

Benefits of

# Bishop Challoner

preschool



*"In the EYFS, excellent achievement is promoted through well-planned schemes of work which allow pupils' thinking to be extended, these utilise a wide range of resources, a rapid pace in lessons and teachers' excellent subject knowledge."*

ISI Report 2016

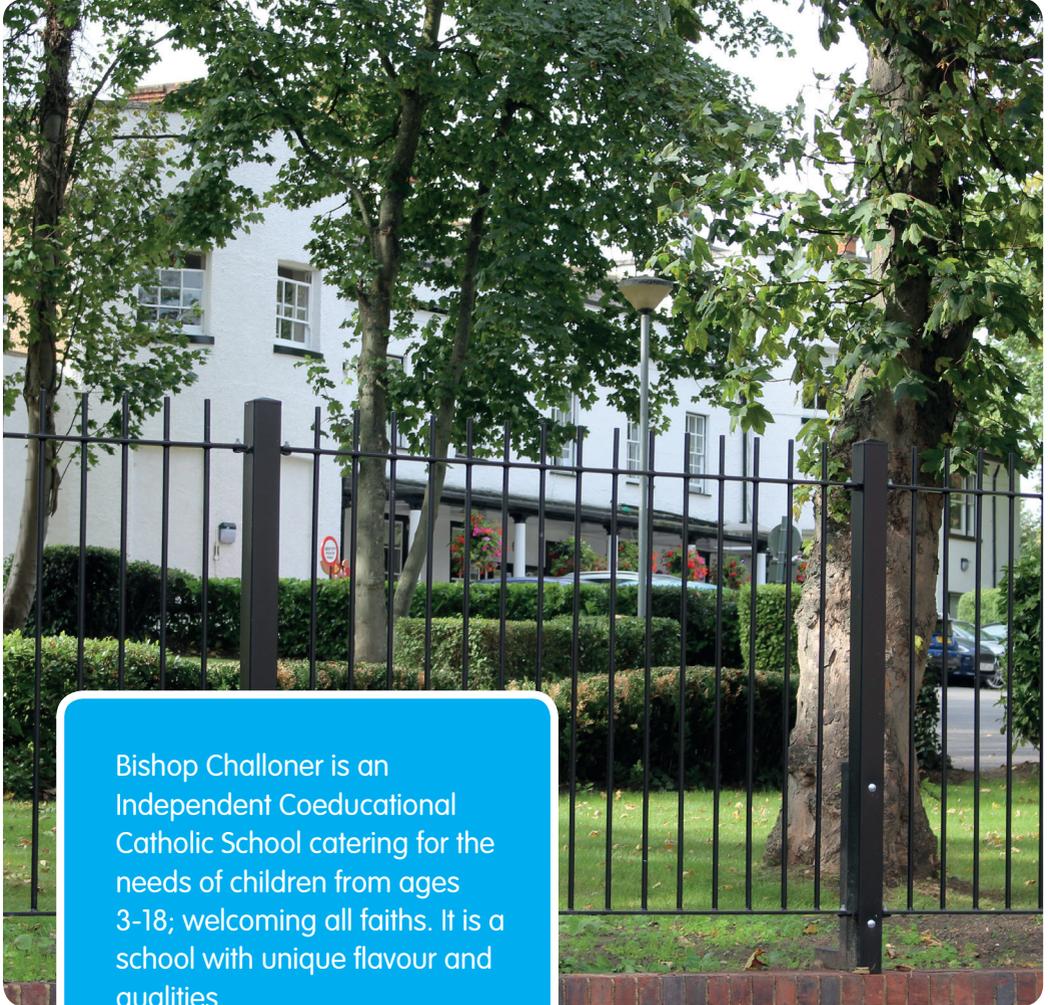


**BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL**

NURSERY • JUNIOR • SENIOR • SIXTH FORM

# The Setting

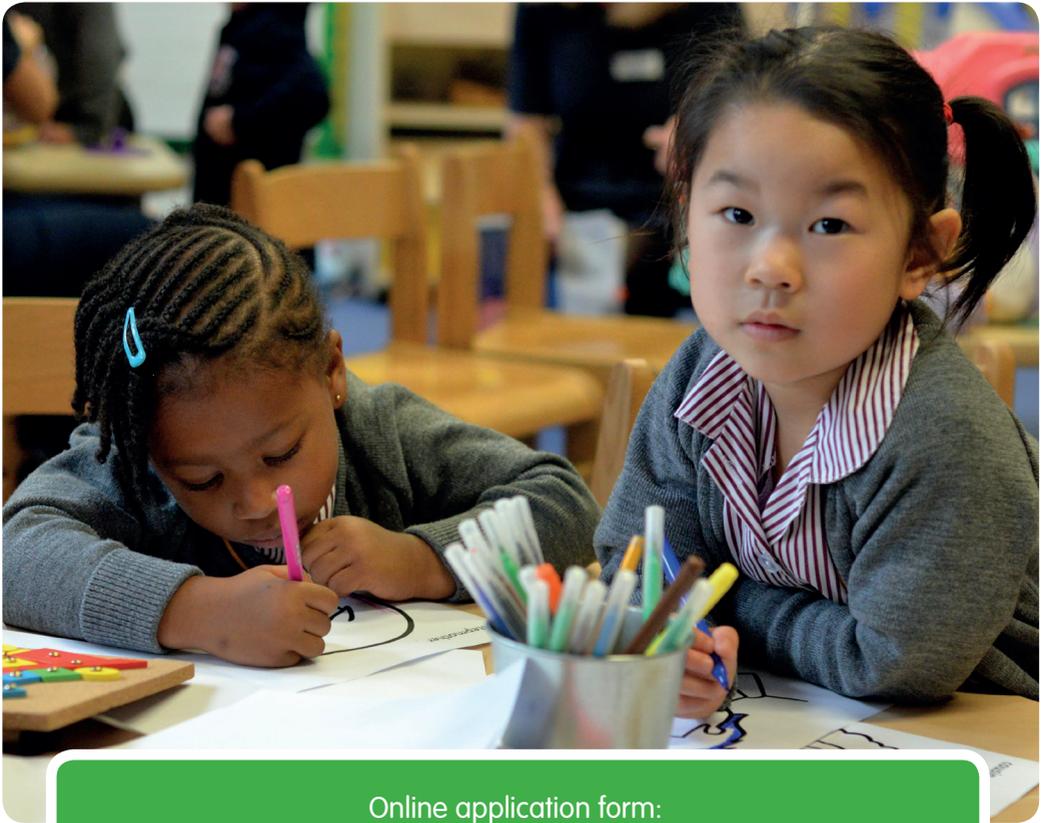
Bishop Challoner Nursery sits within the historic building that was once Shortlands House, steeped in history, but very much moving with the times.



Bishop Challoner is an Independent Coeducational Catholic School catering for the needs of children from ages 3-18; welcoming all faiths. It is a school with unique flavour and qualities.

# Admissions

Children may enter the nursery setting the term that they celebrate their 3rd birthday. Children are divided into groups alongside their peers – one group for the youngest children and two groups for older children preparing for transition to school the next September. We welcome applications from birth and your child will be invited for an assessment session in the classroom with the Head of Nursery during the term before they are due to join us.



Online application form:  
<https://www.bishopchallonerschool.com/admissions/admissions>

# Staff Team

One of the nursery's unique qualities is its highly qualified and experienced staff base. The staff team shares decades of experience in supporting children in their formative years. Staff in the nursery have watched their ex-pupils move through the school and into the sixth-form, giving the school a family feel right from the very start. Being able to see children progress, gain confidence and leave as independent adults gives staff a real sense of pride and fulfilment.

