

St Mary's Catholic Academy



Catholic Life and Mission Policy September 2025

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

Ephesians 2:10



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Our Mission Statement

As a member of St. Mary's Catholic Academy, everyone is valued for their uniqueness and is encouraged to...

*“...walk hand in hand with God, loving Him,
loving each other and loving ourselves,
doing our best with the gifts God has given to us
to make the world a richer place.”*

We worship, learn and play together in the love of Jesus, helping one another to develop the talents given to us by God.

Mission Statement

Our mission statement serves as the cornerstone of the school's Catholic identity, guiding all that we do. We strive to fulfil this mission through the following actions:

- Establishing, maintaining and developing a Catholic ethos which is permeated in everything we do and is apparent to all those who enter the school.
- Instruct, explain and demonstrate the Gospel values.
- Create a distinctively Catholic culture where all members of the school community lead virtuous lives.
- Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in collective worship. Creating a place of learning where faith is central.
- Providing an enriched curriculum which is creative, inspiring and inclusive for all pupils.
- Being an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- Ensuring that the Gospel values are permeated through all policies such as inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc.
- Developing children's understanding of vocation, that God created each person for a unique and special purpose.
- Supporting the Sacramental Programme within the Parish.
- Aiming to bring about an awareness of the needs of others.
- Developing links with the parish, diocese and wider community.

Developing the Prayer and Spiritual Life of all Members of our School

We nurture the spiritual growth of everyone in our school community, regardless of their beliefs, or none. Pupils and staff are supported in their spiritual journey, and we warmly welcome families to grow spiritually alongside us, through our connection with the school and parish.

We do this by:

- Providing children with the skills to develop their own prayer life - through the reading of the Scriptures, music, drama, dance and prayer.
- Providing opportunities for reflection.
- Developing the environment - each classroom in the school has a crucifix and prayer focus area which reflects the liturgical year and has relevant Christian symbols and artefacts relating to the current RED Curriculum branch.

- Our Chaplaincy Team is made up of dedicated KS2 pupils to lead in the prayer and spiritual aspect of our school. They work closely with our RE, Catholic Life and Mission and Prayer and Liturgy leads as well as our school Chaplains Maria and Tim.
- RE Prayer Books are sent home regularly and children are encouraged to explore Bishop Patrick's spiritual themes as well as other aspects of our liturgical year.
- Travelling Nativity for families F1-Y6
- Lenten Prayer bags for families F1-Y6
- Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child - school mass, liturgies, Celebration of the Word, Reconciliation and adoration.
- Fundraising opportunities
- School summer BBQ

Prayer and Liturgy

The day is punctuated with prayer. Teachers and pupils pray at the beginning of the school day, lunchtime and end of the school day. We open and close our RE lessons by inviting children to make the Sign of the Cross. This reminds children that the lesson is not just about learning facts, but also about reflecting, praying, and connecting with God and helps children develop a habit of reverence and respect for their faith and learning. Pupils are encouraged to pray spontaneously throughout the day by making use of school and class prayer areas, and prayer areas around school.

Plays and Performances

In our Advent 2 season, Foundation Stage have a Christmas sing and KS1 perform a Nativity, and KS2 perform a Carol Concert with key Readings from Scripture to share the story of the birth of Christ. Year 3 and 4 share the story of Easter in Lent Term 2. Year 6 celebrate the end of primary school with a Leaver's Mass and blessing by our Parish priest. All classes are involved in leading and participating in prayer, liturgy and CotW throughout the year.

Parental Involvement

Parents are the first teachers of their children, and we work in partnership with them. They are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete homework tasks and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments. We include religious vocabulary and questions about what we are learning in school in our weekly class 'Chatterbox' which goes out to parents at the beginning of each week.

We provide information on the TenTen programme (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups, and hold a parent's meeting for the RSE curriculum for parents of children in Years 5 and 6. We welcome feedback from parents regarding the teaching and learning of Religious Sex Education considering Church teachings.

Throughout the year, parents are warmly welcomed to take part in a range of school events. These include class Celebrations of the Word, curriculum information evenings, whole school and class Masses, and special liturgical prayer moments for occasions such as Harvest, Advent, Holy Week, and our Year 6 Leavers' celebration - among many others.

We warmly invite parents to support our school's fundraising efforts throughout the year. Whether it's

helping at events, contributing to campaigns, or sharing ideas, every effort makes a real difference. Together, we raise vital funds that help enrich our school environment and meet the needs of all our children - ensuring they have the best opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

At St Mary's, we are always striving to grow and improve, and we deeply value the thoughts and feedback of our parents. There are many ways for parents to share their views, including evaluation forms, meetings, questionnaires, curriculum evenings, and parents' evenings. We believe in open and honest communication, and our open-door policy reflects our commitment to working in partnership with families to support every child's journey.

Faith in Action

We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. Children (led by our Chaplaincy Team and/or School Council) are encouraged to actively participate in how we support charities. This includes local, national and overseas charities. Charities are supported at liturgically fitting times throughout the school year, such as food bank organisations during Harvest time. We also demonstrate our faith through supporting Christian Aid work such as CAFOD.

We create links with groups in our local area that are outside of Christianity, such as residential homes and the local community. We welcome people of all backgrounds into our school to celebrate and share the generosity of God's love.

Children of St Mary's are always encouraged to help each other as well as their parents, teachers and other people in our community. It is our aim that our whole school ethos is one that will foster and nurture a generous giving of self, an appreciation and respect for one's own property and that of others.

Leadership, Monitoring and Review

The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the Headteacher and RE subject leader, who support colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. Both the Headteacher and the RE subject leader will provide CPD opportunities for all staff where necessary, and will lead Catholic Life staff meetings to ensure staff are aware of expectations within school and Diocesan initiatives.

The Headteacher will feed back termly to the RE Governor and Chair of Governors regarding initiatives in school. There will also be opportunities to conduct learning walks and pupil interviews regarding the development of the Catholic Life of the school. There will also be more formal feedback given to the full Governing Body on a termly basis.

Reviewed: September 2025

RE Lead: Susan McDonald