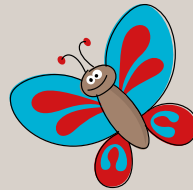
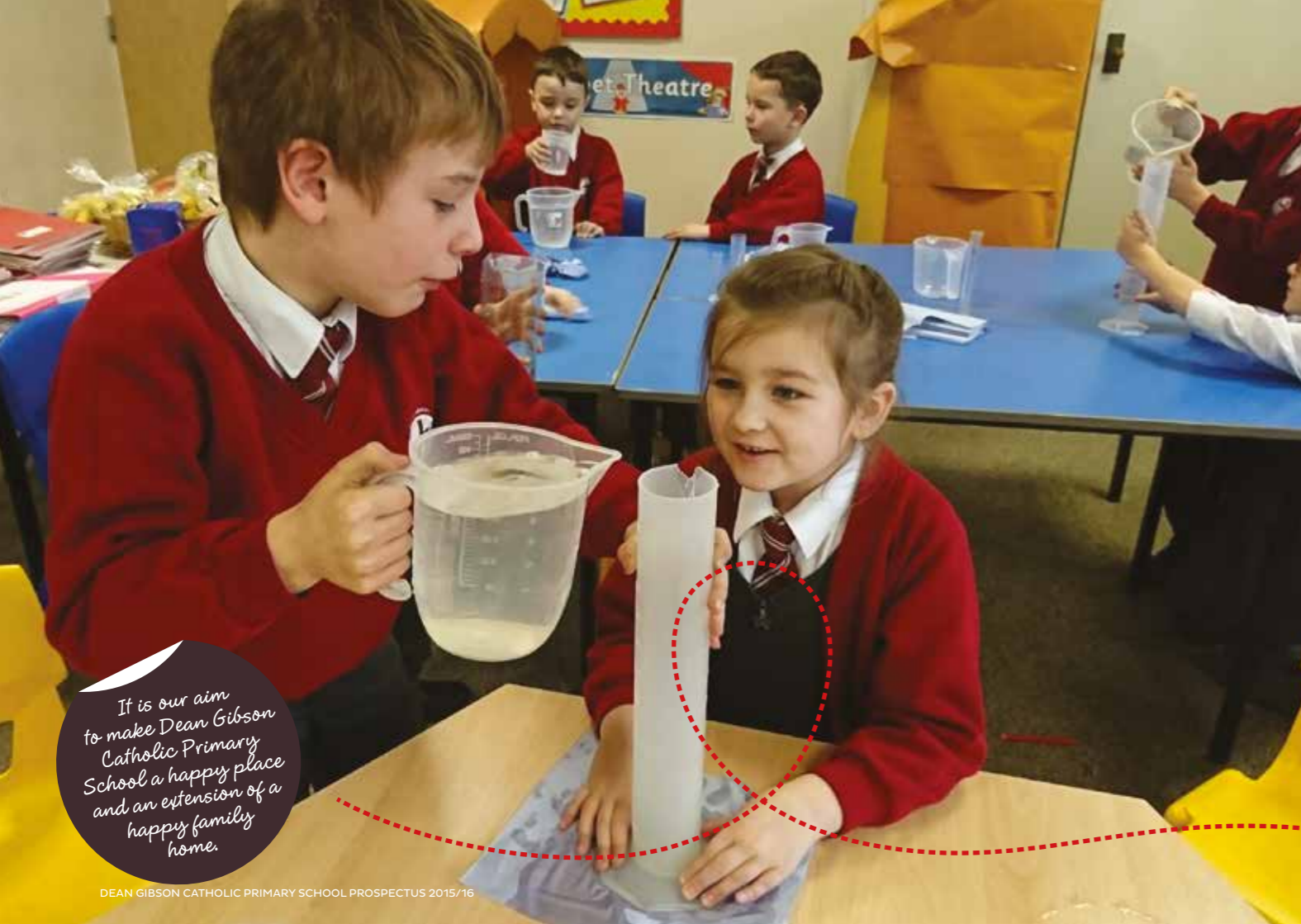


Dean Gibson
Catholic Primary School
& Little Deanies Nursery



PROSPECTUS

*"Leadership and provision in the
early years are outstanding."
(Ofsted 2016)*



It is our aim to make Dean Gibson Catholic Primary School a happy place and an extension of a happy family home.

