

St Philip's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Working Together Through Christ



CRC Article 29(goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Catholic Life Policy

Our Mission is

Learning and Working Together Through Christ

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 permeates 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.
- To be an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- Embedding 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 and Catholic School Profile Values are permeated through all policies.

Caring for 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 may follow in Jesus' footsteps.
- Maintaining, working with and developing successful links with the home, parish, archdiocese, community and the wider world.

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

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 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 rich in Christian imagery and artefacts so that our Mission Statement is being lived out through our surroundings.

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 traditional prayers of the church alongside new prayers.
- Allowing the children to develop their spiritual awareness by giving them the skills to create asking, thanksgiving, praying for others, praising and sorry prayers.
- 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.

Mission Team

We have a group of children from each class who make up our school Mission Team. The children hold regular meetings and discuss improvements which can be made to make the Catholic Life of the school even stronger.

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.
- This prayer focus should have a bible which shows the previous Sunday's Gospel readings; or the reading associated with a feast day; or a reading which is relevant to that scheme of work.
- Teachers are encouraged to be creative when creating an interactive display on this focus. Objects, images, candles which reflect the liturgical year and feasts.
- Each classroom 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 and that Christ is at the centre at everything we do.
- Each classroom has the school's mission displayed along with the Catholic School Profile values of the half term.

Giving to Others

We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others.

During the school year (especially during Harvest, Advent and Lent) the children and their families are encouraged to bring in tins of food for Brushstrokes.

Children also take part in CAFOD fundraising days and raising money for other charities such as Macmillan.

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 Friday assemblies
2. Inviting them to celebrate Holy Mass and Parish Mass during the school year.
3. They are invited to parent meetings in preparation for the Sacraments.
4. Parents are invited to special celebrations e.g. Nativity plays, Carol Service, Stations of the Cross and Holy Week Assemblies.
5. Inviting parents to share their views through questionnaires.

Monitoring of Catholic Life

The Catholic Life of the school is regularly monitored and reviewed by children, staff, leaders and Governors to ensure that we are living out our Catholic Values and meeting the prayer life needs of the children along with supporting them in their relationship with God.

October 2018

To be reviewed bi-annually