

# A VERY WARM WELCOME TO PRIORY SCHOOL

From the moment you set foot in Priory School's extensive grounds you'll be met with kindness and hospitality. Our school is known for its friendly, confident and open-minded pupils and you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

Children flourish at Priory School supported by a framework of Catholic values that encourage an appreciation for each other's cultures and beliefs, and an understanding of what is right and wrong. In this atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance teachers are free to give of their best, and pupils are free to thrive. The transition from Preparatory to Senior School is a seamless one, giving each pupil a feeling of support and continuity as they prepare for life outside of the classroom. When they eventually do take their place on the modern stage, pupils do so as active and responsible citizens who make informed judgements and who strive for high standards in everything that they do.

At Priory we encourage everyone to be themselves and to have a strong enough character to pursue their biggest goals. This is why traditional character building activities such as debating, reading for enjoyment, public speaking and the rigorous analysis of ideas is such an important part of what we do. But we are also dedicated to arming our pupils with the progressive, modern skills they'll need for life in the 21st century, in subjects such as computer and information technology, science and languages.

Both the traditional and the progressive are an important part of our educational offering, and we strive to maintain a harmonious balance between the two. Do please note the quotations that appear on each page as you read through our prospectus. These reflect the positive and balanced educational experience that our pupils encounter at Priory.

You are cordially invited to come along and see for yourselves how your son or daughter will benefit from a Priory education. You will witness for yourselves how we love, live and learn joyfully as children of God.

I look forward to seeing you.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jonathan Cramb".

Mr Jonathan Cramb  
Headmaster



## OUR SCHOOL

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# AN INSPIRATIONAL SETTING TO GROW AND DEVELOP

Priory School Edgbaston is a unique school. We have been providing an exceptional education for children for over 80 years. Set in over 14 acres of beautiful gardens and playing fields, our pupils have a wonderful opportunity to be educated in a school that provides a truly inspirational setting allowing for growth and development, spiritually, academically and socially.

We were founded in 1936, on the Catholic values of Cornelia Connelly and the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. Holy Child School, as we were then called, was established to provide a Catholic education for the young women of Birmingham. Today we ask for an appreciation and respect for the founding principles of Holy Child School of equality, fairness and honesty. Since then, we have grown considerably and as of 2006 we became a co-educational school, welcoming boys as well as girls into our community. Our shared aspirations and high expectations are developed from the tender age of 6 months when pupils join us as Priory Poppets, right through to when our pupils leave us as accomplished A level students at 18 years of age.

Today we continue the Sisters' vision of providing an education "to meet the wants of the age" within a safe, secure and caring community where each child is confident in the knowledge that they are valued for their own unique God-given gifts.

Here at Priory School we welcome all faiths and none. We pride ourselves on our fundamental Catholic values that we instil throughout our community. Our pupils are all of different faiths, backgrounds and nationalities and one of our greatest strengths is that life here is hugely enriched by the diversity of cultures. Our pupils are encouraged to work alongside and learn from each other and create values which are integral in today's multi-cultural society. Unashamedly proud of our traditional heritage, we are very much a 21st century school at the very heart of the country's vibrant second largest city. The quality of education we provide has placed us in the top 5% of schools in the country for our added value measure.

We aim for our pupils to grow into well-rounded and accomplished individuals. Having developed a curriculum combining the best in traditional and progressive teaching methods, our pupils leave us not just with excellent qualifications but also as articulate, accomplished and confident young adults.

Our pupils learn how to be responsible for themselves and their families, to be productive, creative, solve problems, to understand and to care about people and to make a valuable contribution in society.

We embrace parents, past and present, staff and our growing number of alumni who enter the world embracing their Priory School values.

\*All quotations used in this prospectus are taken from the ISI inspection report 2016.



“PRINCIPLES AND VALUES ARE ACTIVELY PROMOTED WHICH FACILITATE THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS AS RESPONSIBLE, TOLERANT, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.”\*

# A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING

Priory Preparatory School combines the best in traditional and progressive teaching methods to encourage a lifelong love of learning in those just setting out on their academic path.

Class sizes in our Preparatory School are small, allowing teaching methods to be tailored to the needs of each child, and giving pupils the personal space they need to discover and develop their own unique talents.

