



We are St Cuthbert's



St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School

Live life in all its fullness

Punctuation Practice

Apostrophes



This is another punctuation mark which seems straight forward enough but it is often forgotten about or used incorrectly.

There are two reasons we use apostrophes:

- when we want to show possession (ownership)
- when we want to show omission (missing letters)

Apostrophe of Omission

Apostrophes replace missing letters

Shortened words or phrases use apostrophes to show where the letters have been removed.

We are all responsible for the environment.

“We are” becomes “we’re”. The **BECOMES**
apostrophe shows where the ‘a’ has
been removed.

We’re all responsible for the environment.

Apostrophe of Omission

See what I did there?

If you have removed any letters to shorten a word, you'll definitely need to use an apostrophe.

Here are some examples of common ones. They are well worth learning!

LONG FORM	SHORT FORM
I am	I'm
I would	I'd
I had	I'd
I have	I've
Will not	Won't

LONG FORM	SHORT FORM
They are	They're
Who is	Who's
Do not	Don't
Does not	Doesn't
Cannot	Can't

Apostrophe of Possession

Apostrophes are used to show ownership

Add an apostrophe and '-s' to nouns in order to show possession.

Mr McGregors garden was full of vibrant, colourful flowers.



Mr McGregor's garden was full of vibrant, colourful flowers.



The apostrophe shows that the garden belongs to Mr McGregor.

Apostrophe of Possession - Plurals

What if a noun is plural?

Add an apostrophe and '-s' to plural nouns which DO NOT end in 's'.

The Suffragettes fought for women's rights.

The rights belong to more than one woman and the noun doesn't end in 's', so this is the correct ending.

Apostrophe of Possession - Plurals

What if a noun is plural?

But if a plural noun already ends in 's', just add an apostrophe to the end:

The government spent the taxpayers' money.

This shows that there is more than one taxpayer and that the money belongs to all of them.

Apostrophe of Possession - Plurals

Why does the position matter?

The position of the apostrophe is really important because it can change the meaning of a sentence.

The tree's leaves were green.

This sentence describes one tree.

The trees' leaves were green.

This sentence describes more than one tree.

An appropriately used apostrophe ensures that your writing is clear and that it makes complete sense.

Whatever you do, DON'T use apostrophes just because a word ends in the letter 's'!

There were six team's left in the tournament.

This is just wrong!

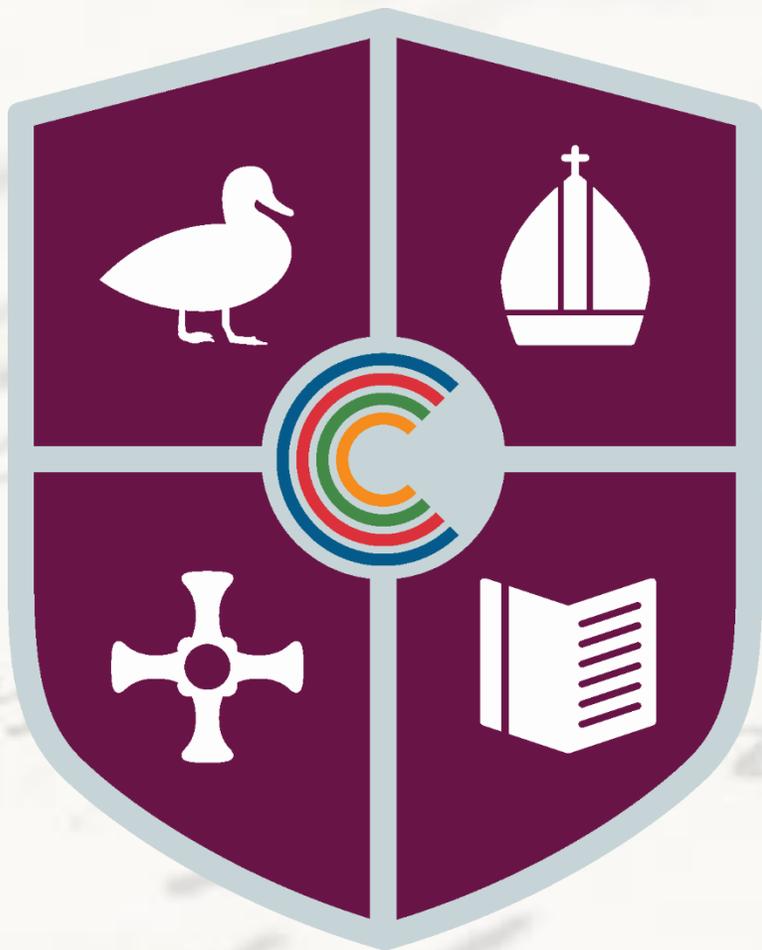


**KEEP
CALM**

AND

REMEMBER YOUR

PUNCTUATION



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