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**St Ignatius Primary School**  
**Catholic Life and Mission Policy**

Status	Non-Statutory
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Date of policy review	September 2028

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# Mission Statement

'To give and not to count the cost ... save that  
of knowing that we do your will'

St. Ignatius of Loyola

At St. Ignatius we invite our community to do  
God's will by living by our PEARL values:



## **Catholic Life and Mission**

When Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment, the answer is the same in all three of the synoptic Gospels: *'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 our Catholic school.

It is a mission that is clearly echoed in the Second Vatican Council and *Gravissimum Educationis* which teaches that the purpose of an education that is distinctively Catholic is threefold -

- Firstly, to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school.
- Secondly, it 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.
- Thirdly, 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 school's 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. Ignatius responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

## **Mission Statement**

**'To give and not to count the cost ... save that of knowing that we do your will' -St. Ignatius of Loyola**

**At St. Ignatius we invite our community to do God's will by living by our PEARL values: Prayer, Equality, Achievement, Respect and Love.**

Our mission statement is the foundation of school life so all:

- Pupils have a clear understanding of its meaning and can articulate this at an age-appropriate level
- Staff embrace and implement the statement across daily school life through a range of opportunities e.g., behaviour expectations, interaction between staff, displays, assemblies and links in lessons.
- Parents and the wider community are informed about the statement through school signage, the focal point display in the reception area, our Catholic Life newsletters, Class Dojo, school policy documents and our website.

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<sup>1</sup> CSI Inspection Handbook, page 2

## **School Environment**

Visitors to St. Ignatius are aware of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the physical environment, including the presence of images, religious symbols, prayer tables and statues in all areas of the school.

At St. Ignatius every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment:

- The entrance of our school is welcoming and reflects our Catholic identity. We have a picture of our school saint, a picture of the Pope and our Bishop
- All rooms have a crucifix affixed on the walls.
- All classrooms have an attractive, well maintained prayer focal point.
- Each classroom has a range of 'liturgy' resources which include liturgical coloured cloths and good quality religious artefacts.
- There are displays in the corridors which reflect our Mission Statement and the liturgical season.
- The hall has a display which reflects the current liturgical season.
- Displays around the school celebrate our pupil groups for example: The School Council, Mini Vinnies and the Chaplaincy Team.
- The school has a chapel which is well maintained and can be used throughout the school day by classes.

## **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.'<sup>2</sup>

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 principles of Catholic Social Teaching, using resources designed for schools such as the Rooted in Love or CAFOD resources. We use age-appropriate resources to explore the teaching of the Magisterium in this area, including encyclicals such as Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti. In this way we are building our pupils' character (virtues) and moral compass, enabling them to respond to social and ethical issues in the world.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught in a Catholic context recognising we are all made in God's image and likeness and fulfils the Department of Education, CES and Diocesan requirements. See our RSE 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. In assemblies, RE, PSHE

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<sup>2</sup> CSI Framework

and RHE pupils learn about Catholic Social Teaching and Fratelli Tutti. Pupils learn that they must look after the environment and stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable. As a result, there are various fundraising events, projects and charitable outreach activities throughout the year coordinated by the Chaplaincy Team and the Mini Vinnies:

- Noah's Ark- We hold a 'Wear Something Red' day to fundraise for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice in Barnet.
- In Advent, we support the Churches Social Apostolate group by making Christmas cards for those that the group supports and by bringing in food to donate.
- During Lent we raise funds for CAFOD through activities chosen by the pupils.
- We also raise funds for a variety of causes throughout the year including MacMillan.

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 Catholic life. There are planned opportunities for pupils to engage in campaigns for social justice:

- Anti-Bullying Awareness
- Mental Health Days 5
- A variety of awareness days
- Climate change activities e.g., Laudato Si
- Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness

### **Chaplaincy**

The spirituality and prayer life of the school are an evident part of its Catholic life and mission policy. The Prayer and Liturgy policy details the school provision. Chaplaincy provision at St. Ignatius plays an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the whole community.

Our Chaplaincy Team consists of twelve pupils from Years 4-6 who are supported by members of our RE team.

At St. Ignatius, we believe that nurturing faith is an integral part of a child's education. Our Chaplaincy Team members are a testament to our commitment to fostering a strong Catholic identity and values among our children.

