



St Margaret Clitherow

Catholic Voluntary Academy

"Love One Another as I have Love You"

John 13:34-35

Catholic Life and Mission Policy



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do and he will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

'When Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment, the answer is the same in all three of the Gospels in which the question is asked: 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 every Catholic school. It is a mission that is clearly echoed in the Second Vatican Council which teaches that the purpose of an education that is distinctively Christian is threefold (*Gravissimum Educationis* 2). Its first purpose is to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school. The second, is 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 third, is the formation of all to live in conformity with the pattern of human goodness, truth and justice that we find in Jesus Christ.'¹

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 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 **St Margaret Clitherow Academy** responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

Mission Statement

Mission Statement

St Margaret Clitherow Academy is a loving, caring and serving Catholic community ambitious to educate our children to thrive personally, academically and spiritually.

By placing the person and teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do, we will:

Embrace the Gospel Values so that by aiming high everyone fulfils their potential and our differences are respected and celebrated.

We want everyone to:

- Enjoy Learning, build on prior knowledge and deepen new learning.
- Be resilient and persevere when faced with a challenge.
- Have choices and opportunities in all aspects of life.
- Be independent and cooperative problem solvers in all aspects of life.
- Feel valued, respected and loved.
- Have a life-long relationship with God to be his **disciples** and inspire others.



Like St Margaret Clitherow, have the integrity, faith and courage to show our love of God to all.

We want everyone to:

- Welcome and included everyone.
- Listen to and think about the point of views of others.
- Have integrity to make the right choice and take responsibilities for their actions.
- Have the courage to forgive others and accept forgiveness.
- Embrace the school's values to spread God's word through their actions.
- Be active in their faith to be **missionary disciples** of the Lord.



Make the best use of our gifts to serve God, our Church and those who need us.

We want everyone to:

- Recognise everyone is unique and use the gifts and talents God has given us.
- Know and feel God's love in our school community.
- Love and care for everything that God has given us.
- Show God's love by supporting those in need locally, national and globally.
- **Encounter** Jesus through the actions of everyone to ensure everyone feels loved respected and valued in our school community.



LOVE one another...
just as i have loved you...
JOHN 13:34



The mission statement of **St Margaret Clitherow Academy** is highly visible throughout the school environment. It clearly reflects the school's role in the educational mission of the Church, promoting Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our mission statement is a touch stone of school life so that:

- Pupils have a clear understanding of its meaning and can articulate this at an age-appropriate level
- All staff embrace and implement the statement across daily school life through a range of opportunities *e.g. class prayers, whole school liturgical prayers, displays, school values,*
- It is shared with parents and the wider community through school signage, our newsletters, school policy documents, website and parents meetings

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

John 10:10

The Catholic 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 in 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 nine principles of Catholic Social Teaching, using the CAFOD resources. We use child friendly resources to explore the writings of Pope Francis, such as *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. In this way we are building their moral compass and enabling them to respond to social, moral and ethical issues in the world. Our Catholic curriculum leads our charitable outreach and work for social justice.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught in a Catholic context recognising we are all made in God's image and likeness. See our RSHE Policy.

Other faiths are taught as part of the RE curriculum. See our RE policy. 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.

The School Environment

Visitors to *St Margaret Clitherow Academy* are aware of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the physical environment, the presence of images and symbols and the recognition of a learning environment that respects the human dignity of all persons as made in God's image and likeness.

At *St Margaret Clitherow Academy* every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment:

- All rooms have a crucifix
- All rooms have a cared for, attractive prayer area
- All room and areas of the school are cared for and represent our children
- Each class has a 'liturgy' box with coloured cloths and good quality religious artefacts
- There are displays in the corridors with reflection on our Mission Statement
- Prayer areas are visible around the school for the children to access
- Pupil leadership display shows how the children are empowered to lead
- Displays within each classroom reflect the 'Come and See' topic being taught, the liturgical season, work produced by the pupils, key prayers and scripture
- There are child-friendly quotes from scripture around the corridors



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations”

Matthew 28:19 ~ 20

Charitable Work

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.

