

**Diocese of Nottingham  
Working in Partnership With  
The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Trust**

**St Philip Neri with St Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Policy Document**



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**Catholic Life Policy 2018 - 2019**

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Approval

<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
Head Teacher	September 2018	September 2019

# Catholic Life Policy

## Our Mission is

### SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

*"We put Christ at the centre of our lives."*

The whole school community aims to:

1. Following Christ's example at all times and grow in love, awe and wonder of Him.
2. Make everyone aware that through Christ we take our own place in society acknowledging that our actions affect the lives of others.
3. Give everyone the opportunity to develop their full potential within an atmosphere of mutual respect.
4. Ensure that within a balanced and broadly based curriculum everyone will be given the opportunity:
  - To develop enquiring minds, with the ability to question, argue and think rationally and independently.
  - Use number and language effectively.
  - Develop physical abilities and aesthetic appreciation.
  - Acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life, society and employment in a fast changing world.
5. Enrich the spiritual life of the individual through a varied and meaningful liturgy.
- 6.

***"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, that you act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)***

This 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.
- Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in collective worship through Holy Mass and other services/celebrations in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church to all in the community.
- Providing a supportive Sacramental Programme in collaboration with the Parish in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church and diocesan policy.
- Creating a place of learning where Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church are evident in everything we do.
- Modelling the image of Christ in the way we lead and manage the school.
- Providing an enriched curriculum which is creative, inspiring and inclusive for all pupils which is fundamentally based on the teachings of Jesus and his Holy Church.
- Developing the prayer and spiritual life of all members of our school and the community it serves.
- To be an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- Engendering the culture of vocation by educating pupils to be active in their faith and by reaching out to those in our community and beyond.
- Ensuring that the Gospel values and Jesuit Virtues are permeated through all policies which include inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc.

#### **Caring and meeting the pastoral, spiritual, moral and social needs of the children.**

- Providing good Catholic role models for the younger citizens of the future so that they may follow in Jesus' footsteps.
- Maintaining, working with and developing successful links with the home, parish, archdiocese, community and the wider world.

It is our hope that by working towards the above we play our part in the mission of Christ and his Holy Church on Earth.

1. **To provide opportunities for daily collective worship.**
2. **To provide a caring, inspiring and creative environment.**

#### **The Spiritual Life of School**

Prayer occupies an important role in our Religious Education as a means of expressing, fostering and nurturing faith. Children have a natural aptitude for prayer, they are open to God. They respond in joy, wonder, anger, disappointment and elation to the world round them. We, at St ..... Catholic School, aim to create and maintain an environment where this is fostered and developed. Our

classrooms, work areas and school entrance are welcoming, bright, colourful and creative so that our Mission Statement is being lived out through our surroundings.

Children are encouraged and helped to discover the many different ways in which to pray, formal and informal, private and communal. They are encouraged to be still and listen to God. We aim to teach and develop a variety of prayer methods to the children such as:

- Teaching the traditional prayers of the church alongside new prayers.
- Allowing the children to develop their spiritual awareness by giving them the skills to create asking, thanksgiving, praising and sorry prayers.
- Through the reading of the Gospels and the Holy Bible. (liturgical prayer)
- Through the teaching of traditional hymns alongside new style hymns.
- Through the teaching of drama, sacred music and prayer.
- Meditating and reflecting in silence whilst being inspired by liturgical music and religious art.

### **Prayer in the classroom.**

Each classroom in the school creates a prayerful environment by each having a prayer focus.

- It is required that this focus is dressed in the liturgical colours of the year as a visual sign to the children to show the change and the mood of the liturgical calendar.
- This prayer focus should have a bible which shows the previous Sunday's Gospel readings; or the reading associated with a feast day; or a reading which is relevant to that scheme of work.
- Teachers are encouraged to be creative when creating an interactive display on this focus. Objects, images, candles which reflect the liturgical year and feasts.
- Each room in the school has a crucifix which reminds us all of the sacrifice of Christ for all of humanity; it reminds us that Christ is the foundation stone of Catholic education and that Christ is at the centre at everything we do.

### **Providing class collective worship on a daily basis.**

It is required by law to provide daily worship in the classroom. Teacher and pupils pray at each of these periods of the day:

At the beginning of the school day (Morning prayers)

At Lunchtime (Grace)

At Home time (End of day prayer in KS1 and the Examen in KS2)

### **Garden of Prayer**

The Prayer Garden offer pupils a quiet place to contemplate and reflect. The Grotto provides a focus point for the May Procession and Mary's Birthday Honours in September.

