ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CATHOLIC LIFE POLICY

Mission Statement

Each one of us is unique
Each one of us is special
Because we are created by God's love.
May God's love shine on our lives as we
CARE and SHARE and LEARN together.

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus

Date Written	May 2025
Date Agreed	June 2025
Chair of Governors	Maria Salt
Head Teacher	Daniel Linehan
Date for Review	June 2027

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

The Catholic Life of School Policy

"When we say that God is at the centre of our life, then this must be experienced by our whole community in some way, even by the youngest. It isn't a case of dragging God or religion into everything we do – God is already there. What we are doing is looking at education as God's work"

Our Mission is:
Each one of us is unique
Each one of us is special
Because we are created by God's love.
May God's love shine on our lives as we
CARE and SHARE and LEARN together.

This mission statement is the foundation stone on which we build The Catholic Life of the School and we aim to achieve our mission by:

- Establishing, maintaining and developing a Catholic ethos which is permeated in everything we do and is apparent to all those who enter the school.

- Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in collective worship through Holy Mass and other services/celebrations in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church to all in the community.

- Providing a supportive Sacramental Programme in collaboration with the Parish in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church and diocesan policy.

- Creating a place of learning where Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church are evident in everything we do.

- Modelling the image of Christ in the way we lead and manage the school.

- Providing an enriched curriculum which is creative, inspiring and inclusive for all pupils, which is fundamentally based on the teachings of Jesus and his Holy Church.

- Developing the prayer and spiritual life of all members of our school and the community it serves.

- Being an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting our

virtues and growing to be:

Eloquent & Truthful	Grateful & Generous
Learned & Wise	Attentive & Discerning
Curious & Active	Compassionate & Loving
Intentional & Prophetic	Faith-filled & Hopeful

- Engendering the culture of vocation by educating pupils to be active in their faith and by reaching out to those in our community and beyond.

- Ensuring that the Gospel values are permeated through all policies which include inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc

- Caring and meeting the pastoral, spiritual, moral and social needs of the children.

- Providing good Catholic role models for the younger citizens of the future so that they will follow in Jesus' footsteps.

- Maintaining, working with and developing successful links with the home, parish, archdiocese, community and the wider world.

It is our belief that by working towards the above we play our part in the mission of Christ and his Holy Church on Earth:

1. To provide opportunities for daily Celebration of the Word.

2. To provide a caring, inspiring and creative environment.

Promotion of Culture of Vocation

Staff and pupils are reminded of their vocation and encouraged to reflect upon the call of God in their lives through various events and activities. Members of our parish community along with people from charities and organisations are invited into school to discuss their role and vocation. We hold a vocations week in school to ensure that children are exposed to a range of vocations. Through prayer sessions and liturgy, we pray for vocations to the priesthood and for the seminarians in our diocese. Pupils are encouraged to lead on various roles in school which help them to fulfil their vocations. These include: School Councillor, Stewards of Creation, Liturgical Leaders and Father Hudson Caritas Ambassadors.

The Spiritual Life of School

Prayer occupies an important role in our Religious Education as a means of expressing, fostering and nurturing faith. Children have a natural aptitude for prayer, they are open to God. They respond in joy, wonder, anger, disappointment and elation to the world round them. We, at St. Anne's Catholic School, aim to create and maintain an environment where this is fostered and developed. Our classrooms, work areas and school entrance are welcoming, bright, colourful and creative so that our Mission Statement is being lived out through our surroundings.

We aim to promote the culture of prayer by reflecting on the promise of Christ:

"Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be open to you."

Children are encouraged and helped to discover the many different ways in which to pray, formal and informal, private and communal. They are encouraged to be still and listen to God. We aim to teach and develop a variety of prayer methods to the children such as:

- Teaching the common prayers of the church alongside new prayers.
- Allowing the children to develop their spiritual awareness by giving them the skills to create asking, thanksgiving, praising and sorry prayers (spontaneous prayer).
- Through the reading of the Gospels and the Holy Bible (liturgical prayer).
- Through the teaching of traditional hymns alongside new style hymns.