Welcome

Thank you for showing an interest in Dean Gibson Catholic Primary School and our Little Deanies Nursery. I hope you find the information in this booklet a useful introduction to what is so special about our school.

Dean Gibson is a happy and successful school with a dedicated staff and supportive parents and Governing Body. Little Deanies nursery opened in September 2017 and we offer wrap around care with a daily breakfast and after school club. We are very proud of our school and warmly welcome applications from families from Kendal and surrounding areas. We are a school for Catholic and non-Catholic children, where faith is lived out in the care and love we show for each other. We value each child as an individual and work closely with parents to foster faith, love, caring attitudes, thoughtfulness, mutual respect, self discipline, confidence and independence.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and gives all children the opportunity to learn and develop. The staff's commitment, dedication and ability to work as a team continues to contribute to our sustained rise in attainment and achievement across all ages in the school. Following our last Ofsted in April 2016 we were graded as a good school with

a number of outstanding features, including leadership and provision in Foundation Stage and behaviour right through the school.

Our school is a very positive place where good care and guidance help our pupils to be happy, confident learners who smile a lot! Parents say this is a key strength of the school. But don't simply take our word for it – come and see for yourself. We would be delighted to show you around. Better still, pop in to one of our Friday afternoon celebration assemblies, which are held at 3pm each week, to get a feel for how inspiring Dean Gibson children are.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mrs S Tansey
Executive Headteacher



About us

Our school

- Dean Gibson is a Catholic Voluntary Aided school
- The school endeavours to have at the heart of everything it does values and attitudes that are embodied in the Christian faith
- Standards of achievement and attainment across the school remain **significantly higher** than the national and Local Authority average
- These attitudes and values permeate all the teaching and behaviour in the school
- As the school is deeply interested in how children learn, we keep up to date with exciting new teaching and learning research
- The school aims to challenge all children to learn and encourage them to explore and develop as fully as possible, whilst nurturing their confidence, self-esteem and talents
- The school staff are highly committed to providing our pupils with knowledge, skills and attitudes to enhance their skills for life
- The school wants its pupils to enjoy learning and come to value their own skills and those of others

Little Deanies Nursery

Little Deanies Nursery opened its doors in September 2017. It is a warm, inviting and inspiring place. We've made it a home from home environment for fun and imaginative play. Early indications are that children who attended Little Deanies really benefited from an easy transition with friends to our reception class. We acknowledge the formative, early years of a child's life as crucial to their future learning, development and life chances. We believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life, helping them to develop into happy, confident, sociable and independent people. We embrace individuality, equality and diversity; we value every child and their family, thus promoting a culture of respect, confidence and positive self-esteem.

Can I give really clear instructions?



Lessons getting the seal of approval



Foundation Stage Graduation Day

One of our biggest celebrations of the school year is Graduation Day for the children in Reception Class as they come to the end of their first school year.

Our curriculum

Our curriculum provides an education for life which encourages children to be:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve to their full potential
- Morally and spiritually aware
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilled lives
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society
- Prepared for the challenges of society
- Independent learners and decision makers
- Adventurous and willing to try new things
- Literate and good communicators
- Able to use numbers and ICT effectively

Admission arrangements

Dean Gibson is a Catholic Primary School situated in the Diocese of Lancaster and is maintained by the Cumbria Local Education Authority. A copy of the School's Admission Policy is available from the school office.

Reception graduates celebrate in style!



The aims of our school community

Are to

- Develop an enthusiasm for and love of learning in all
- Place Christian values at the centre of school life, so that the school becomes a sharing community, caring and working for each individual
- Provide a rich, stimulating environment with a stable, industrious atmosphere in which each pupil is made to feel happy and secure in the knowledge that they matter
- Help pupils to succeed by acquiring basic skills at their own level and pace of learning
- Enable each child to reach their highest academic standard
- Encourage children to develop their talents and achieve fully their true potential in all curriculum areas
- Provide a sound basis for Secondary education and adult life



Finding autumn clues

I love coming to Dean Gibson because our teachers always teach us new things but we learn to look after each other too.