### **Collective worship at whole school level.**

In addition to the daily requirement of collective worship in our classrooms we provide collective worship at a whole school level and for the different educational groups in the school. We do this each week on a:

Monday: Whole School Assembly led by Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher

Tuesday: KS1 Assembly/ KS2 Class Worship

Wednesday: KS2 Assembly/ KS1 Class Worship

Thursday: Mass

Friday: Good Work and Special Mention Assembly

Each of these gatherings are always based on or linked to a Catholic Christian theme. When we plan for these occasions we keep the following points in mind-

- Structure – Gather Listen Respond and Go (based on the Holy Mass model)
- Is the language being used suitable for the age group?
- Are the symbols being used relevant and meaningful?
- Can everyone identify and join in with what is happening?
- Can this celebration be related to the lives of the children?
- Is it meaningful?

### **Providing opportunities for Holy Mass to be celebrated.**

We acknowledge and revere the most Holy Sacrament of the celebration of the Eucharist.

We believe it is central to our roles as being members of the Body of Christ and

the redeeming life graces and blessings it provides. We firmly believe in the

importance of celebrating the Mass by:

- Encouraging all our school members to go to Mass on a weekly basis.
- Providing opportunities for School, parish and home Masses throughout the academic year.
- Celebrating Holy Mass on Feast Days and Holy days of Obligation.
- Celebrating Masses as part of the Sacramental programme.
- Celebrating Mass at the key times of the school year each new term and a leavers Mass for Year 6.
- By teaching the structure of the Mass to the children
- By basing all our assemblies, meetings and gatherings on the four part model of the Mass.

**We are all part of the Eucharistic Community. This is not just a matter of saying that Mass is important in our school but rather that it has a profound effect on our life as part of the community The Church's Liturgical Year and Traditional Devotions**

By using the ancient tradition of the Liturgical year as a framework, we draw on the wealth of the whole church to teach our children who God is and what they are. We follow the development through the Curriculum Directory, introducing children to the lives of saints, to the changes of season and the mood and colour expressing these changes. Children are given the associated language, signs and symbols. This involves progression, some repetition and deepening of understanding.

A soundly based devotion to Our Lady as Mother of Jesus and our Mother is encouraged. A simple form of the Rosary is introduced in October across the school. Marian prayers and songs are nurtured in May having a procession and celebration for the Crowning of Mary's statue.

Prayers for the dead are encouraged in November

Advent and the Christmas season is observed and celebrated through the diocesan curriculum programme of study and through a variety of collective worship gatherings such as Advent assemblies, Nativity, Carol Service and Mass. After the Christmas Holidays the season is continued up to its official ending with a celebration service based on the Epiphany which either includes the saying of Holy Mass or a collective worship gathering.

Holy Week preparations take place in school and ends with a special assembly where the events of Holy week are re-enacted through the week by each class, culminating in a Passion Play in Church with Year 5.

### **Giving to Others**

We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. This is an on-going process and those less fortunate than us are remembered in daily prayer.

During the autumn season children and the community are encouraged to bring in food for those less fortunate during the Harvest Festival celebrations. The food is taken to a local food bank. There is also a non-uniform day where the children donate money and the proceeds are sent to CAFOD for Fast Day.

During the seasons of Lent and Advent we raise funds for various charities at home and overseas, e.g. Father Hudson Homes and CAFOD. Children 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.

### **Parental Involvement**

We believe that if our Religious Programme is to be effective, we must at each stage seek to involve parents and give them the confidence to play their part in the formation of their children. The school supports and develops the primary task of parents as the first teachers of their children in the ways of Faith. We aim to involve parents by: -

1. Inviting them to Friday assemblies
2. Inviting them to celebrate Holy Mass and Reconciliation services at different times during the school year.
3. They are invited to parent meetings when Religious Education is discussed e.g. as their children enter school in Reception, at Curriculum Open Evenings and later as they begin their immediate preparation for the Sacraments.
4. Inviting them to special celebrations e.g. Nativity, Carol Service, Passion Play and Leavers' Mass and Assembly.
5. They are encouraged to bring their children to the Holy Mass either Saturday evening or Sunday.
6. They are encouraged to support the Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete homework tasks and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.
7. Providing information evenings on the Sacramental Programme and The Journey of Love (RSE) meetings.
8. Inviting them to share their views through curriculum evenings, Sacrament meetings, Journey of Love meetings and questionnaires.

Date: Autumn Term 2018