As a Catholic School, Religious Education is a core subject and we follow the Birmingham Diocese's scheme of work, while also encouraging pupils from all faiths to explore their individual beliefs in an atmosphere of tolerance.

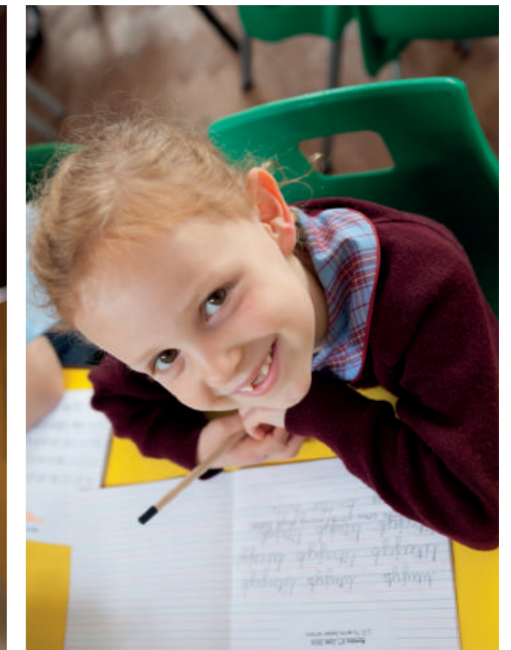
In our Preparatory School children quickly develop skills in Literacy, Numeracy, Religious Education, Science, History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computing, Art, Drama, DT, Music and PE. By Key Stage 2 pupils are gradually introduced to a variety of 11+ skills and concepts.

As well as developing these important academic skills, we ensure the foundations are laid for our pupils to become confident, well-rounded, independent thinking, caring and responsible members of the Priory community.

Healthy and active lifestyles are encouraged through participation in a variety of team and individual sporting activities including, football, tag rugby, cricket, netball, rounders, tennis, cross country, athletics, gymnastics and dance. A range of lunchtime and afterschool extracurricular activities also help extend our pupils' interests and learning; in everything from chess to computing.

Priory is also home to a dedicated Forest School area set within our beautiful grounds. Here, the outdoor environment enhances successful classroom learning and all Preparatory School pupils enjoy regular Forest School sessions where they are encouraged to discover their creativity, explore the environment and develop vital problem-solving skills.

Leadership opportunities also arise in every aspect of Preparatory school life and we encourage our pupils to embrace different positions of responsibility including those of Head Boy and Head Girl as well as School Council representatives.



## THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

At Priory we prepare our pupils for life in the modern world through a quality, values-driven education that focuses on the development of the whole child: socially, morally, physically and spiritually.

Within a framework of stimulating small-group teaching and pastoral care based on Catholic principles, our pupils are encouraged to be confident, independent learners.

Our Senior School curriculum offers a broad range of subjects and enrichment activities, helping pupils to enjoy their studies, whilst also supporting personal growth and future academic choices.

Vertical tutor groups, where pupils of mixed ages are brought together, helps to foster peer mentoring and learning. While clusters of similar subjects are brought together to plan, teach and run enrichment activities for the benefit of all.

In our teaching we aim for authenticity within which equality, respect, social justice, peace and reconciliation, cultural awareness, rights and responsibilities all feature. We push our pupils to pursue academic excellence and we support them in leadership roles in areas where they may have a passion or strength.

Through extracurricular activities, clubs, whole school enrichment days and residential experiences, Senior pupils are able to develop their confidence, resilience and self-esteem. Varied pursuits enable them to identify and manage risk, make informed choices and understand what influences their decisions.

In view of Priory's rich heritage, links have also been maintained with the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Sister schools in Ireland, Europe and North America are in constant contact and regular visits are conducted between schools.





## THE ARTS

# DISCOVERING CREATIVE POTENTIAL

The Arts are at the very heart of the Priory School community. Whether a pupil's passion lies in Art, Design, Photography, Fashion, Music or Drama, we aim to capture their imaginations, ignite their passions and release their creative potential, developing self-awareness and self-esteem along the way.