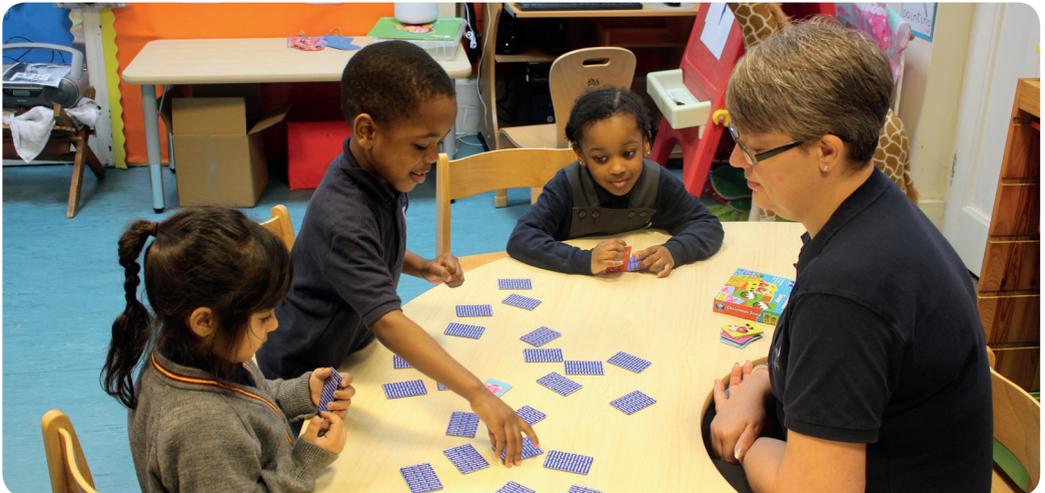
Dedication and commitment are key.



# Curriculum

The bricks and mortar and facilities of a school are of course important, but what goes on within the learning environment is most important. Children in the Nursery are exposed to a wide and varied curriculum which promotes both child-initiated and adult-led learning which is carefully planned and delivered to support progression – stretching the most able child and supporting those that need closer attention. Specialist teachers from the school are a common sight, sharing experience and activities with the very youngest children in the school. For example, French and PE.

Within the Nursery, children are supported not only academically but in their emotional intelligence, helping to mould caring, kind and empathetic children. The use of an online learning journal to record observations and assessments means that parents are able to view photographs and videos of their child's activities, the ability to comment on these ensures open dialogue with parents about how their child is progressing. The Nursery prides itself on outstanding relationships with parents, supporting the most important aspect of all – the children.



# Facilities



The setting within which the nursery is located and its facilities are also unique. The setting boasts three well-equipped classrooms all with their own PC, a kitchen for both serving lunches and cooking activities and an additional library space complete with interactive Smart board. The

additional space is used for IT activities, but also for quieter activities where turn-taking, listening and child-participation are desired outside of busy classrooms.

The Nursery is very lucky to be able to access all the facilities the main school has to offer and these include the junior infant playground and Reception/Key Stage 1 outdoor learning area, the sports field (which is used for an annual sports day event), a trim trail affording the children an opportunity to climb and use their gross motor skills, gymnasium and dining hall spaces for events and PE sessions and the stage which is used for the highlight of the nursery calendar; the Christmas Nativity Play.

