

# St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



## SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL POLICY

### MISSION STATEMENT

#### *GROWING IN FAITH*

*Our vision at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School  
and all we do, and aspire to be,  
is centred on the love, life and teaching of Jesus,  
and rooted in the faith of the Catholic Church.*

#### *AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE*

*Our aim is to build a loving, happy, safe and welcoming school where  
everyone has the opportunity and support to recognise, celebrate and  
develop  
their God given gifts and talents, learning in a creative and friendly school  
family.*

#### *LEARNING FOR LIFE*

*Journeying together with each other,  
we work in harmony  
to provide outstanding Catholic Education  
for all our pupils preparing them to fulfil their mission  
to the world in which we live.*

Policy Adopted: 17 November 2022

To be reviewed: November 2023

This policy is correct as at the date of the policy. However, any information documented within may be superseded by any new information received from the LA or the Diocese after the date of the policy and which will be automatically adopted with immediate effect.

# STATEMENT - COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is our loving response to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him and is an integral part of school life here at St Catherine's.

## Aims

- To grow spiritually
- To unite our worshipping community
- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To develop the skills of reverence, reflection, empathy and meditation
- To develop the skills of prayer
- To deepen our sense of awe and wonder and reflect upon our own faith journeys

## Organisation of Collective Worship

All Acts of Collective Worship follow the pattern below:

- Gathering - coming together, setting/environment, music, candles, statues, cross/crucifix
- Listen - scriptures chosen appropriately
- Respond - prayers, reflections, discussions, songs
- Go Forth - children have something to hold on to from the experience, something to take into their daily lives

## The Liturgy Team

A group of pupils from Y2 -Y6 work together throughout the week to help prepare the Gospel Assembly as well as gather all resources related to that for follow-up assemblies. They also take the lead in delivering whole school and class based liturgies under the guidance of staff. The Liturgy Team members change every year.

## The Fair Trade and CAFOD Councils

We are a Fairtrade School. The Council organise and run Fairtrade and charitable events under the guidance of staff and we dedicate a proportion of the curriculum time to learning about the needs of others.

## Masses and Liturgies

- Masses/liturgies take place regularly and feast days celebrated.
- Diocesan, Deanery and Parish Celebrations are attended by representatives from St Catherine's.
- During the months of October and May, the Rosary is recited weekly and families are invited to join us.
- We take every opportunity to host celebrations at St Catherine's, e.g. Deanery Masses and events.
- Spirituality Week takes place every year with a specific whole school focus Eg; Holy Week, Saints, Pentecost

## Opportunities for Prayer

- There are opportunities for staff to pray together
- Children participate in learned and/or traditional prayers on three occasions each day
- We have a "Prayer Tree" in the lobby so that spontaneous prayers may be "posted" by anyone within our school community and similar opportunities exist in classrooms
- All prayer tables contain interactive prayer resources where private prayers can be posted
- Daily Meditation
- Regular Spiritual Journaling
- Year 5 Residential Retreat

# STATEMENT - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, our ultimate goal is to help prepare our children for the journey of life, knowing that God walks with them each step of the way.

## Aims

- To promote knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and its relevance to the ultimate questions of life:  
Where did I come from? Who am I? Why am I here?
- To encourage children to develop a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To recognise the dignity and freedom of individuals as created in the image and likeness of God.
- To develop awareness and appreciation within our children of Catholicism and of other faiths.

## Organisation of RE teaching

There is an annual rolling plan of topics from the Diocesan Programme "Come and See". Planning is rigorous and activities are differentiated so that children can access the syllabus at their own level. Formative Assessments are carried out at regular intervals against benchmarks. These build an overall picture of the individual child's working level and are used at the end of each year to assess their understanding and an overall level given in line with the Curriculum Directory.

Where possible, links are made through other subject areas so that Religious Education is viewed as an integral part of all learning.

Classroom displays are regularly updated to reflect the current "Come and See" topics to support and guide the learning.

There are two weeks in each year which are dedicated to the teaching of multi-faiths and one week every year which we call 'Spirituality Week'.