Priory offers pupils a wealth of opportunities in the Performing Arts. Each academic year features a range of dramatic performances including our annual school production, with pupils encouraged to participate either acting on stage or in equally demanding roles behind the scenes.

We also offer a formal drama curriculum in our dedicated Performing Arts suite, where pupils are encouraged to take risks and be bold in a supportive and dynamic atmosphere.

Music is an important and enjoyable part of life at Priory School. Our state of the art music technology suite supports one of our key aims of ensuring that music is accessible to all, regardless of ability.

In addition our instrumental programme is extremely popular, with many of our pupils pursuing lessons in a varied range of musical instruments.

We also encourage pupils to get involved with the full range of orchestras, bands, choirs and musical groups on offer. These cater to a range of musical tastes and styles and help pupils to build on both their musical skills and their confidence.

Our pupils' musical talents are integral to our many prestigious events throughout the year. Priory's afternoon tea, music and poetry concerts, house music festivals, music and mince pie evening, our annual carol service and many other occasions ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to perform in front of an audience and to pursue musical excellence and enjoyment beyond the classroom.

Pupils can explore their creativity further during art lessons where true artistic talent is exposed, individual creative expression is nurtured and beautiful pieces of artwork are often produced.

Our pupils are supported and encouraged to believe that anything is possible, so it is no surprise that the work produced by Priory pupils is not only of a high standard, but also imaginative, captivating and inspirational.





# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

With over 14 acres of grounds, a fully equipped Sports Centre, a multi-gym, a full sized football pitch, an athletics track and state-of-the-art tennis courts, Priory School's sporting facilities are second to none.

Backed by a dedicated and highly experienced PE department and a comprehensive sports curriculum, our pupils have every opportunity to discover for themselves where their true sporting strengths lie.

Physical well-being is an important priority for the school. Priory pupils are encouraged to follow a healthy lifestyle programme and to develop all aspects of their physical education – with the emphasis on fitness and enjoyment for all.

Priory excels in football in particular. We've competed against some of the strongest independent schools in the country and Priory pupils have been crowned National Champions for both the Independent Schools Association and the English Schools' Football Association.

Priory pupils have the opportunity to take part in a wealth of seasonal sporting fixtures. For the boys there is basketball, cricket, cross-country, tennis and athletics. While girls' sport continues to go from strength to strength with regular fixtures in netball, tennis, rounders and athletics.

The department also offers twice yearly netball and football tours to destinations including Portugal, Holland, Germany and even Barbados.

We believe in encouraging children if they have a competitive will to win and many Priory pupils have achieved outstanding results within their chosen sports. We are particularly proud of our talented sports stars, who represent not only Priory School, but also clubs and teams at local, national and international level. In recent years three Priory pupils have gone on to become footballers for local, national and International teams and one has played tennis for Great Britain.