Hollie, Year 3



A watched pot never boils

*"Pupils attain consistently high scores in the phonics screening check and above average standards in the SATs at both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2."
(Ofsted, 2016)*

Joining the school

1. We invite you to ring the school and make an appointment to be shown around. This will provide you with the opportunity to meet the Headteacher and staff and to ask questions.
2. Fill in the forms which the school will give you. Please ensure that you complete the Cumbria County Council Admissions form and send it to the School Places Team if your child is starting in Reception.
3. Attend an information session where you will meet and be able to talk with your child's first teacher and her/his assistants.
4. Dates will be arranged for you and your child to attend our induction sessions.
5. A date will be arranged for a member of staff to visit your child's nursery/play group.
6. A home visit, should you request one, can be arranged to discuss your child's admission to our school.
7. Open door arrangements for parents who need more information or have more questions to ask are available.
8. On entry into Reception in September, children are in school for the whole day.

Children with special needs

Some children in our school might need extra help to access the curriculum and make the same progress as other children in their class. This may involve the provision of extra resources, providing extra adults in the classroom or in some instances, a professional assessment. These assessments normally take place in school. We work in partnership with parents and aim to keep them fully informed of their child's education and progress by way of informal meetings, review meeting and parents' evenings. Our Senco (Special Needs Co-ordinator) works with several outside agencies to arrange the best possible support for particular needs. Parents who are concerned in any way about their child's learning should speak to the class teacher who will then seek advice if necessary from the Senco.

The Governors have a Special Needs Policy for the school which can be shared with parents on request. This details the school's arrangements for teaching children with particular needs. Our school policy reflects the requirements of the DfE Code of Practice (2014) and our SEND offer is accessible on our website. The school policy reflects the requirements of this document and our SEND offer is accessible on our website.

Children with special gifts and talents

We use a range of agreed criteria and sources of evidence to identify children who have high ability or potential. Their needs are met through an enriched curriculum and providing a good range of opportunities to motivate, inspire and challenge.

Parish Links

Dean Gibson is the Parish School for Holy Trinity and St. George's Church in Kendal. Strong links have been developed between the parish and the school to provide for the spiritual and pastoral care of the children and their families.

Preparation for sacraments

We believe that parents are the most powerful teachers of children about faith in Jesus Christ. At school, we try to bring our faith to life, even for young children, through our school ethos. But children learn most through what they share with their parents at home and we want to work with you.

Dean Gibson plays its part in the Parish Sacramental programme. When Year 3 children are receiving instruction in the Parish, a module is run in the RE class which complements the subjects of Reconciliation and Eucharist. In Year 6, towards the end of the Summer Term, the Parish Catechist team work with those pupils who have indicated they would like to join the Confirmation Programme.

Mass is celebrated regularly in the school and parishioners are welcome to attend these on special feast days. The school also gathers in the church for certain liturgical celebrations during the year.

A pastoral team of Father Hugh and Catechists regularly visit school to support us in our work.

They help to enhance the distinctive Catholic ethos, which permeates the school community.

Rainbows

The Rainbows Scheme is run in school. Rainbows provide an emotionally safe environment for children and young people to guide them through grieving and significant loss in their lives.

Over 20 Year 10 ex Deanies and their parents came to the Brighten Up celebration. Friendships for life are made at Dean Gibson, both adults and children. What a community!

Teresa, Year 10 mum



Science day at Queen Katherine School



Once a Deanie...

The curriculum

An education for life

Staff plan work which covers not only all National Curriculum subjects, but also provides exciting and relevant opportunities to make learning challenging and enjoyable.

Children are taught the basics needed for their future life. Traditional values and high standards are expected.

The New National Curriculum has been adopted and each class has a daily Literacy and Numeracy lesson. Phonics is taught every day. Reading, spelling, basic number skills and times tables are considered to be priorities. We also consider the use of computers and the teaching of ICT to be very important for our children's future.

We believe that good qualities and attitudes are some of the most important things that we can encourage in our children. For example:

- Care of others
- Respect
- Tolerance
- Good manners
- Self-discipline
- Co-operation
- Responsibility and care for the environment

Children can win a Good Values Certificate for demonstrating qualities such as these.

