



Mission Statement:
Growing Together in Faith and Understanding
Spiritual growth and academic growth go hand in hand throughout school life.

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

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Committee Responsible:	Mission and Pastoral Committee
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Through shared acts of daily worship, we celebrate our relationship with God and each other.

As we unite in our worship we remember, **“Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Mt 18v20**

Catholic Life and Mission

'When Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment, the answer is the same in all three of the Gospels in which the question is asked: to love God with all your mind, heart, soul and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself.' This call to love is at the heart of the educational mission of every Catholic school. It is a mission that is clearly echoed in the Second Vatican Council which teaches that the purpose of an education that is distinctively Christian is threefold (Gravissimum Educationis 2):

- to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school
- to ensure that all are invited to learn how to worship God in spirit and truth through the prayer and liturgy of the Church
- the formation of all to live in conformity with the pattern of human goodness, truth and justice that we find in Jesus Christ. That is, all pupils in Catholic schools are called to know God more clearly, to love him more dearly and to follow him more nearly every day.'

This threefold mission is reflected in the three perspectives of the Catholic School framework. Through religious education pupils are invited to love God with all their mind, through collective worship with all their heart, soul and strength and through the Catholic life and mission of the school to love their neighbour as themselves.

This policy on Catholic life and mission complements the Religious Education policy, the Prayer and Liturgy policy and the Relationships, Health and Sex Education policy.

The aim of this policy is to show how faithfully Our Lady of the Rosary responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Our Mission Statement

The mission statement, '*Growing together in faith and understanding*' of Our Lady of the Rosary is highly visible throughout the school environment. It clearly reflects the school's role in the educational mission of the Church, promoting Gospel values and the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Our school vision, '*spiritual growth and academic growth go hand in hand throughout school life*' is underpinned by the Bible verse: "Continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him." (Colossians 2:6–7).

Our vision is met by:

- Building a community of support founded on Gospel Values.
- Deepening our prayer life and relationship with God and living our faith.
- Ensuring that all members of the community are included and their uniqueness is valued and celebrated.
- Ensuring all children aspire to reach their full potential.
- Celebrating diversity.
- Preparing each child for their next step in life.
- Keeping each child safe and supporting them with their physical health and wellbeing.
- Encouraging children to take risks with their learning and to be curious and resilient.

Our mission statement is a touchstone of school life so that:

- Pupils have a clear understanding of its meaning and can articulate this at an age-appropriate level
- All staff embrace and implement the statement across daily school life through a range of opportunities such as class prayers, whole school liturgical prayers, displays, celebrations and ensuring a feeling of belonging.
- It is shared with parents and the wider community through school signage, newsletters, policy documents and the website.

School Environment

Visitors to Our Lady of the Rosary are aware of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the physical environment, the presence of images and symbols and the recognition of a learning environment that respects the human dignity of all persons as made in God's image and likeness.

At Our Lady of the Rosary, every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment and so you will also find that:

- All rooms have a crucifix

- All classrooms have a cared for, attractive prayer area matching the liturgical season
- Each class has a 'liturgy resource box' with coloured cloths and good quality religious artefacts
- There is a display to help the children know who our Pope and Bishop is
- All rooms have the school Mission Statement visible
- Displays within each classroom reflect the 'Day by Day' branch being taught and contains a range of work produced by the pupils, the knowledge mat and key prayers or scripture
- There are statues, icons, pictures of saints that are special to the school, particularly those associated with Our Lady
- Signage and religious artwork outside shows that it is a Catholic school
- The school grounds have a peaceful prayer garden

Catholic Curriculum

'The Catholic vision of education is distinctive and the beliefs it holds, the values and aspirations it has must inspire the whole of the curriculum.'¹

Our school is a community of learning with a distinctive educational philosophy which is based on the Gospels. Whilst Religious Education is at the core of the core curriculum, this philosophy permeates all of the curriculum and activities as we recognise the needs of each individual member of the community in each of our schools.

At an age-appropriate level children are introduced to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, in line with those taught at St Bede's, our Secondary Feeder school. Our school uses child friendly resources to explore the writings of Pope Francis, such as *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. In this way we are building their moral compass and enabling them to respond to social, moral and ethical issues in the world. Our Catholic curriculum leads our charitable outreach and work for social justice.