## THE PRIORY FAMILY

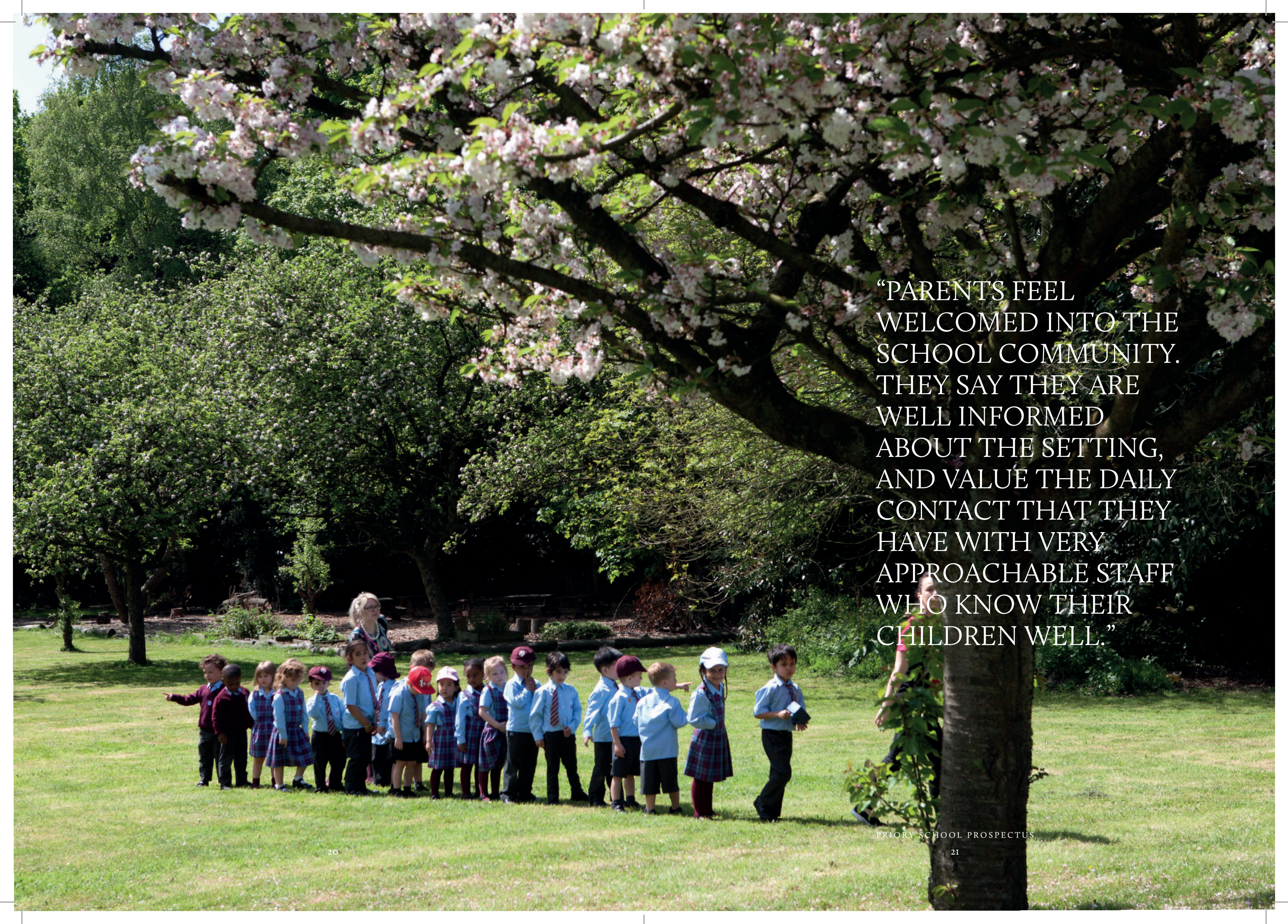
The quality of pastoral care a child receives is very important to us and here at Priory School that care is second to none. Our pupils are nurtured and developed to flourish socially, as well as academically, and each child that joins us is warmly welcomed as a valued member of the Priory Family.

We are committed to developing the whole child – socially, morally, physically and spiritually. Our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme allows pupils to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives both now and in the future.

Our small class sizes guarantee pupils individual attention and personalised learning. While across Senior School our vertical tutor group system, where pupils are in small form groups of different ages, encourages long-term supportive relationships with peers. Our House System allows pupils to work both collaboratively and competitively across a range of sporting, musical and charitable activities and events throughout the school year.

In addition to regular parent evenings and teacher consultation meetings, all parents are invited to attend plays, concerts, charity events and sporting fixtures which take place throughout the year. We have an Open Door Policy and encourage open communication between both parents and staff, while our parent portal – ‘Firefly’ – allows parents to monitor their child’s progress at all times.

Our Parents’ Association, ‘Friends of Priory’, is a team of committed parents and staff from all areas of the school who organise community events such as BBQs, Garden Parties, Christmas and Summer Fayres and our annual Bonfire Night extravaganza. ‘Friends of Priory’ is a true example of the community essence we have here at Priory School, and is testament to the close, caring and enduring relationships that we encourage.

A group of school children in uniform are standing in a line on a grassy field. They are wearing light blue shirts and dark trousers or skirts. Some are wearing maroon caps. A teacher or staff member is standing at the end of the line. The background is a lush green landscape with many trees, including a large tree with pink blossoms in the foreground. The scene is bright and sunny.