There are various fundraising events and charitable outreach activities throughout the year co-ordinated by the Leadership Teams:

- Harvest – children are encouraged to bring in food for local foodbanks and the school is a permanent collection point for donations throughout the year.
- At Remembrance, 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 items for the homeless in the shoe box appeals
- During Lent we raise funds for CAFOD through activities chosen by the pupils.
- Mini Vinnies organise events based on the needs of our school. For example they have raised money for Winston's Wish
- Visiting an old peoples home at Christmas and delivering Christmas cards

Working for Social Justice

Pupils are also taught the importance of standing up for social justice as an important aspect of Christian life. There are planned opportunities for pupils to engage in campaigns for social justice:

- Talking to our local MP about during Parliament week
- Celebrating Refuge Week
- Climate change activities e.g. Switch off fortnight
- Supporting Fairtrade Fortnight
- Eco Warriors promote Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness throughout the school



Chaplaincy

The spirituality and prayer life of the school are an evident part of its Catholic life and mission. The Prayer and Liturgy policy details the school provision. Chaplaincy provision at *St Margaret Clitherow Academy* plays an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the whole community. Our Chaplaincy Team consists of a school chaplain shared with other primary and secondary schools in the hub, a member of SLT and 8 pupils from Year 6. In the Pentecost Term new chaplains are recruited from Year 4 so they can continue the work from Year 6. 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
- Maintaining and developing communal prayer areas
- Writing and leading prayers during whole school acts of worship
- Offering opportunities for informal pupil led prayer during break or lunch times
- Undertaking large projects such as developing a prayer garden/spaces
- Keeping the pupils updated with information about donations to charity, such as for foodbanks and CAFOD
- Being a role model to others by modelling reverence and joy where applicable
- Writing and leading whole school acts of worship, such as the Remembrance Service
- Accompanying members of the school community, especially in times of need

School Community

St Margaret Clitherow Academy is a welcoming place for children, families and members of staff from all faiths and none. 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.

St Margaret Clitherow Academy recognises that it is part of a family of Catholic schools and works collaboratively with local Catholic schools in clusters, in the Trust and across the diocese. Through our work in RE children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family.

At *St Margaret Clitherow Academy* 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 continuing professional development and formation programme. New teachers are enrolled on the Diocesan Early Careers Programme as part of their induction to teaching in a Catholic school.

Working With Parents

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.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: class assemblies, curriculum meetings, whole school Masses and liturgical prayers which take place throughout the year both in school and at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and The Good Shepherd Parish Churches and events such as the Christmas and Easter Celebrations.

They are encouraged to participate with their children during Advent when the 'Travelling Cribs' are sent home, encouraging a time of sharing and reflection and also during Lent when the 'Lent in a Bag'. 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 enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, as well as at parent curriculum meetings and parents' evenings. We operate an open-door policy.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I
among them."

Matthew 18:20

Parish Links

Links with the local parish are a vital part of Catholic life in school. The parishes which serve our school are Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and The Good Shepherd Parish. Our parish priest is Fr Richard and Father Philip.

Children visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church. Fr Richard 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 services in the school with the children and staff, including Mass and the commissioning of the Chaplaincy Team. We also share communications from the parish priest with our school community to encourage attendance at church and involvement in church events.



Monitoring

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.

The Chaplaincy team evaluate, alongside SLT, 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, staff and parent voice within questionnaires and meetings features catholic life with prominence to continually improve practises that the children are passionate about and dedicated to.

Co-ordinator for Catholic Life and Mission

The Coordinator for Catholic life and mission is the Headteacher of the school - Sarah Sweeney-McGinty. See appendix 1 for their role and responsibilities.

This policy is monitored by the Catholic life and mission Coordinator and the senior leadership team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.



Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission

- Formulating a written policy for Catholic life and mission
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Catholic life and mission included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that pupils are able to explain the Catholic life and mission of the school, appropriate to their age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds
- Organising themes for outreach, timetable of charitable support, involvement in campaigns
- Developing staff confidence and expertise and enabling them to articulate the mission of the school and its impact on life

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Planning school involvement in national and local projects e.g. the environment
- Use a global planner to ensure relevant days are marked in school e.g. Holocaust Memorial Day,
- Making judgements on outcomes, provision and leadership of Catholic life and mission to inform the ongoing work on the school Catholic Self Evaluation Document

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
- Liaison with the school chaplain/Chaplaincy team
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation on the Catholic life and mission of the school
- Attending appropriate in-service courses e.g. updating Rainbows training, CAFOD CPD, 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 e.g. resources for Mini Vinnies, Catholic Social Teaching, Faith in Action
- Budgeting efficiently