The school day

Children are expected to be in the playground playing with their friends by 8.45am. A teacher will be on yard duty from 8.45am.

School starts promptly at 8.55am when the bell is rung and the class teachers come into the playground to collect the children. School finishes at 3.30pm.

Morning break 10.30am – 10.45am

Afternoon break 2.15pm – 2.30pm

Dinner time for both Key Stages commences at 12noon and finishes at 1.00pm

All children can bring packed lunches, though Reception and Key Stage 1 children can have a free hot school meal, freshly prepared on the premises, if they wish.

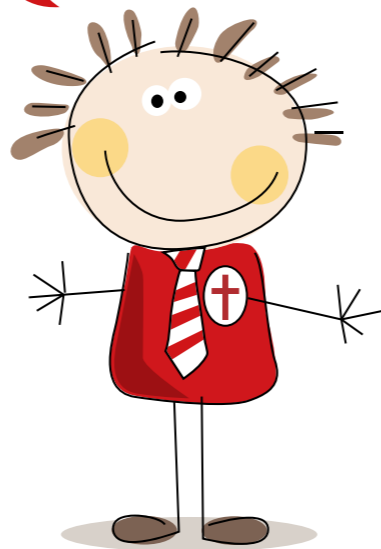
School uniform

The children are really proud of their school uniform. It means everyone can see that your child belongs to Dean Gibson Catholic Primary School. Details are on the school website. Uniform can be ordered either from the school office or direct from the supplier via the school internet site

www.deangibson.cumbria.sch.uk/parent-information/school-shop.aspx

At Dean Gibson
we are all one big,
kind family.

Laiose, Year 3



Scaling the rock face
at Cathedral Quarry

"The Catholic Life
of the school is
outstanding."
(Denominational
Inspection Report,
May, 2016)

Communication to and from school

Meetings

Early in the autumn term you will be invited to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' evening where you will be given information about topics for the coming year, homework arrangements and any other information the class teacher feels you need.

At the end of each school year parents are invited to meet with the teacher to discuss their child's end of year report.

If at any time you have any concerns regarding your child's school life you are invited to make a mutually convenient time to discuss your concerns with his/her class teacher.

Weekly newsletter

Weekly Newsletters available online giving information about important dates, events and news. This can also be viewed on the school website: www.deangibson.cumbria.sch.uk. Text messages are sent out when necessary to inform and remind parents of events.

PTFA

We are lucky to have a very active Parent Teacher and Friends Association who raise lots of money which is used directly to benefit

the children. Recent purchases have included a music sound system, data-loggers for science and play equipment for the Year 1 outside area.

What other activities take place in school?

We have a varied programme of regular and occasional activities which are part of the normal curriculum.

The children enjoy regular activities such as:

- Class visits linked to curriculum work
- Regular class liturgies both in school and at church
- Annual education excursions
- County show
- Summer camp at the Sedbergh Bunk Barn
- Visits to live theatre
- La'al sing at the Brewery
- Torchlight procession
- Harvest festival
- Sports day
- Involvement with the wider community
- Residential visits (years 5 and 6)
- Fund raising/Christmas hamper packing for those in need with our Mini-Vinnies group

Voluntary contributions may be requested for some activities.

What Other Activities Does the School Offer?

Music tuition

We have a wide range of tuition available in school which includes:

- Flute
- Piano
- Violin
- Guitar

These lessons are arranged directly with a private tutor.

After school clubs

The school offers the facility of an After School Club which is situated within the school buildings and runs until 6pm. In addition, staff run a variety of school clubs throughout the year such as:

- Multi skills
- Gardening
- Mad science
- Football
- Art therapy
- ICT
- Singing
- Table tennis
- Recorder group
- Signing club
- Board games

Breakfast club

School offers a Breakfast Club which runs every morning from 8.00 am in school.

Homework policy

The school sees homework as an important reinforcement of work done during the day, and a valuable link with home. Children are encouraged to take a reading book home, learn spellings and times tables. They may also be asked to do some research, which may involve written work. As children progress through the school this will become more formalised in order to prepare them as fully as possible for the next phase of their education.

However, the school encourages children to be involved in outside activities and does not expect homework to take an inappropriately long time. If you have concerns about your child's homework please feel free to discuss them with the class teacher.

