



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



Policy for the Catholic Life of our School

Our Mission Statement :

'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 13:33-34)

Agreed by Governors on 29th March 2017

Signed :  Chair of Governors

Review date : March 2019

Safeguarding Statement :

'Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Our Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to encouraging everyone to 'Be The Best They Can Be'

Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

Introduction

At Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School we aim to provide an environment which contributes to developing the catholic life of all members of the community. We will ensure that children experience a range of meaningful prayer, worship and liturgy and that all within the school community have opportunities to grow in the development of faith.

Aims

At Our Lady's we aim to:

- ♥ Nurture each child's relationship with God, building on the foundations laid by the family and the parish communities.
- ♥ Encourage in pupils the desire to engage in personal prayer and Christian meditation.
- ♥ Ensure that all children are aware of the religious, spiritual and moral values the school has as part of its Mission to help children understand their role within the Christian family.

- ♥ That all prayer is inclusive of the whole school community.
- ♥ Build on children's own experiences and value what each has to offer.
- ♥ Develop children's natural sense of awe and wonder.
- ♥ Introduce children to the key events of the liturgical year and the Church's seasons.
- ♥ Help to foster a sense of community.
- ♥ Celebrate successes and achievements of individuals and groups.
- ♥ Develop and encourage collaboration and team work.
- ♥ Develop skills of leadership in children especially relating to liturgy
- ♥ Ensure there are opportunities for staff to deepen their own understanding of prayer.
- ♥ Ensure that non-catholic staff feel supported in delivering the RE curriculum and are confident with leading collective worship
- ♥ Develop an understanding in children that their prayer experience in school can be used outside the school environment.
- ♥ Help children understand and be able to take part in all liturgies of their parish and school.
- ♥ Encourage parents and carers to share in the catholic life of the school.

Guidelines

- Provide prayer opportunities that take into account the needs, ages and stages of development of all children.
- Provide opportunities for all pupils and staff to participate in Christian meditation
- Provide a range of formal, informal and spontaneous prayer in a way that takes into account the needs of all children.
- Enable all children to have opportunities to plan assemblies, reflections, liturgy and prayer.
- Enable all children the opportunity to prepare for and take an active part in masses, assemblies, prayer and reconciliation in a variety of settings to include whole school, class, key stage, parish and other Catholic schools.
- Ensure there are opportunities for individual prayer and reflection.
- Plan opportunities for children to write and share their own prayers.
- Ensure that there are opportunities for prayer and reflection in all areas of the curriculum.
- Ensure there are prayer corners within all classrooms that children contribute to and make use of.
- Use a range of religious artefacts to support the prayer life of the school.
- Provide opportunities for children to access the prayer cultures of other Christian and world faiths.
- Invite the clergy and other faith leaders to contribute to the prayer life of the school.
- Make use of formal, school and class prayer books to support prayer.
- Offer opportunities for children to take an active part in the life of the parishes.
- Provide opportunities for pupils, staff, parents, governors and parishioners to come together to celebrate mass and other liturgies at various time of the year.
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the prayer life of the school.
- Monitor the prayer life of the school taking into account the views of pupils and adults.

Charities

- The school is very active in supporting charities
- The following are the main areas which the children choose to support:
CAFOD

Coventry Foodbank
Myton Hospice
Natural disaster appeals – Pakistan Floods / Japanese Earthquake / East Africa Famine
Father Hudson's Homes – Good Shepherd Appeal
Macmillan Big Coffee Morning
Children In Need
The Jesus Centre for the Homeless
Poppy Appeal
Zoe's Place
NSPCC

Vocations Group

- Each year our Y6 children and their parents attend a City vocations mass. The Headteacher is actively involved in the preparations for this mass. We are always commended for the number of our families who take part in the Vocations Mass.
- Members of a Catholic ministry either priests, brothers, nuns visit the school each year and talk to the children
- Three children attended a Vocations meeting at Bishop Ullathorne making valuable contributions and making the adults aware of how the vocations work had impacted them.

Links with our feeder school, Bishop Ullathorne

- We have very close links with Bishop Ullathorne Secondary School as we are one of its feeder schools.
- Regular meetings take place between the two schools and we have a particularly close association with its RE department.
- Year 7 pupils return to Our Lady's to make a presentation about their school and the life of Bishop Ullathorne.
- During Advent, Bishop Ullathorne's liturgy group lead a service with our Year 5 children based on Advent.
- Year 3 children attend Bishop Ullathorne in the summer term to celebrate their First Holy Communion – this is a full day of fun with children from the other feeder schools and includes mass in the afternoon.
- Year 4 children attend a Languages Day at Bishop Ullathorne also in the summer term
- Year 5 children attend a humanities day at Bishop Ullathorne, culminating in the celebration of the mass, shared with all the feeder schools.
- Close links have been established to foster vocations between the two schools and our pupils will visit Bishop Ullathorne as part of this programme.

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