



# St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School

Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

21<sup>st</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to kindly ask for your support in helping us make the best use of our limited cloakroom space. When the school was first designed 50 years ago, there was enough space in the cloakrooms for all children to store coats and bags. The pupil numbers in our school have increased over the last 50 years, particularly in the last 9 years. Since 2017, our school has increased from 52 pupils in a year group to 60 pupils in a year group. This has seen our overall pupil numbers rise from 364 pupils in 2017 to 422 pupils today. However, during this time, there was unfortunately no space to increase the capacity of our cloakrooms.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of large school bags, as well as bags with multiple attachments such as toys, large keychains, and other accessories. Unfortunately, these can take up additional room and make it even more difficult for all pupils to store their belongings safely and neatly. This results in children's coats and bags continuously falling on the floor.

To help manage this, we ask that children do not bring oversized school bags that cannot be stored easily. As we don't want to sound like Easyjet or Ryanair, we are not stipulating maximum dimensions of bags, but ask that you consider what your child actually needs to bring into school each day and therefore, how big does the bag have to be!

We also request that bags do not have items attached to them, with the exception of a **small** keyring or ribbon, if needed to help identify ownership. Teddy bears and other attached items are making the limited space available even more congested. To help save space now, we would ask that the oversized attachments on bags are removed. Reducing the actual size of bags could be addressed over the summer, if you were planning on replacing your child's school bag for the start of a new school year.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us ensure that our cloakrooms can be as organised, safe, and as accessible as possible for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr E Flood

Headteacher

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