Christ the King Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life & Mission Policy

Christ the King Primary School

- To live & learn together in harmony.
- To grow & develop in Christ.
- To reflect God's love in all we do.

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 *:*

- to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school.

- 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 formation of all to live in conformity with the pattern of human goodness, truth, and justice that we find in Jesus Christ.'

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 Christ the King Catholic Primary School responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Mission Statement

To live together in harmony
To grow and develop in Christ
To reflect God's love in all that we do

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. our daily Mission statement prayer, our school anthem, our school's aims, our behaviour expectations, our displays, interactions between staff and children, role model*
- Parents and the wider community are informed about the statement through our school signage, newsletters, displays across the school, communications, website and social media platforms, school videos

School Environment
Visitors to Christ the King are aware of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the physical environment, including the presence of our displays, images, symbols and statues in all areas of the school.

At Christ the King, 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. Our entrance has planters that display out Mission statement and 3,5,7 values.
- The main office area is also welcoming. We have a display of our Mission Statement and a display of St Mellitus, the name of our Parish church. We include liturgical displays made by the children on our display tree. Displays include pictures of Christ the King, Sacred Heart, crosses, Rosary beads and other important liturgical symbols.
- All classrooms and communal areas have a have a crucifix/cross
- We have a number of religious displays throughout the school including a display for monthly dedications, saint of the month, a display celebrating Catholic leadership and a prayer area for children to access.
- Our school hall is used for assemblies and worship. It has a calm and peaceful atmosphere. We have a number of permanent displays in the hall including our Mission Statement, a cross and a crucifix, the Stations of the Cross-created by the children, the Beatitudes and the 6 principles of Catholic social Teaching.
- We have a dedicated prayer table we use for assemblies and worship.
- All classrooms have an attractive, well maintained prayer focal point.
- Each classroom has a 'liturgy' box with liturgical coloured cloths and good quality religious artefacts
- Displays around the school celebrate our pupil groups for example: the School Council and prayer leaders
- The school has a chapel which is open for families to access at the beginning and then end of the day. is a peaceful and welcoming space designed for quiet prayer and reflection. It offers a special place where children and their families can pause, find stillness, and connect spiritually within the busy rhythm of school life.
- The school also has a beautiful Prayer Garden located at the heart of the school. This special outdoor space provides children with an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of God's creation, spend time in quiet reflection, and experience a sense of peace and wellbeing throughout the school day. Classes regularly use the garden for prayer, reflection, collective worship, and moments of mindfulness. Surrounded by nature, the Peace Garden encourages children to deepen their relationship with God, develop a sense of awe and wonder for the world around them and find calm within the busy school environment. It is a cherished space where pupils can pause, reflect on their thoughts and feelings and be reminded of God's presence in their daily lives.

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.'[1]

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, as well as the YOUCAT, a condensed version of the Social Doctrine

[1] CSI Framework

of the Church. 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.

Pupils 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 the 5 Keys awards which are given out during our weekly celebration assembly on Fridays:

- Hunger to Achieve
- The Power of Me
- Curiosity and Wonder
- Being Safe and Responsible
- Community Unity

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 for additional information.

Other faiths are taught as part of the RE curriculum. See our RE policy for additional information. 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 both class time and in assemblies 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 projects, fundraising events and charitable outreach activities throughout the year co-ordinated by the children.

- During Harvest children are encouraged to bring in food for local foodbanks.
- In November 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 elderly and sending Christmas cards and visiting a local care home to sing carols.
- 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 chosen by the pupils e.g. a MacMillan cake sale.
- Other charities supported by the school include - Caritas, CAFOD, Catholic's Children Society.
- We have close ties to the local SVP Conference in Highbury through our fundraising and support of their foodbank. We also support the Passage.
- The Eco-Warrior group have enhanced the way we recycle in the school.

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:

- Celebrating Refugee Week

- Work for climate change e.g., Switch off fortnight, walk to school week, water saving etc
- Supporting Fairtrade Fortnight
- Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness
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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 Christ the King plays an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the whole community.

Our Chaplaincy Team consists of or RE leader working with children across the school. 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:

- Maintaining and developing class prayer areas/RE classroom prayer focal point
- Maintaining and developing communal prayer areas/chapel
- Writing and leading prayers during whole school Celebration of the Word.
- Offering opportunities for informal pupil led prayer during break or lunch times
- Undertaking large projects such as developing a prayer garden/eco-area
- 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

School Community
Christ the King 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, for example:

- We actively work to make our school inclusive and welcoming to all
- We have school peace garden that pupils can use
- We have assemblies about religious festivals when they are celebrated in our local area.
- We have an annual celebration of our culture where we celebrate our history, backgrounds and learn from each other
- Our school website and newsletters are easily translatable into different languages so that they are more easily accessible

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 for additional information.

Through our work in RE children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family. Christ the King recognises that it is part of a family of Catholic schools and works collaboratively with local Catholic schools in Islington. We are part of the Maamulaha network, where we seek to learn from and collaborate on a number of different initiatives designed to enhance or curriculum, offer extra-curricular activities and upskill through targeted and carefully designed CPD

At Christ the King 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 meet the teacher events, cultural diversity events, coffee mornings and workshops, curriculum meetings, whole school Masses, celebrations of the word, prayers which take place both in school and at St Mellitus Parish Church such as Advent and Lent Celebrations.

They are encouraged to participate with their children for example:

- Wednesday Word is sent home every week encouraging parents to discuss and explore the Gospel together each week.
- Half termly homework projects are sent home to encourage parents to work with their child on a special project
- During October and May, parents are encouraged to join our Rosary Club before school on …
- 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 enhanced the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, testimonials and surveys as well as at parent curriculum meetings and parents' evenings. Christ the King operates an open-door policy.

Parish Links
Links with the local parish are a vital part of Catholic life in school. The parishes which serve our school are St Mellitus and St Gabriel.

- Pupils visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church.
- The priest 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 liturgies in the school with the pupils and staff, including Mass and the commissioning of the Chaplaincy Team.
- We have offered First Holy Communion classes in school to support families to access the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- We also share communications from the parish priest with our school community to encourage attendance at church, participation in the sacraments and involvement in church events through our newsletter.

The Coordinator/Lead for Catholic Life and Mission
The Coordinator for Catholic life and mission is Tracy Lane.

Policy Monitoring and Review
This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life and Mission Senior Leader/Coordinator 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.

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
- 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