“PARENTS FEEL WELCOMED INTO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. THEY SAY THEY ARE WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE SETTING, AND VALUE THE DAILY CONTACT THAT THEY HAVE WITH VERY APPROACHABLE STAFF WHO KNOW THEIR CHILDREN WELL.”

# FOSTERING A LOVE OF LEARNING

Our extensive curriculum provides a rich learning experience for pupils while a plethora of extra-curricular activities, enrichment experiences and leadership opportunities enables them to really excel.

Annual educational visits abroad enhance pupils' awareness of global citizenship as well as supporting their academic understanding and passion for learning.

A myriad of charity fundraising events, adventure treks, field trips and visits to national theatres and concert halls helps pupils foster a lifelong love of learning.





## THE PRIORY JOURNEY

We are proud of the exceptional journeys our pupils take once they leave Priory School. Priory pupils go on to become professional footballers, surgeons, doctors, dentists, lawyers, fashion designers and even members of our own school staff.

When a pupil leaves Priory School, we wave farewell but we never say goodbye. There are numerous opportunities for pupils to return and share their experiences and expertise with current pupils through careers events, guest speaker events and social get-togethers.

# CALUM'S PRIORY JOURNEY

Calum joined Priory when he was just seven years old and enjoyed many wonderful and exciting experiences throughout his time in Preparatory School, including being voted Head Boy in Year 6. His confidence as a young Priory pupil would later lead him to taking centre stage in our Performing Arts department and to becoming Priory's very own superstar in later years during school shows such as Bugsy Malone, Hairspray, High School Musical and more.

His academic strengths did not go unnoticed while in Prep School and he was offered a place at a grammar school for Year 7 entry; however he chose to continue his secondary education at Priory Senior School, a decision that would lead him towards his future chosen career.

He performed exceedingly well and held a strong presence in Senior School, leading in many of our school productions, upholding pupil leadership roles such as Prefect and Student Council member and gaining fantastic GCSE grades in both academic subjects and the Arts.

Calum, as a confident and accomplished individual, left Priory School with a wealth of experiences and went on to study Performing Arts at a specialist college. His confident, charismatic and compassionate persona is what enabled him to excel in every aspect of school life and his successes convey the true Priory message that with passion and determination, anything can be achieved.



“Priory School is a place where you can thrive and flourish in any and all aspects of academia and performing arts. Priory let me become a confident thespian and encouraged me to go to college to do a performing arts course. Both the Preparatory and Secondary Schools nourish the pupils and instil in them a passion to follow their dreams”.

— Calum Howard



## SAFEGUARDING

At Priory School, the health, safety and well-being of children is of paramount concern to us.

We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is for children to enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the world they will be part of in the future. Our policies relating to safeguarding applies to all adults including volunteers working in or on behalf of the school.

To promote a safe environment for pupils, our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks, as recommended by Birmingham City Council as governed by current legislation.

In accordance with our responsibilities under section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2016, we have several Designated Safeguarding Leaders for Child Protection who are members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing council. All have received appropriate and up to date training for this role. It is their responsibility to ensure that all staff in contact with children receive child protection awareness training on a regular basis.

We are committed to:

Establishing and maintaining an ethos where children feel safe, secure, valued and respected and are encouraged to talk openly and are always listened to.

Ensuring that all children know there is an adult in school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty, including opportunities in the PSHEE and wider curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from harm.

The staff are aware that it is their responsibility to be alert to the signs of abuse and to follow the procedures set out in the school's Child Protection Policy.

Occasions do arise when our concern about a child requires us to consult other agencies. Whilst we would always aim to work in partnership with parents, there may be exceptions to this when concerns are raised for the protection of a child. The role of the school in situations where there are child protection concerns is not to investigate but to recognise and refer.

On very rare occasions, Social Care, whilst undertaking an investigation under s47 of the Children Act 1989, may want to speak to a child without a parents' knowledge. This would be a decision made in collaboration with partner agencies and would only be done in situations where a child might be at immediate risk. To gain consent at this point may increase the level of risk to the child or cause evidence of a crime to be lost.

The procedures, which we follow, have been laid down by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all. If you want to know more about our procedures, please speak to the Headteacher, or one of our Designated Safeguarding Leaders. The Policy can be found on the school website.

