

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION POLICY

*St. Joseph's
Catholic
Primary School,
a Voluntary
Academy*

St. Joseph's Catholic primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy.

“Trusting in God, Creating tomorrow, helping today.”

Intent

As a Catholic Academy, religious education and faith development are at the heart of our school curriculum developing the Catholicism and spirituality of our pupils.

At our school we continually strive to develop the full potential of the school community in an environment permeated by the Catholic Faith and promoting Gospel values. At the heart of our mission is the family, school and parish, each supporting and working in mutual co-operation for the benefit of the children.

We are seeking to enrich the lives entrusted in our care through a broad and balanced curriculum designed to meet the needs of each pupil.

The school provides opportunities for young children to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically and emotionally and share their qualities, abilities and ambitions thus fulfilling individual potential.

Our aims for our Catholic Life and Mission will be to enrich the lives of the children in the;

- Teaching of the Catholic faith and how their lives should be shaped by their beliefs and values.
- Growth of faith by relating the Gospels to their lives and levels of understanding.
- Understanding that we are all one body in Christ and that we have a duty to show love to our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Understanding of Catholic Social Teaching Principles and how these can shape our words, actions and decisions.

We feel that the best way to achieve these aims is a three way process involving the Home, School and Parish. We endeavour to make these links wherever possible, acknowledging that the foundations of our Catholic Mission

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are presented to children from a very wide range of backgrounds and commitment to the faith.

Based upon the varied backgrounds and experience of Catholic Social Teaching and Mission we tailor our programme to meet the needs of all pupils. At St Joseph's, everyone is encouraged to love others and live out our Catholic Mission.

Implementation

Mission Statement

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

Our mission statement is the foundation stone on which we build the Catholic Life of the school and we aim to achieve our mission by:

- Establishing, maintaining and developing a Catholic ethos which is permeated in everything we do and is apparent to all those who enter the school.
- Instruct, explain and demonstrate the Gospel values and how we aim to love out our lives.
- Create a distinctively Catholic culture where all members of the school community lead virtuous lives.
- Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in collective worship.
- Creating a place of learning where faith is central.
- Providing an enriched curriculum which is creative, inspiring and inclusive for all pupils.
- Being an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, respect, courage love and charity.
- Ensuring that the Gospel values are permeated through all policies such as inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc.

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- Developing children's understanding of vocation, that God created each person for a unique and special purpose.
- Developing children's understanding that they are made in God's image and likeness, that He loves everyone and wants us all to love one another as He loves us
- Supporting the Sacramental Programme within the Parish.
- Ensuring that all members of our community feel valued, welcome and included

Developing the Prayer and Spiritual Life of all Members of our School

We aim to develop the spiritual life of everyone within our community, regardless of their beliefs, or none. We provide spiritual development for pupils and staff alike, and invite our families to develop spiritually in connection with the school and parish. We do this by:

- Providing children with the skills to develop their own prayer life - through the reading of the Scriptures, music, drama and prayer. This is progressive and detailed in our Skill Strategy.
- Opportunities for pupil led prayer and worship weekly and support from our School Chaplains
- Providing opportunities for reflection
- Developing the environment - each classroom in the school has a crucifix, prayer focus area which reflects the liturgical year and has relevant Christian symbols and artefacts relating to the current 'Come and See' topic
- Travelling Nativity for all year group families which enhances home school links
- Lenten Prayer bags for all year group families which allow families time to pray and reflect
- Travelling Bibles which children take home each week which allow families to spend time with scripture in an age appropriate way

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- Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child; class Masses, Celebration of the Word, confession, adoration, homework activities linked to current RE topics or related to the Bishop's themes and other times of the year such as Remembrance Day etc
- Whole School Retreat Days
- Word of the Week films which are shared on our Youtube channel and on our Facebook page and Parish board

Further strengthening links with the parish and those who are housebound through sharing posts on their social media pages, Christmas Cards, Thinking of You cards, singing at the local care homes

- Fundraising opportunities throughout the year

Prayer and Liturgy

The school day is punctuated with prayer. Teachers and pupils pray at the beginning of the school day, lunchtime and end of the school day. Pupils are encouraged to pray spontaneously throughout the day by making use of class prayer areas, prayer stations around school and personal prayer journals.

The school prayer garden is also available for Personal Prayer for key stage phases during the mornings and at break times

Plays and Performances

All classes, from Nursery to Year 3, perform a Nativity play or Nativity songs in the Advent term.

Year 5 and 6 children lead the Christingle Service at the end of the Advent Term

Year 4 and 5 lead an Easter Presentation sharing the events of Holy Week

Years 4, 5 and 6 lead a Carol Service in church

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All classes are involved in leading and participating in prayer and liturgy throughout the year.

Parental Involvement

We value a strong partnership with parents as their child's first educators. They are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete homework tasks from the grid sent home each topic and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

We provide information on the Ten:Ten programme (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups, and hold a parent's meeting for the RSHE curriculum for all parents of children across the school to share the programme with them.

We welcome feedback from parents regarding the teaching and learning of RSHE.

Parents are regularly invited into school to attend Retreat Day celebrations, Prayers led by classes, Celebration of the Word and any other performances and plays.

Parents are also regularly invited to support with homework activities related to different times of the church's year such as making family poppies in Remembrance in October or Christmas Cards for the sick and housebound of the parish and local hospitals etc. This also includes Art and Writing competition opportunities.

Parents are encouraged to join Friends of St Joseph to help organise and host a range of events for our school community. All funds raised support the development of the home environment and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

Putting our Faith into Action

We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. A timetable of charitable support for the year is

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created in and detailed in our Annual Plan of Provision.

This includes local, national and overseas charities. Charities are supported at liturgically-fitting times throughout the school year and children support the planning and implementation of charity events.

Our CAFOD Club members plan and run events to raise money to support CAFOD as one of our charities across school.

The Faith In Action Award is offered to Year 6 children who receive their pin on completion, presented by the Nottingham Diocesan Youth Service

We encourage all children to make a difference to our school by becoming involved in a variety of Catholic Life and Mission voluntary roles. These include: The Chaplaincy Team, Eco Committee, Agents for Change, Ivengers, OPAL Team, Mental Health Ambassadors and Reading Champions. These groups are lead and supported by different staff. Our aim is for the children to know that when they volunteer for these groups, they are acting as Missionary Disciples and are doing God's work here on Earth. Each of these groups has a designated Catholic Social Teaching principle connected with their group which drives and inspires their work.

Impact

Our Catholic Life and Mission has ambition for the spiritual growth of all pupils irrespective of background and starting point. All pupils are aware that we have a special role to live as Disciples and ensure that we show love to our brothers and sisters both locally and around the world.

At St. Joseph's, we continually measure the impact of our Catholic Life and Mission by speaking to children and all stakeholders. By ensuring that Catholic Life and Mission has the highest possible priority, the impact that it has on the lives of all members of our community is palpable.

Mission is an integral part of our lives at St. Joseph's School. We are all members of the Body of Christ and members of a Christian Community and recognise that we all have a duty to show love through our actions and words.

Roles and Responsibilities

The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the RE Lead and Headteacher who supports colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. Both will provide CPD opportunities for all staff where necessary, and will lead Catholic Life staff meetings to ensure staff are aware of expectations within school and Diocesan initiatives.

The RE Governor and Chair of Governors are kept informed regularly regarding Catholic Life and Mission initiatives in school at Local Governing Body meetings and also through learning walks and pupil interviews.

This policy is reviewed by the Head Teacher and the Local Governing Body every two years or more regularly as required.
orts from subject leaders.

Reviewed: July 2024

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