



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Mission Statement

Following in the footsteps of Jesus; we live, love and learn.

Inclusion Statement

In this school, we are educating our children to:

- know who they are - a special and unique gift from God
- know why they are here - we all have a purpose and responsibility to look after God's world
- work hard and aim high for their future - find and use their God given talents to become everything that God intends them to be

We are a Catholic community, in a modern society, where everyone is equal. As a Catholic School, we strive to reflect the teachings of Christ and live out the Gospel Values in everything that we do. The most loving and merciful Jesus Christ is our role model, and He welcomed everyone. All children are welcome in our school; they and their families become part of our St. Joseph's family. We will love and nurture them, and do our best to help them to become everything that God intends them to be.

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to ensure there are no invisible children here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

Adopted by Governors	
Date	15.10.2025
Review Date	15.10.2026

(signed on hard copy)

POLICY INTENT

The intent of our curriculum is to nurture and develop our pupils' relationship with God in order to support them in recognising that Christ is in and around us. We intend to live out our mission statement in the ethos of our school and the Religious Education curriculum; which permeates every aspect of our school.

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RATIONALE

Sharing God's love and faith throughout our school community

Together we create a nurturing learning environment as we journey with God

Jesus teaches us to love one another with help from the Holy Spirit

Our gifts and talents are nurtured and our achievements celebrated

Striving to reach our potential and be all that God wants us to be

Everyone should feel safe and welcome, our school is a sanctuary

Praying, playing and learning together

Home, school and our parish working together to guide and support us

Showing respect and self-discipline to follow in the footsteps of Jesus

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. It is a mission that is clearly echoed in the Second Vatican Council which teaches that the purpose of an education that is distinctively Christian is threefold (Gravissimum Educationis 2). 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.’¹

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 Joseph’s Catholic Primary School responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church’s educational mission.

MISSION STATEMENT

‘Following in the Footsteps of Jesus, we Live, Love and Learn.’

The mission statement of St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School 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 at the core 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
- It is shared with parents and the wider community

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Visitors to St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School 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 Joseph’s Catholic Primary School every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment but also a place of safety and sanctuary for all our children:

- All rooms have a crucifix
- All rooms have a cared for, attractive prayer focus area
- The school has Collective Worship resources with coloured cloths to match the liturgical calendar and good quality religious artefacts
- Focal points for liturgical prayers reflect the theme and season
- Displays within each classroom reflect the RE topic being taught, the liturgical season, work produced by the pupils, key prayers and scripture
- The school grounds celebrate the wild natural beauty of God’s Creation

¹ CSI Inspection Handbook

CATHOLIC CURRICULUM

'The Catholic vision of education is distinctive. The beliefs it holds, the values and aspirations it has - must inspire the whole of the curriculum.'²

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 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. We use child friendly resources to explore the writings of Pope Francis, such as *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*. 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*)

Knowledge of other faiths are taught as part of the RE curriculum. 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 tolerance, respect and 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.

Our curriculum has been carefully designed to support Catholic Social Teaching and 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, which we offer at Mass.
- At Remembrance, we sell poppies and related merchandise to raise funds for the Royal British Legion.
- During Advent, we visit local care homes and retirement homes to sing for residents.
- In the run up to Christmas, we gather toys, food, vouchers and clothing to support our families at Christmas including fresh turkeys to enable them to have a Christmas meal together.
- During Lent we raise funds for the CAFOD with the Big Lent Walk (to local schools)
- We also raise funds for a variety of causes through the year, such as charities chosen by children who have suffered the loss of a parent in order to honour their memories.

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.

² NBRIA The Distinctive Curriculum of the Catholic School

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 and speaking with him in person during visits to school and to the Houses of Parliament,
- Climate change activities e.g. Growing, harvesting and consuming our own food.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness
- Achievement of the Live Simply Award
- We are a School of Sanctuary and have been for many years to support our brothers and sisters who have been displaced from their homes and welcome them into our community, recognising how fortunate we are to have them.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on being a place of sanctuary and welcome 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.

Our behaviour policy is driven by our belief that all are unique and made in God's image and likeness. 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, Eco-schools, Artsmark and School of Sanctuary.

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

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School 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.

PARENTS

Parents are the first educators of their children and we work in partnership with them. They are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete tasks to help them understand their uniqueness and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: class assemblies, weekly Masses, whole-school Masses, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and liturgical prayers which take place throughout the year both in school and at Church throughout the year.

They are encouraged to participate with their children during Advent when the 'Travelling Cribs' are sent home, encouraging a time of sharing and reflection and also during Lent when the 'Easter pack' is sent 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 parent information meetings and parents' evenings.

PARISH LINKS

Links with the local parish are a vital part of Catholic life in school. The parish which serves our school is St. Joseph's, our Parish Priest is Canon Peter Stanley.

Children visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church. Fr Peter 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.

Our close parish family is enhanced by the Parish Centre on our site, which enables us to host family and parish events such as our Easter Bingo events and 'Crafting the Bible Exhibition' as well as Retreat Days for other Catholic Schools in Chorley.

THE COORDINATOR FOR CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

The Headteacher, Annie Douglas, leads Catholic Life and Mission at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, in collaboration with the RE Coordinator, Emma Thompson.

A job description is included in Appendix 1.

POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is monitored by the Catholic life and mission Coordinators and 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.

Reviewed by staff September 2025

This policy will be reviewed every year

APPENDIX 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission

- Formulating a written policy for Catholic life and mission
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Catholic life and mission included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that pupils are able to explain the Catholic life and mission of the school, appropriate to their age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds
- Organising themes for outreach, timetable of charitable support, involvement in campaigns
- Developing staff confidence and expertise and enabling them to articulate the mission of the school and its impact on life

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Planning school involvement in national and local projects e.g. the environment
- Use a global planner to ensure relevant days are marked in school e.g. Holocaust Memorial Day,
- Making judgements on outcomes, provision and leadership of Catholic life and mission to inform the ongoing work on the school Catholic Self Evaluation Document

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
- Liaison with the school chaplain/Chaplaincy team
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation on the Catholic life and mission of the school
- Attending appropriate in-service courses e.g. CAFOD CPD, 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
- Budgeting efficiently