



A Pocket Book Guide to School

Our school

- Make sure you always travel safely to school. Be careful of traffic on the Crescent, crossing busy roads and walking alone. Do you know the importance of going straight home?
- Try to keep healthy by choosing to walk or cycle. Always encourage your parents to park safely around school - it's better to walk further and keep safe!
- It's really important that you are on time (punctual) and that you don't miss any time at school. Did you know we have attendance certificates at the end of the year for all those children who never have a day off?
- Do you know why school is so important? Your teachers give you 'building blocks' for learning. You get the chance to experience new things and meet new challenges. Sometimes you'll succeed and sometimes you'll need to work at it. It's all about doing **YOUR** very best...always having a go and keeping on trying. You'll learn how great it feels to work hard and do well. You'll grow in confidence. After Year 6 you'll move on to high school. After a bit more growing up you might choose to go on to college or university, choose a career and get a job! It all starts at primary school...



The staff

- Do you know them? Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Headteacher, Deputy, Office staff, Welfare and Kitchen staff, our Site Supervisor and Cleaners?
- Other special people to know are the Vicar and our Governors.
- Guests to school all wear 'Visitor' badges.

We are a Church school

- We belong to the Church of England and the Diocese of Blackburn - do you know what this means?
- We are also linked to St Gabriel's Church.
- Do you know the Lord's Prayer and the Grace?
- School worship is a very special part of school life.
- We say prayers at the end of the day and before we eat lunch.
- Each year group has its own special hymn. Do you know yours?
- Do you know our school's Mission Statement? Take a look above our worship table in the hall.



Feeling happy and safe in school

- Do you know who to talk to if you're feeling unhappy or worried about something?
- Do you know what to do if you're hurt or feeling unwell?
- Would you talk to a member of staff if someone else is upsetting you?
- You will always be listened to. Don't be frightened to ask.
- Would you know what to do if you saw something unsafe in school?
- Would you know what to do and what not to do if someone cut themselves and was bleeding?
- Keeping safe at the beginning and end of the day is really important - if you were dropped off too early or not collected on time, would you know what to do?
- Do you know about keeping safe around our building - what about litter, playing in the garden or gazebo, playing ball games, finding dangerous items (needles, cans)?
- Security of our building - do you know how the main entrance door works and the importance of NEVER letting anyone in? Do you know the rules about opening the school yard gates? You should recognise and know all regular staff in school, but new people will wear badges to show that they have been welcomed as 'Visitors'.
- Fire evacuation practices - do you know what to do and where to go?
 - Do you know the school rules for using the computer and keeping safe on the Internet? Do you understand the importance of E-Safety including social network sites and chat rooms. Do you know the importance of not sharing your personal details on line? Do you know what cyber bullying is?



Keeping happy and safe outside of school

- Do you know about 'stranger danger'? Never go anywhere with anyone you don't know. Even if you do know someone, it's always good to check with your mum or dad first. Always go straight home after school, or after playing out.
- Never play near water or a railway line.
- Do you know how to cross the road safely?
- Always ride your bike safely, wearing your helmet. When you are in Year 5 you can do a 'Bikeability' course to improve your cycling skills.
- Do you know the rule of 'get out, stay out' in the case of a house fire? Never play with matches or candles. Fires can easily be started but can be difficult to put out and are very dangerous.



Keeping healthy

- Our school lunches are carefully planned to keep you healthy.
- Do you know the kinds of food you should eat to keep you healthy? Do you know what foods can be unhealthy if you have too much of them?
- Do you know what our School Council recommends about bringing snacks to school?
- Do you know what clubs and sporting events take place in school for you to get involved in?

• Rewards and responsibilities

- All children are put into different 'Houses' - can you name all four of them? You can receive House Points for all sorts of things from working hard to helping out!
- Each Friday we have our celebration assembly for certificates awarded in school and for trophies and medals for all sorts of activities you've achieved outside of school. Don't forget to bring yours in!
- Did you know that the School Council is a chance for you to give your thoughts and ideas to the staff? We need two representatives each year from each class. It could be YOU!
- We want you to become grown up - so that you can be relied on to carry out special tasks and be responsible, to set good examples to others, to be independent and organised. There are lots of special tasks from being a milk monitor to supporting in ICT or being a 'Meeter and Greeter' showing visitors around our school.
- Do you know that at the end of your time at St Gabriel's we give out special trophies to some of the Year 6 leavers? These are for achievement in school work (reading, maths), the level of effort you've given, achievements in sports and music, there's an 'Eco' award and one for courtesy. Which ones do you think you will be working towards?



Extra fun opportunities in school

- Part of growing up is about discovering your gifts and talents, trying new things which build you up on the inside and make you feel really good about yourself. You can do this in lessons when you give it your best and you succeed.
- But also..... you can learn to play an instrument, join the school orchestra, join the school choir and perform at special events. You could be part of a sporting team - athletics, cross country running, netball, football or tag rugby. You could become a keen gardener, a great artist, a dancer or a chef. There are always plenty of extra activities going on for you to get involved in or just to try out. Don't lose out. Get involved!



We're hoping that your time at St Gabriel's will enable you to learn and achieve your very best....

We also hope that you...

- Understand the *Christian* values which are at the heart of our school.

...so that you are:

- Kind
- Respectful
- Polite
- Reliable
- Honest
- Truthful
- Obedient
- Thoughtful
- Independent
- Confident
- Friendly
- Happy



So, when you leave *St Gabriel's*, you will spread your wings and fly!