- Through the teaching of drama, sacred music and prayer.

- Meditating and reflecting in silence whilst being inspired by liturgical music and religious art.

Prayer in the classroom.

Each classroom in the school creates a prayerful environment by each having a prayer focus.

- It is required that this focus is dressed in the liturgical colours of the year as a visual sign to the children to show the change and the mood of the liturgical calendar.

- Teachers and children create an interactive display on the prayer focus; objects, images, candles which reflect the liturgical year and feasts.

- Each phase has a communal prayer focus that provides resources for children to write and put their own petitions so that the phase as a community can pray for the needs of others.

- Each room in the school has a crucifix which reminds us all of the sacrifice of Christ for all of humanity; it reminds us that Christ is the foundation stone of Catholic education, that He is always watching over us and is at the centre of everything we do.

Providing class Celebration of the Word on a daily basis.

It is required by law to provide daily worship in school. Teachers and pupils pray at each of these periods of the day:

At the beginning of the school day (offering prayer) At lunchtime (asking prayer)
After lunch (thanksgiving prayer)
At Home time (asking, thanksgiving and praising prayer)

Prayer Garden

The Prayer Garden offer pupils a quiet place to contemplate and reflect during

whole class and private prayer/ worship.

Prayers for the deceased are shared in November and a school community book/ box of remembrance is produced and prayed for (including deceased family and friends to be remembered of pupils, parents, staff, governors and parishioners).

Advent and the Christmas season is observed and celebrated through the diocesan curriculum programme of study and through a variety of collective worship gatherings. After the Christmas holidays, the season is continued with the celebration of Mass to celebrate the Epiphany if we are at school. If not, the celebration of Mass will celebrate the Christmas season and the start of the new term.

Holy Week preparations take place in school and end with a special Mass where the events of Holy week are thought about in church.

Giving to Others

We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. This is an on-going process and those less fortunate than us are remembered in daily prayer.

Throughout the school year we raise funds for several charities, including CAFOD, Father Hudson's Care, Entraide, Lily's Tea Parlour, St Chad's sanctuary and others chosen by the children. Money is raised through several events including cake sales, non-uniform days, raffles, games and competitions. We regularly support local foodbanks through donations. We also raise money for our Parish church by collecting food tins and packets from our very generous children and parents and selling them at the Parish's annual Bazaar.

Parental Involvement

We believe that if our Religious Programme is to be effective, we must at each stage seek to involve parents and give them the confidence to play their part in the formation of their children. The school supports and develops the primary task of parents as the first teachers of their children in the ways of Faith. We aim to involve parents by:-

1. Inviting them to Advent and end of year performances

2. Inviting them to celebrate Holy Mass and Reconciliation services at

different times during the school year.

3. Inviting them to parent meetings when Religious Education is discussed e.g. as their children enter school in Reception, at Curriculum meetings, and later during their preparation for the Sacraments.

4. Inviting them to special celebrations e.g. Nativities and Advent performances, RE Inspire workshops, special Masses such as the Leaders/Leavers Mass, Easter and Christmas celebrations.

5. Encouraging them to support the Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete homework tasks and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

6. Providing information evenings on the Sacramental Programme and Family life education.

7. Inviting them to a Sacramental Workshops to work with their children in preparation for the Sacraments, e.g. First Holy Communion Banners and fish and chip evening with a focus on Reconciliation.

8. Encouraging Family members to undertake a home based project in preparation for their child's Confirmation, e.g. research and creative work on child's chosen Saint.

9. Encouraging them to bring their children to Mass either Saturday evening or Sunday.

10. Inviting them to share their views through curriculum evenings, pupil progress meetings, Sacramental meetings, family life education meetings and through questionnaires.

Review date

This policy was revised in Summer 2025 and will be reviewed in Summer 2027