# Outdoor Learning

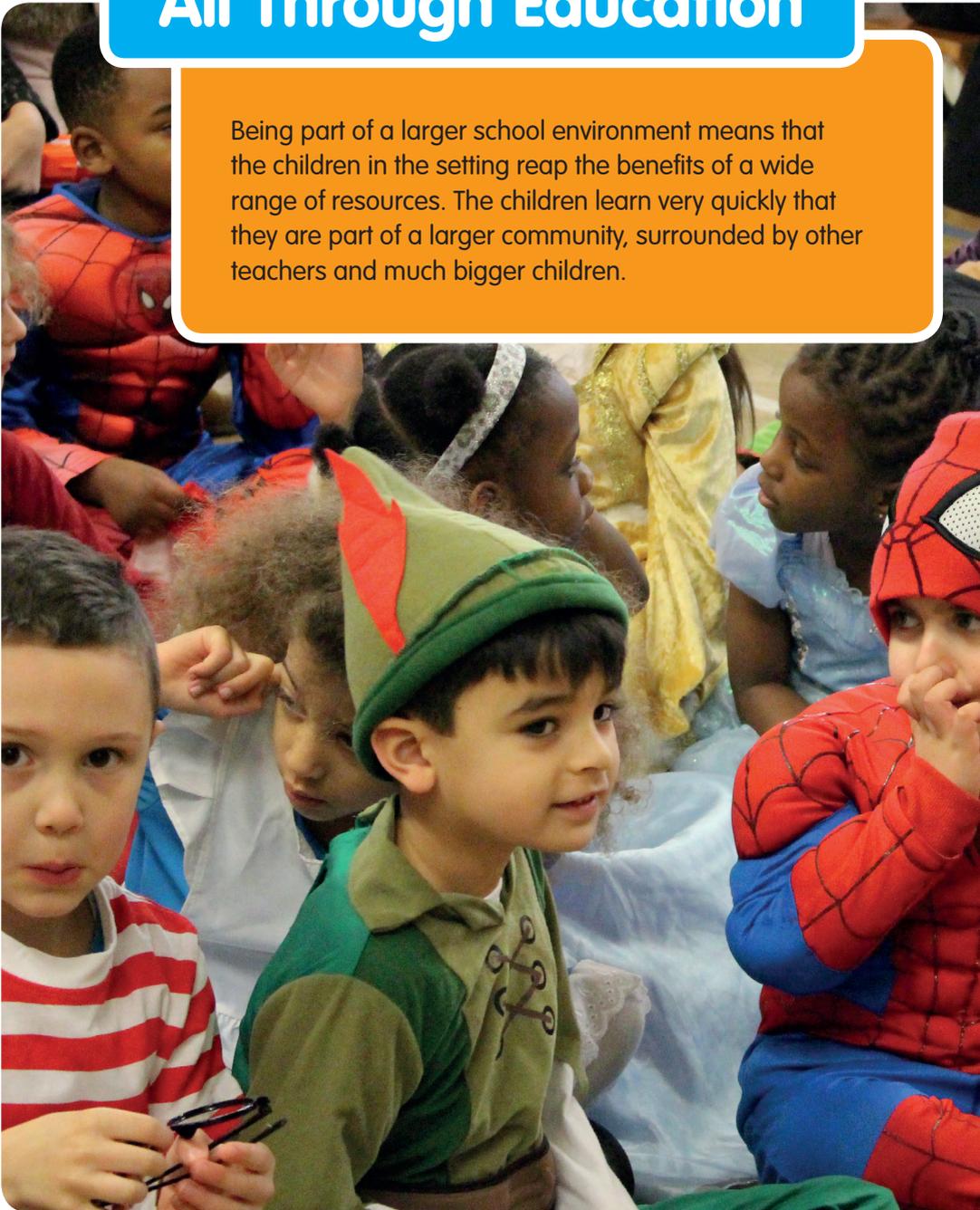
In the last academic year prior to transition to school, children in Nursery access their own on-site Forest School for one morning a week. Currently two sessions a week run and the children are encouraged to get themselves ready for the session and enjoy the learning that the outdoors provides; in all weathers and seasons. Experiencing the outdoors and encouraging the children to explore their own safety and challenge their skills is a vital and important part of their curriculum. Not only does Forest School support all areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage, but it supports the development of life skills, critical thinking and embraces child-initiated learning.

The outdoor learning area at Bishop Challoner Nursery is essential in supporting the children's development. The area is fitted with safety flooring, a permanent sand box, "ship" style climbing equipment and other features such as water table, weighing scales and playhouse.



# All Through Education

Being part of a larger school environment means that the children in the setting reap the benefits of a wide range of resources. The children learn very quickly that they are part of a larger community, surrounded by other teachers and much bigger children.





The Nursery very much sees itself as part of the whole school and joins in with whole school events such as appropriate whole school assemblies and Masses and other special events.

# Catholic Ethos

Bishop Challoner fully embraces its Catholic ethos and once a week the children join together for a time of reflection in the school Chapel, a place to be reverent and cherish our faith and the Sacrament. The children are encouraged early on to be respectful of this precious space and to draw close to God. Bishop Challoner welcomes all faiths and for children who are not Catholic, their faiths and traditions are recognised and we celebrate festivals relevant to them; such as Diwali and Chinese New Year.



# Transition

Bishop Challoner School is dedicated to excellent transition at all stages of the school. We are proud of our transition between Nursery and Reception. The EYFS as a whole gets together once a week for play sessions and celebrates events together such as fun at Christmas and Easter.

The EYFS share an assembly twice per half term and this gives the children plenty of time to get used to the Reception teacher and the environment they will be joining in the September. Carefully planned transition activities and taster days are embraced for all the children, but for those staying at Bishop Challoner excellent communication between staff and parents and the close proximity and length of preparation means that transition is seamless.





twitter@NurseryBC

**Whole school open events are held  
in March, May and September**

<https://www.bishopchallonerschool.com>  
Head of Nursery, Ms Emma Ludlam



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