Our Chaplaincy Team members are not just pupils; they are dedicated ambassadors of faith, kindness, respect and love. These remarkable young individuals are chosen for their exemplary dedication to their Catholic faith, leadership qualities, and compassion for others. They play a pivotal role in our school community, guiding their peers in prayer, reflection, and service. They lead by example, helping to organise and participate in various spiritual activities and initiatives throughout the school year. They inspire their fellow students to live out the teachings of Christ in their daily lives.

At St Ignatius, we aim to instil in our pupils a profound sense of responsibility, compassion, and empathy, rooted in their Catholic faith and Catholic Social Teaching. We believe that by nurturing their spirituality and leadership skills at an early age, we are shaping them into future leaders who will carry the light of faith into the world. Together, we are building a strong foundation of faith that will guide our students throughout their lives.

Their role is to support each member of the school community to grow in their faith and to be part of the pastoral care system in school. They do this by

- Leading our Gospel assemblies by delivering the Wednesday Word
- Writing and leading prayers during whole school Celebration of the Word
- Keeping the pupils updated with information about donations to charity, such as for foodbanks and CAFOD
- Supporting and organising campaigns for social justice
- Being a role model to others by modelling reverence and joy where applicable
- Leading whole school acts of worship, such as Advent services
- Accompanying members of the school community, especially in times of need

### **School Community**

St. Ignatius is a welcoming place for children, families, and members of staff from all faiths and none. We value everyone as precious and unique creations made in God's image. We therefore go the extra mile to understand each person's needs and enable them to live and pray in fidelity to their own beliefs and commitments.

Recognising that Christ is at the centre of our school we strive to support and value each member, especially the most vulnerable. Our behaviour policy is driven by our belief that all are unique and made in God's image and likeness. See our Behaviour Policy.

Through our work in RE children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family. St. Ignatius recognises that it is part of a family of Catholic schools and works collaboratively with local Catholic schools to ensure all school flourish.

At St. Ignatius 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 training such as CCRS and Foundation Stones. New teachers are enrolled on the Diocesan New to Catholic Education or ECT training as part of their induction to teaching in a Catholic school.

### **Parents**

Parents are the first teachers of their pupils, and we work in partnership with them.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year which include: curriculum meetings, whole school masses, stay and pray sessions, Nativity performances, assemblies etc.

They are welcomed to participate with their children for example in our stay and pray sessions when the parent and child will spend time writing a prayer together. Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, as well as at parent curriculum meetings and parents' evenings. St. Ignatius 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 Stamford Hill.

- Pupils visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church.
- The local priests support the teaching of curriculum RE in school by accompanying the children when they visit the church to talk about topics such as baptism, reconciliation and vocation.
- We work in collaboration with the priests to support our Chaplaincy Team to deliver readings and bidding prayers during mass for the parishioners.
- We support the work of the parish Social Apostolate group through promoting their campaigns and act as a collection point for food donations.

#### **The Coordinators/Leads for Catholic Life and Mission**

The Coordinators for Catholic life and mission are Con Bonner and Tiarna Mc Ginty.

#### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life and Mission Coordinators and the RE team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years, with the Foundation Governors playing an important role in this process.

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## Appendix 1

### **The Role of the Senior Leader/Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission**

#### **Responsibility:**

- Formulating a written policy for the school's Catholic life and mission
- Ensuring that there is a strategic development plan for Catholic life and mission included in the school development plan
- Developing staff confidence and expertise and enabling them to articulate the mission of the school and its impact on life
- Ensuring that pupils can explain the Catholic life and mission of the school, appropriate to their age, aptitudes, and faith backgrounds
- Ensuring pupils understand Catholic Social Teachings and are given the opportunity to pro-actively respond to their demands locally, nationally, and globally
- Organising a timetable of charitable support and involvement in social justice campaigns that are linked to the strategic development plan.

#### **Planning, recording, monitoring, and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Ensuring relevant non-liturgical days are marked in school e.g., mental health week, Children's Mental Health Week, World Book Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Black History Month, Racial Justice Sunday etc.
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's Catholic life and mission; making judgements on outcomes, provision and leadership of Catholic life and mission to inform the ongoing work on the school Catholic Self Evaluation Document (CSED)

#### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance of Catholic life and mission in the life of a Catholic school
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Catholic life and mission
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Catholic life and mission
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaising with the school chaplain/Chaplaincy team
- Liaising with the Diocesan Education Service

#### **Professional development/Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation on the Catholic life and mission of the school
- Attending appropriate CPD courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

## Resources

- Evaluating existing resources and contacts
- Ensuring resources are available to promote the Catholic life and mission of the school



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