



Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School

'Christ in the centre, excellence at the heart'

Mission Statement

To provide a	Catholic Education, embracing world faiths,
Nurturing	Happy and motivated children
Who want to	Reach to achieve high expectations
	In partnership with parents
	Supported by a committed staff and Governing Body
Who help children	To feel self-worth and know success

CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION POLICY

Approved /Adopted Date: Autumn 2024

Signed:

Next Review Date: Autumn 2027

1. Mission Statement

'Christ at the Centre Excellence at the heart'

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.
- 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.
- 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 are permeated through all policies which include inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc.
- Developing links with the Parish, Diocese and wider community.

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

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 and invite our families to develop spiritually in connection with the school and parish.

We provide good Catholic role models for the younger citizens of the future so that they may follow in Jesus' footsteps. We maintain and develop successful links with the home, parish, diocese, community and the wider world.

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.
- 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 topic.
- Training members of the Year 6 Chaplaincy team to carry out roles including: worship, service, charity, communication and witness, organising Celebrations of the Word and welcoming visitors to our school. They receive support from our Lay Chaplain throughout the year.
- Homework tasks set throughout the year (Advent, Lent, Rosary week etc)
- Travelling Crib for KS1 families sent out during Advent
- Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child (Whole school mass, class Mass, Celebrations of the Word)
- Fundraising opportunities throughout the year
- Having an active Eco team and Mini Vinnies

Developing the Spiritual Life of School

Prayer occupies a significant 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 Peter's Catholic School, aim to create and maintain an environment where this is fostered and developed. Our classrooms, work areas, corridors and school entrance are welcoming, bright, stimulating 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.

3. Prayer and Liturgy

The school day is punctuated by prayer. Teachers and pupils pray throughout the day.

Pupils are encouraged to pray spontaneously by making use of class prayer areas, prayer

areas around school and through the prayer room led by our chaplaincy team at lunch time.

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 the 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 before and after (Grace)
- At Home time (End of day prayers)

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. There is a whole school Celebration of the Word on a Tuesday (led by Headteacher) and Friday (led by a class or visitor, including the Parish Priest)

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, Word, Response to the Word, Mission
- Appropriate and meaningful language, and symbols
- Linked to the lives of the children
- Accessible to all

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:

- Providing opportunities for School and Parish Masses throughout the academic year and other liturgies related to the Church year. (Rosary month, Advent/Christmas, Epiphany, Holy Week, Our Lady service, Patron Saint Feast Days)
- Celebrating Holy Mass on Feast Days and Holy days of Obligation.
- Celebrating Masses as part of the Sacramental programme.
- By teaching the structure of the Mass to the children
- By basing all our Celebrations of the Word, 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.

4. Parental Involvement

The school supports and develops the primary task of parents as the first teachers of their children in the ways of Faith. 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.

We aim to involve parents by: -

- Inviting them to attend a variety of school events throughout the year which include: class Celebrations of the Word, Holy Mass, Liturgies and services, special celebrations such as: Nativity, Our Lady, Easter and Christmas Liturgies and Leavers' Mass and Celebration of the Word.
- Holding parent meetings where Religious Education is discussed: as they enter school in Foundation Stage, parent's evenings, RSE meetings for year 5/6
- Encouraging them to participate with their children during Advent when our 'Travelling Cribs' are sent home, encouraging a time of sharing and reflection and to support their children in whole school homework tasks (Advent/Easter)
- Ensuring accurate/ up-to-date information is available on the school website.
- Inviting them to share their views through meeting evaluations and questionnaires.
- Parents are encouraged to join the PTFA to help organise and host a range of events for our school community and support and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

5. Faith in Action - Giving to Others

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

Each year, we support local, national and overseas charities through a range of events. Some examples of these are outline below.

- Harvest (Food bank)
- CAFOD (Big Lent Walk)
- Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day)
- Alternativity (Linked with Parish)
- Mary's Meals
- Non-uniform days (Parish / local charities)
- Lawrence House (local homeless charity)
- African Dream School (Kerr Layon - Gambia)

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.

We create links with groups in our local community such as residential care homes, dementia charity etc. We take part in crafts, share music performances from our Choir and Ukuleles and take reading books into the community at different in the year.

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6. Leadership, Monitoring and Review

The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the headteacher, RE subject leader and Chaplaincy Lead, who also supports colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community.

The headteacher, RE subject leader and Chaplaincy lead will provide CPD opportunities for all staff where necessary and will lead on staff meetings to ensure they are aware of expectations within school and Diocesan initiatives.

There will also be opportunities to conduct learning walks (with Governors) and pupil interviews regarding the development of the Catholic Life of the school.