Unfinished or poorly presented school work may also be sent home to be completed or repeated. Children needing additional support may be given special tasks or games to do at home.

The school works in partnership with parents to ensure homework is completed to an agreed standard. The school relies on the co-operation of parents/carers to supervise and ensure that the tasks are carried out.

Child protection and health and safety

Everyone in school is keenly aware of the need to keep your children as safe and as happy as possible. Senior Staff have undergone Level 1 & Level 2 Child Protection Training, and all staff are fully aware of the procedures to ensure your child is kept safe from harm. There is a nominated Governor responsible for Child Protection issues. A significant number of our staff are trained First Aiders. All staff are trained in Child Protection.

Behaviour and relationships

Children are praised for good behaviour, good work, effort, honesty and success. A 'Traffic Light' system operates in every class to aid good behaviour. We also have the 'pebbles in a jar' reward system for good behaviour. Weekly rewards, Good Values certificates and merit badges are also given ensuring all children are celebrated within the year. Each week the class with the best attendance wins a reward and once a week Mrs Tansey holds a Gold Star Club session for the winning child from each class.



Complaints Procedure

The law states that the Local Authority must have a procedure whereby parents can file a complaint against any part of the school curriculum.

The procedure may follow up to four stages.

Stage 1. As far as possible any complaint should be resolved informally at the school, with the class teacher in the first instance and then with the Headteacher if necessary

Stage 2. If the complaint is not resolved at Stage 1, then it is to be referred to the school governors.

Stage 3. If the complaint is not resolved at Stage 2, then it should be referred to the Local Authority and/or diocese.

Stage 4. If there is still not satisfactory outcome at Stage 3, then it should be referred to the Secretary of State for Education.

Charging Policy

The Education Reform Act 1988 does not allow schools to charge for any activity, which takes place wholly, or for more than 50% of the time within school hours. Therefore, any essential materials or

equipment used during school hours are provided free. However, the Act does allow charges to be made for the following:

- Board and lodging on residential visits
- Activities which take place that are not required to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education e.g. instrumental tuition
- The cost of replacing items of school equipment/repairs to school building when incurred as a result of pupils' misbehaviour may be charged to parents/carers

It must be noted, however, that educational visits in school time may only occur if parents/carers are prepared to make voluntary contributions to the whole cost.

Accessibility Plan and Policy

In accordance with the Disability Act 2002

The school will always try to raise awareness of those who suffer from disability or chronic illness. It will also endeavour to ensure that there is total accessibility to the curriculum and school facilities for the disabled pupils or those suffering from a chronic illness.

"I really enjoy doing Maths, Art, PE and Science. It's so fun."

Isla, Year 5



"I love coming to school and I am very good at challenges!"

Ethan, Reception

Digging for Victory!

"Pupils' enjoyment of school is reflected in the above average attendance, by all groups of pupils."
(Ofsted, 2016)

Dean Gibson School have provided tremendous pastoral support and ensure excellent academic progress for vulnerable learners.

CLA, Virtual School & Equalities Learning Team

CONTACT INFORMATION

School Telephone Number: **01539 723363**

School Fax Number: **01539 737224**

Email Address: **admin@deangibson.cumbria.sch.uk**

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs Sarah Tansey BA QTS NPQH**

Chairperson of Governors: **Mrs Maureen Calnan**

Chaplaincy Team: **Father H Pollock**

DEAN GIBSON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hawesmead Avenue, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5HB

Come and visit us!

School Mission Statement

At Dean Gibson Primary School we believe that every child is an unique creation of God. We promise to provide educational opportunities and experiences to enrich the learning and wellbeing of the children together with the whole school community, by following the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is the school's aim that the children become well rounded, confident individuals, with an understanding of Gospel values as preparation for the world of work and life.

Governing Body

Dean Gibson has a governing body comprising 12 governors - Eight are foundation governors appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Lancaster, two are elected parent governors, two are elected teacher governors and one is a nominated Local Authority governor.

At the present time only 3 governors do not have children attending Dean Gibson.

The school warmly welcomes applications from all families from Kendal and the surrounding areas who would like to be involved in our wonderful school and all it has to offer.