and friendly competitive spirit in our pupils. We aim for every pupil to experience pride in representing the school at some point during their time at Holy Cross.

After School Club

At Holy Cross, we are committed to providing a high-quality childcare wraparound care provision for all our children.

Breakfast club is open Monday to Friday during term-time only, (excluding Bank Holidays and INSET Days) and open from 7.15am until 8.45am.

After School Club starts at 3.30pm until 5.45pm.

School holiday provision starts at 8.00am until 5.00pm (excludes Christmas).













Achieving full potential

Our pupils take pride in their faith and live out the Church's teachings through their words and actions. This includes welcoming, including and celebrating pupils who have different beliefs.

They have an acute understanding of what's right and wrong. They achieve happiness through self-respect and respect for others. They embrace and understand their own community and are always curious and interested in the wider community and how they can contribute to a better world for all.

Throughout the year they direct and contribute to our learning environment, acts of worship, charitable activities, fundraising, and celebrations all of which develop the Catholic character of our school and prepare them for their lives beyond the school gates.

> ***'Pupils enjoy a range of opportunities to contribute to the wider life of the school. For example, pupils can act as peer mentors, prayer partners, librarians and 'eco-warriors'. The popular extra-curricular activities also serve to develop pupils' talents and interests. These range from music and sport to gardening and pet care, and many more. All of these opportunities support pupils' broader personal development very well.'***
>
> Ofsted 2023

Our school has strong links with Holy Cross Parish; together we are at the heart of a close-knit and thriving parish life. Our Parish Priest plays an active part in daily school life and worship.

Throughout the academic year, individual classes prepare and celebrate liturgies, which parents are invited to share in and the whole school worships together in the Church or the school hall.



Our community

At Holy Cross we greatly value working with parents/carers and respect and appreciate your opinions and contribution to continuing school development so that we can provide our pupils with the best possible education.

We passionately believe in a strong and positive partnership between pupil, parent and school. We believe that good communication between parents/ carers and school is vital for pupils to succeed.

Before starting school in reception or our nursery, there will be an opportunity for new pupils to visit their class and parents/carers to attend an information meeting where they can ask any questions they may have.

Our Parents Friends Group volunteers are extremely proactive and successful, working very hard to raise funds not only for school projects but local and national charities. They organise most of the fundraising activities in school and play a vital role in our school community. All information about our fundraising projects and activities can be found on our website.

Joining Holy Cross

You are warmly invited to visit our school and see the children involved in their learning; this can be arranged by calling the school office and making an appointment.

Children can join Nursery as soon as possible after they turn three provided, we have a space available. Children join Reception, in the September after they turn four.

The Academy Trust admissions arrangements, including over subscription criteria and the appeals process, are available on our school website:
www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/parents/admissions

Applications for places in the nursery can be made directly to the school by contacting the school office.

'I'm so grateful my child is very happy and content at Holy Cross, I can say it's an excellent Catholic school.'

Parent quote 2023

'I really like that everyone is so caring. I also like how all the teachers are funny and explain everything well.'

Pupil quote 2023

Photography by CODA Education ©

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