Relationships, Health and Sex Education is taught in a Catholic context recognising we are all made in God's image and likeness. See our RSHE Policy.

Other faiths are taught as part of the RE curriculum. See our RE policy. Learning about the religion and cultures of those who do not share the Catholic faith is one of the ways in which Catholic schools embody the call to love one's neighbour. It prepares our children for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the beliefs of others.

Charitable outreach

We aim to foster and develop an awareness of the needs of others: locally, nationally and globally, and promote a spirit of generosity and compassion as taught by Jesus Christ. Through timetabled work on Catholic Social Teaching and *Fratelli Tutti* pupils are taught to stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable.

There are various fundraising events and charitable outreach activities throughout the year co-ordinated by the Chaplaincy Team including but not limited to:

- Bringing food in for local foodbanks, particularly at Harvest time
- Selling poppies for Remembrance
- Raising funds for CAFOD through activities chosen by the pupils
- Raising funds for charities chosen by the children such as Mary's Meals or Children in Need
- Sending Christmas cards to elderly parishioners or those who are lonely

Pupils are always encouraged to help each other as well as their parents, teachers and other people in the community. It is our aim that our school ethos is one that will foster and nurture a generous giving of self, and an appreciation and respect for others.

¹ NBRIA The Distinctive Curriculum of the Catholic School

Working for Social Justice

Pupils are also taught the importance of standing up for social justice as an important aspect of Christian life. There are planned opportunities for pupils to engage in campaigns for social justice such as:

- Climate change activities e.g. litter picking
- Supporting Fairtrade Fortnight
- Writing to local MPs to join with campaigns
- Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness
- Creating posters to promote sustainability

Chaplaincy

The spirituality and prayer life of the school are an evident part of its Catholic life and mission. Our Prayer and Liturgy policy details the school provision. Chaplaincy provision at Our Lady of the Rosary plays an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the whole community.

Our school Chaplaincy Team consists of our School Chaplain and a number of pupil representatives from Years 1-6. Their role is to support each member of the school communities to grow in their faith and to be part of the pastoral care system in each school. They do this by:

- Maintaining and developing class prayer tables
- Maintaining and developing communal prayer tables
- Writing and leading prayers during whole school liturgies
- Offering opportunities for informal child-led prayer during break or lunch times, e.g. saying the Rosary during October
- Organising retreat days
- Keeping the pupils updated with information about donations to charity, such as for foodbanks and CAFOD
- Being a role model to others by modelling reverence and joy where applicable
- Writing and leading whole school liturgies
- Accompanying members of the school community, especially in times of need
- Undertaking larger projects, such as developing the prayer garden

School Community

Our Lady of the Rosary is a welcoming place for children, families and members of staff from all faiths and none. Recognising that Christ is at the centre of our school we strive to support and value each member, especially the most vulnerable.

“The first key reason why Catholic schools are established, then, is ...to place Christ ...at the centre of people’s lives.” Stock, M. *Christ at the Centre: Why the Church Provides Catholic Schools*. (Catholic Truth Society, 2012), p.7

Our school Behaviour policy is driven by a belief that all are unique and made in God’s image and likeness. See our Behaviour Policy.

Children and staff are encouraged to engage with a range of awards that recognise the work that our school does to implement Catholic Social Teaching, such as The Live Simply Award and Fairtrade.

Our Lady of the Rosary recognises that it is part of a family of Catholic schools and works collaboratively with local Catholic schools across the diocese. Through work in RE, our children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family.

Our Lady of the Rosary are encouraged to live life to the full and reach their full potential. Members of staff have opportunities to take part in the diocesan continuing professional development and formation programmes. New teachers are enrolled on the New to Catholic Education Programme as part of their induction to teaching or leading in a Catholic school.

