



**St Wilfrid's Catholic Life and Mission Policy**  
***"Living the Gospel in the spirit of love and respect".***



Coordinator	Mrs C Atkinson
Groups involved in discussion	Governing Body Headteacher Senior Leadership All Staff Children Parents
Link to school improvement plan	Section 8 – further develop the Catholic Life of the school to ensure the school remains good to outstanding.

# St Wilfrid's Catholic Life and Mission Policy

## 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. Its first purpose is to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school. The second, is 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 third, is the formation of all to live in conformity with the pattern of human goodness, truth and justice that we find in Jesus Christ.'<sup>1</sup>

This threefold mission is reflected in the three perspectives of the Catholic School Inspection process. 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, Sex and Health Education policy.

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

## Mission Statement

St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School and Nursery aims to provide a rich, stimulating and encouraging environment where children can develop, grow and learn; to promote the Catholic faith and beliefs where each person is valued and protected.

We strive to provide opportunities for personal, spiritual and academic growth where each child can reach their potential in an atmosphere of security and love.

We want to encourage each member of our school community to show care and respect for themselves and others and so endeavour to serve each other and the wider community in a true Christian spirit.

It is the aim of the school community to reflect the Gospel messages of love and forgiveness through its relationships and actions and to integrate the academic, social, personal, cultural and spiritual into a wide, balanced and relevant curriculum which will prepare children for life in the wider local and global community.

The following objectives will enable us to achieve these aims:

- Develop the natural curiosity that children exhibit about themselves and their world, and use their curiosity to foster positive attitudes to learning
- Provide a broad, balanced differentiated curriculum for all children
- Develop each individual to their potential through offering a wide range of high-quality experiences which will develop the child's imagination and creativity
- Make prayer, worship and liturgy central to each child's educational experience by providing opportunities for:  
Private, group, formal and informal prayer  
Worship through assemblies and appropriate music.  
Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic liturgies
- Enhance self-esteem and the ability to value each person's own worth through a caring, secure environment
- Develop social awareness, group responsibility and empathy through the social context of learning
- Promote a health-conscious environment
- Develop positive relationships between home, school, parish and the community, both locally and globally

The mission statement of St Wilfrid's 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 teachings of the Catholic Church.

Our mission statement is a touch stone 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 *e.g. class prayers, whole school liturgical prayers, displays, Stay and Pray with the community, Charity work, relationship with local community care home* are just some examples of activities which reflect the mission.
- It is shared with parents and the wider community through school signage, our newsletters, email footers, school policy documents, website and parents' meetings.

## School Environment

Visitors to St Wilfrid's 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 St Wilfrid's every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment: for example, our new peace and prayer garden.

- All rooms have a crucifix.
- All rooms have a cared for, attractive prayer area.
- Each class has a 'liturgy' box with coloured cloths and good quality religious artefacts.
- There are displays in each classroom and main hall which reflect on our Mission Statement, information relating to the current liturgical season.
- The school grounds have a peaceful prayer garden, and Health and wellbeing allotment.

## 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.'

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 our curriculum and activities as we recognise the needs of each individual member of the community.

At an age-appropriate level children are introduced to the nine principles of Catholic Social Teaching, using the CAFOD resources. We use child friendly resources to explore the writings of Pope Francis, such as *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. (Assemblies and Live Simply) 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, Sex and Health 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.

- Harvest – children are encouraged to bring in food for local foodbanks and the school is a permanent collection point for donations throughout the year.
- At Remembrance, we sell poppies and related merchandise to raise funds for the Royal British Legion.
- In Advent, a charity of the pupils' choosing is supported, as well as collecting gifts for the Shoebox Fairies.
- During Lent we raise funds for CAFOD through activities chosen by the pupils.
- We also raise funds for a variety of causes through the year such as MacMillan through cake and biscuit sales and other initiatives.

- Sending Christmas cards to elderly parishioners and also our connection with Stubshaw Cross community (Shawcross Care Home)

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 whole school ethos is one that will foster and nurture a generous giving of self, and an appreciation and respect for others.

### **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:

- Writing to our MP for the 'Justice for Climate Change'
- Climate change activities e.g. Switch off lights and turn off water.
- Supporting Fairtrade at Christmas and Easter.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness.

### **School Community**

St Wilfrid's 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.

Children and staff are encouraged to engage with a range of awards that recognise the work that we do to implement Catholic Social Teaching. This includes Live simply and Faith in Action.

St Wilfrid's recognises that it is part of a family of Catholic schools and works collaboratively with local Catholic schools in clusters across the diocese. Through our work in RE children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family.

At St Wilfrid's all 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 programme. New teachers are enrolled on the Diocesan Early Careers Programme as part of their induction to teaching 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 by helping their children discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments but also day to day in school.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include Stay and Pray collective worship, whole school Masses and liturgical prayers which take place throughout the year both in school and at St Wilfrid's Parish Church and events such as the Christmas Celebration.

They are encouraged to participate with their children during Advent when the 'Travelling Nativity' are sent home, encouraging a time of sharing at home. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA to help organise and host a range of events for our school community. All funds raised support and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, as well as at parents' evenings. St Wilfrid's operates an open-door policy.

### **Parish Links**

Links with the local parish are a vital part of Catholic life in school. The parish which serves our school is St Wilfrid's. Our parish priest is Canon John

Children visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church. Deacon Roy also supports the teaching of curriculum RE in school by visiting to talk about various topics such as baptism, reconciliation and vocation. Links with the priest are strengthened as he celebrates various services in the school with the children and staff, including Mass. We also share communications from the parish priest with our school community to encourage attendance at church and involvement in church events.

## Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and governing board. It 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.

This policy was last updated on	April 2023
Discussed and agrees with Governors	April 2023
Formal Review of Policy	April 2025

Signed: *Mrs O'Brien* Headteacher

Date: April 2023



*Living the Gospel in the Spirit of Love and Respect*