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**St Mary's Catholic Primary**

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

WE GROW WITH JESUS TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE

## Policy on Catholic Life & Mission

*St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy welcomes everyone in our community as we share the joys of our Faith. We worship, learn and play together in the love of Jesus, helping one another to develop the talents given to us by God. 'Growing with Jesus to be the Best we can Be'.*

### 1 Mission Statement

**1.1** 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.
- 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, hope and charity, as well as other virtues such as fortitude, self control and wisdom.
- Ensuring that the Gospel values are permeated through all policies such as inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc.
- Developing children's understanding of vocation, that God created each person for a unique and special purpose.
- Supporting the Sacramental Programme within the Parish.
- Aiming to bring about an awareness of the needs of others.
- Developing links with the parish, diocese and wider community

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

2.1 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.

2.2 We do this by:

- Providing children with the skills to develop their own prayer life - through the reading of the Scriptures, music, drama, dance, art and prayer

- 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 'RED' topic.
  - Training members of the Chaplaincy team, one in each class from Year 3 – Year 6, to take the lead in organising the prayer focus and leading class prayers throughout the day. They receive training from staff and members of the clergy throughout the year
  - Homework set based on Bishop Patrick's three themes
  - Travelling Nativity for all families
  - Lenten Prayer bags for KS2 families
  - Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child; class masses, liturgies, confession, adoration
  - Fundraising opportunities
  - School summer and Christmas Fayres- supporting the Parish Fayres and activities.
    - Celebrating Liturgical times of the year with Families and the Parish- such as the School and Parish Feast day of the Feast of the Annunciation.

### **3 Prayer and Liturgy**

3.1 The 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 corners around school, and through the use of the chaplaincy area in the studio at lunchtimes. Please see the Prayer liturgy throughout the school week/year on the APOP.

### **4 Plays and Performances**

4.1 The Reception class and Year One and Two a Nativity play in the final week of the Advent term. The junior classes perform a Carol concert in the church in December. Year 6 celebrate the end of primary school with a Leaver's Liturgical Prayer opportunity and blessing by a member of the clergy.

4.2 All classes are involved in leading and participating in prayer and celebrations of the word throughout the year.

### **5 Parental Involvement**

5.1 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

homework tasks and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

5.2 We provide information on the TenTen programme (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups, and hold a parent's meeting for the RSHE curriculum for parents of children in Years 5 and 6. We welcome feedback from parents regarding the teaching and learning of Religious Sex Education in light of Church teachings.

5.3 Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: class assemblies, curriculum meetings, whole school and class masses, and liturgical prayer opportunities for Harvest, Advent, Holy Week and for our Year 6 Leavers, to name a few.

5.4 Parents are encouraged to join the PTA ( FOSM) 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.

5.5 Parents are encouraged to share their views through the Class Dojo, parent forums, meetings and questionnaires, as well as at parent curriculum meetings and parents' evenings. St Mary's operates an open-door policy.

## 6 Faith in Action

6.1 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 created in September after consultation with the Chaplaincy Team, House Captains and Chaplains. This includes local, national and overseas charities. Charities are supported at liturgically-fitting times throughout the school year, such as John Storer house ( food bank) during Harvest time. We also demonstrate our faith through supporting Christian Aid work such as CAFOD, Mary's Meals and National Youth Day.

6.2 We create links with groups in our local area that are outside of Christianity, such as residential homes. We welcome people of all backgrounds into our school to celebrate and share the generosity of God's love. We do this through our gardening club which visits local groups such as Fearon Hall- these to share in the beauty of God's creation.

6.3 Children at St Mary's are always encouraged to help each other as well as their parents, teachers and other people in our community. It is our aim that our whole school ethos is one that will foster and nurture a generous giving of self, an appreciation and respect for one's own property and that of others.

6.4 Each term, we celebrate our mission, in which each class spends time learning about the mission God gave to us as a Christian family, the mission we have as a Catholic school community, and the duty we have to live virtuous lives, outlined to us by St Thomas Aquinas. The subject lead plans and provides an assembly, activities and worships throughout the term to reveal more of the faith to them and develop a stronger connection with our calling and mission as Catholics.

## 7 Leadership, Monitoring and Review

7.1 The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the Catholic life Leader- usually the headteacher and Chaplaincy Lead/ collective Worship leader, who also supports colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. The Catholic life leader 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.

7.2 The subject leader and Catholic life leader will feed back termly to the RE Governor and Chair of Governors regarding initiatives in school- usually this is through the Head teacher's report. There will also be opportunities to conduct learning walks and pupil interviews regarding the development of the Catholic Life of the school. There will also be more formal feedback given to the full Governing Body on a termly basis.

7.3 Pupil and parent questionnaires are sent out yearly or information gained in Parent teacher meetings evenings. Targets are then set from this.

Date of next review: September 26