Parents

Parents are the first teachers of their children and we work in partnership with them. They are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete any tasks set and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

We ask parents whose children are of other faiths to share their religious celebrations with their child's school so that we can all learn together about key parts of their faith year and support those community members who are of other faiths.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: class assemblies, Parent Teacher Meetings, whole school Masses and liturgical prayers or events which take place throughout the year both in school and at Our Lady of the Rosary parish church, such as Crowning of Mary or the School Nativity.

Parents are encouraged to participate with their children during Advent and Lent when the 'class prayer bag' is sent home, encouraging a time of sharing and reflection. Parents are also encouraged to join the 'Friends' to help organise and host events for the school community, such as the school discos. All funds raised support and enhance the provision the school offers for their pupils and families. This is also an important way to immerse themselves in their school community.

Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, as well as at parent meetings. We operate an open-door policy and there is always a senior leader available at the start and end of each school day.

Parish Links

Links with Our Lady of the Rosary parish is a vital part of Catholic life in our school. The parishes which serve our school are We have a close working relationship with the clergy in these parishes, particularly Fr Francis at Our Lady of the Rosary.

The children know who the Parish Priest is because they visit the church or welcome the priest into school and refer to him during Celebration of the Word.

Children visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church. Fr Francis also supports the teaching of the RE curriculum in school by visiting to talk about various topics, such as baptism. Links with Fr Francis are strengthened as he celebrates various services in the school with the children and staff, including Mass and Adoration. Our school community is also encouraged to attend parish events and Mass.

The Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission

The Coordinator for Catholic life and mission is the Deputy Headteacher. A job description for this role can be found at Appendix A. Pro-formas for monitoring Catholic Life and Mission and to support the coordinator in carrying out their role can also be found at Appendix B.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life and Mission Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors, in particular, will play a most important role.

The Role of the Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission

- Formulating a written policy for Catholic Life and Mission and reviewing alongside the staff, children, governors regularly
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Catholic Life and Mission included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that pupils are able to explain the Catholic life and mission of the school, appropriate to their age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds
- Liaising with the Chaplain and chaplaincy team to organise themes for outreach, timetable of charitable support, involvement in campaigns
- Developing staff confidence and expertise and enabling them to articulate the mission of the school and its impact on life

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation for planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating
- Together with the Chaplain and Chaplaincy Team, planning school involvement in national and local projects
- Use a global planner to ensure relevant days are marked in school e.g. Remembrance Day
- Making judgements on outcomes, provision and leadership of Catholic Life and Mission to inform the ongoing work on the school Catholic Self-Evaluation Document (CSED)
- Involve children in monitoring and evaluating the Catholic Life and Mission of the school

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance of Catholic Life and Mission in the life of a Catholic school
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and the Headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Catholic Life and Mission
- Through the induction process, informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Catholic Life and Mission
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school Chaplain/Chaplaincy team
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for schools and colleges.

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation on the Catholic Life and Mission of the school
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and feeding back to school community
- Keeping up to date with encyclicals and diocesan information to support formation of others

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources and contacts
- Ensuring resources are available to promote the Catholic Life and Mission of the school
- Budgeting efficiently

Appendix B

Chaplaincy & Prayer Life

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 3.10, CLM1.6
Date:		Carried out by:
Group Conferenced: (suggested conferencing Chaplaincy Team members and non-chaplaincy team members separately to compare opportunity)		
Conferencing (pupils):		
What do you think a Chaplaincy Team do?		
Is the Chaplaincy Team important at this school? Why?		
Can you tell me about some of the activities that the Chaplaincy Team have done here recently?		
Can anybody be in the Chaplaincy Team? How?		
What is your understanding of Catholic Social Teaching?		
Who teaches you about Catholic Social Teaching and what difference do you think knowing about that will make to your life?		

Can you tell me about the training that the Chaplaincy Team have and is it helpful?	
What charitable work have you done as a school and how did you choose the charities you support?	
Do you help to lead the prayer life of the school? How?	
What is prayer?	
When do you have an opportunity to pray?	
Why do we pray?	
Can you tell me about a time when you have stood up for someone you thought was being treated unfairly?	

