**St. Clare’s is a Catholic school, but what does this mean for my child?**

The main thing that makes a Catholic school distinctive from other schools is the fact that **Christ is at the centre** of all we do. All schools deliver the National Curriculum, but not all schools put Christ at the heart of everything. On entering St. Clare’s, you can see that we are a Catholic school by the displays, altars, statues and religious items we have on display around the school. You can see the positive relationships between all members of our school community. You can also feel that we are a Catholic school by the calm, respectful, welcoming atmosphere around the buildings.

We teach our children that we are all made in Christ’s image, and as such we are all equally loved and valued. We are all unique and have different skills and qualities because God has a special purpose for each of us that only we can fulfil. Our children know this. We teach and live out the Gospel Values that Christ taught and demonstrated. A child’s growth at St Clare’s is also a journey of faith.

We dedicate 10% of our teaching time to the teaching of RE (following the guidelines set out by the Catholic Church) and have daily acts of collective worship. The majority of our school governors are practising Catholics who also ensure that Christ is at the centre of our policies and procedures.

As educators of the young children we are privileged to serve here at St Clare’s, we have a duty to:

* **Assist the Catholic Church in its mission of making Christ known to all people**. We do this through our RE lessons, our prayer and liturgies, attending Mass and through our daily interactions with each other. Loving God equates to loving one another which is the key message that Jesus gave. Knowing that we are created by and loved by God is an important fact – we are never alone, as God is always with us.
* **Assist parents, who are the primary educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children**. Through our daily interactions with our children, we demonstrate love, care, respect, compassion and forgiveness. We support children, and parents, who experience any difficulties in their everyday life.
* **Be at the service of the local Church - the diocese, the parish and the Christian home.** It is really important that parents, school and the parish work together in the formation of the whole child – spiritually, morally, academically, culturally and socially.
* **Be “a service to society”** Catholic schools help in the creation of a society that is highly educated, skilled and cultured. In this society, we all work for the common good and we value the uniqueness of each of us. God has a plan for each of us and, following Jesus’s example, we serve each other and society in general. We promote reaching out to support those in most need in society as Christ himself did.

As a Catholic school, we have our own school Mission Statement which again is rooted in Christ:

***‘Guided by Jesus Christ our teacher, we journey together learning to dream, believe and achieve.’***

This is a statement that we live by at St. Clare’s. We all know that Christ is the best teacher we could have, so we let his wordsand actions guide us in all aspects of school life and in all our interactions with others. We believe that everything is possible with God at our side. This then gives us the confidence to dream – to have hopes for the future and be of service to society. By being resilient and recognising our God given talents, we can then achieve our dreams. God is always at our side and carries us when we are most in need of Him.