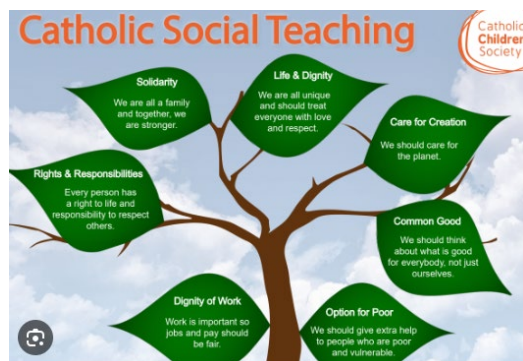


St Philip's Catholic Primary School

*Learning and Working
Together Through Christ*



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. This has been discussed and reviewed with staff and children annually to ensure it remains a relevant serving statement that we continue to live out in practise.

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 including the Catholic School Pupil Profile and Catholic Social Teachings.
- Modelling the image of Christ in the way we lead and manage the school to ensure that all people are respected as children of God.
- 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, generosity, compassion 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, Catholic School Pupil Profile and Catholic Social Teachings 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 in their lives.
- 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 as active apostles and ambassadors of the Church.

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 incidents of spontaneous prayer.
- Through the reading of the Gospels and the Holy Bible. (liturgical prayer)
- Through the teaching of traditional hymns alongside new style hymns.
- A daily routine of prayer which is familiar such as morning prayer, before and after lunch and end of day prayer.
- Meditating and reflecting in silence whilst being inspired by liturgical music and religious art.
- Teaching children different ways to pray so that they have a rich diet of prayer life throughout their school careers.

Mission Team

We have a group of children from each class in KS2 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. They monitor and evaluate prayer areas in classrooms and around the school to ensure they are liturgically correct as well as inviting for incidents of prayer. These children support the life and Mission of our school by leading examples for others on the importance of Christ in our lives and the traditions that we uphold to honour and worship. They are a support to adults and peers as well as active voice who are dedicated to helping to shape the future Mission of our school community.

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.
- Prayer focuses that are appropriate to the season or dedications from Our Holy Father are clearly displayed so that children know what they can pray for when silent prayer is held.
- A prayer tree is available in each class for children to write their prayer dedications in line with the season or for their own intentions as offerings to God.
- Each classroom and area 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 Pupil Profile and Catholic Social Teaching focus for 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.

All of these initiatives are led by our team of Mini Vinnies who are passionate about what they can do to serve, help and give to our community and the wider world. They are active in and giving of their time after school to serve the parish, lead our school in outreach and charitable initiatives.

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 Gifts from God assemblies and acts of worship that their children will be leading on.
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 and to support the children's preparations in workshops, church preparations and celebrations.

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.
6. Prayer bags which are sent home to bring a connection between school and home in prayer

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. This planned for on a termly cycle by the RE subject leader.

The Mission team evaluate, alongside the RE leader, the prayer focuses in each liturgical season and offer support to adults and peers on how to improve and show importance to these areas.

Pupil voice within questionnaires and meetings features catholic life with prominence to continually improve practises that the children are passionate about and dedicated to.