Community Engagement

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 2.3, CLM3.2, CLM3.3, CLM3.4
Date:		Carried out by:
Group Conferenced:		
Conferencing (parents):		
How are you welcomed to be involved in the life of the school?		
Are these events at different times of the day/week/term to make it easier for all to engage?		
How do the school communicate with you about what's happening in the life of the school?		
If you need to speak with someone, are you able to at short notice? How?		
If you need help with something, do you know who you can go to?		
How does the school support you in your family life?		
How does the school support you in linking faith back into your home?		
How does the school help your child to stand up to injustice?		

Environment

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring					CSED domains – CLM2.7														
Date:					Carried out by:														
Learning walk: (carried out by staff, governors or children)		room																	
All rooms have:	Crucifix																		
	Mission statement																		
All classrooms have:	RE branch display (key vocab, work, prayer, scripture)																		
	Catholic Social Teaching																		
	Prayer table matched to liturgical season																		
Within the school :	Pope & bishop pictures																		
	Statues, icons, saints special to school																		

	Outdoor signage showcasing Catholic school	
GLOW:		GROW:

Inclusivity

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 1.2, CLM1.5, CLM2.4, CLM2.6
Date:	Carried out by:	
Class/group/area monitored:		
Learning walk:		
Are children polite, showing manners and respect for each other? (eg: holding doors open, speaking kindly, helping others)		
Entrance is welcoming and accessible to all.		
Staff make themselves readily available to speak with parents at short notice – key staff are very present. (gate, open door policy, coffee mornings, SLT on call, welcomed to liturgies, soft starts etc)		
Staff responsible for pastoral support make themselves available to parents to support. (gate duty, welcoming in morning, parent workshops, parent's evenings etc)		

Conferencing (pupils):

What makes you special?
(link to faith, talents, image of
God)

Are you happy at school?

Do you feel safe at
school?

Tell me about how you
care for others?
(local, national, global)

Have you learnt about
people from other
faiths? What do you
know and what
similarities are there?

What is behavior like in
lessons? Does it ever
stop you from learning?

How do you look after
people who are
vulnerable?

If you needed help or
had a worry, what would
you do?

Staff induction & CPD

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 3.12, CLM3.11
Date:		Carried out by:
Group Conferenced:		
Conferencing (staff):		
Do you know the mission statement of the school?		
What will I see in this school when the mission statement is at work?		
What are Catholic Social Teaching Principles? Why do they matter at our school?		
What are our school values and where do they come from?		
How did you learn about the distinctiveness of this Catholic school and who from?		
What CPD have you been given to help you understand what's important for us as a Catholic school?		

What happens if you are unsure about something you need to teach in RE or something to do with CST – who can you go to and is it helpful?	
What was included in your staff induction?	
Tell me about how leaders in this school look after your wellbeing.	

School Mission & Identity

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 2.1, CLM1.1	
Date:		Carried out by:	
Class/group/area monitored:			
Learning walk:			
Is mission statement displayed prominently?			
Can you see children and staff living out the mission statement?	Give examples of what you see.		
Entrance is welcoming and accessible to all.			
Environment shows this is a Catholic school.	Crucifix [] Icons [] Statues [] Prayers [] Liturgical colours [] Reflective areas present [] Bibles []		
Conferencing (pupils):			
Do children know the mission statement?			
Can children explain what the mission statement means?			

Can children link mission statement to how they love their life?	
What I might I see you doing to show you're living out the mission statement?	
Do you know what the school charisms are and how will I see them bring lived out here?	
How do the Gospels help you to live out the school's mission?	
How does our faith bring people together as a community?	
Conferencing (staff):	
How does the mission statement of the school impact the way you live your life here?	
What are the charisms of the school and how will I see them being lived out here?	

Child-led Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		Carried out by:
Date:		
Can you see the mission statement / values in your classroom?		
Does the prayer area have the correct liturgical colours?		
Does the prayer area have a Bible, candle and objects to help you pray?		
Do you use the prayer table in your classroom?		
What would you like to see on your prayer table?		
Are you able to set up the prayer table?		
Does the RE display have vocabulary you need for the branch you are studying?		
Is the RE display helpful when you are working?		
Do you have a timeline so you can see Bible stories you have learnt this year?		
What would you like to see on the RE display in the classroom?		