



ST. NORBERT'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Catholic Life Policy

Date Adopted: Lent 2024
Date of Review: Lent 2026

Our Mission Statement

St. Norbert's strives to nurture and develop the whole child through a

Love of God
Love of one another
Love of life itself

Article 30: You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

“Love of God, Love of one another and Love of life itself.”

This is the core of our mission statement and is the foundation stone on which we build the Catholic Life of the school. We aim to achieve our mission by:

- Establishing, maintaining and developing a Catholic ethos which is permeated in 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 Mass and other liturgies/services/celebrations in Celebration of the Word through Mass and other liturgies/services/celebrations in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church to all in the community.
- Creating a place of learning where Gospel values, virtues 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.
- To be an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth through enabling others to encounter Christ through Mission and Missionary Discipleship.
- Ensuring that the Gospel values and virtues are permeated through all policies.

Caring 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 and productive links with the home, Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust, Diocese, local community and the wider world.
- To encourage a spirit of community and co-operation based on all Gospel Values, embracing Forgiveness and Reconciliation in all our relationships.

It is our hope that by working towards the above we play our part in the mission of Christ.

1. **To provide opportunities for daily collective worship.**
2. **To provide a caring, inspiring and creative environment.**
3. **To provide a caring community that support one another.**

The Spiritual Life of School

Prayer is 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. Here, at St Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we aim to create and maintain an environment where this is modelled, nurtured and developed. Our classrooms, shared areas and school entrance are welcoming, bright, colourful and creative 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 as well as traditional and spontaneous especially through the Leadership mission of the Chaplaincy Team and Mini Vinnies. They are encouraged to be still and listen to God through Christian Meditation and reflection. 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, 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.
- Meditating and reflecting in silence.
- Being inspired by liturgical music and religious art.

Our Lady's Garden is used as an area to Encounter Our Lady and Christ through prayerful reflection and Christian Meditation. We aim to provide pupils with opportunities to seek and serve God in our daily lives, discover or develop their relationship with God and encourage and inspire others to do the same.

Prayer in the classroom.

Each classroom in the school creates a prayerful environment by each having a Prayer Focus Table.

- 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 events locally, globally or curriculum linked.

- Teachers/Staff/children are encouraged to be creative when creating an interactive display on this focus. Objects, images, candles which reflect the liturgical year and feasts.
- Teachers/Staff/children provide questions and resources that allow for quiet reflection and response to scripture.
- Most rooms in the school have a crucifix/cross 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.
- Children are encouraged to respond to scripture and focussed topics linked to their learning focus through wonder moments.
- Pop up prayer stations around the school provide opportunities for spontaneous prayer and reflection.
- Our Lay Chaplain visits the academy weekly and supports with all the above and works alongside all stakeholders supporting opportunities for meaningful Encounter and Prayer.

Providing prayer on a daily basis.

It is required by law to provide daily worship in the classroom. Teachers, Staff and pupils pray at each of these periods of the day:

At the beginning of the school day (Morning prayers)

At Lunchtime (The Angelus)

At Home time (End of day prayer/ School Prayer/ CMAT Prayer)

Collective of the Word.

In addition to the daily requirement of prayer in our classrooms we provide collective worship at a whole school level and for the different educational groups in the school. We do this each week on a:

Monday: Gospel Worship

Tuesday: Virtues/Values/Catholic Social Teaching

Wednesday: Class Worship/Class Prayer Service/Mass

Thursday: Praise and Worship/Values and Virtues

Friday: Celebration Worship/Virtue Awards

Providing opportunities for Mass to be celebrated.

We recognise and revere the most Holy Sacrament of the celebration of the Eucharist. We believe it is central to our roles as being members of the Body of Christ and the redeeming life graces and blessings it provides. We firmly believe in the importance of celebrating the Mass by:

- Providing opportunities for school and parish Masses throughout the academic year.
- Celebrating Mass at the key times of the school year
- Attending and celebrating Holy Days of Obligation with the Parish
- Each class has the opportunity to celebrate a Class Mass/Prayer Service to provide a more intimate celebration with their class-friends, staff and parents.

By using the Liturgical year as a framework, we draw on the wealth of the whole church to teach our children who God is and what they are. We follow the development through the Curriculum Directory, introducing children to the lives of saints, to the changes of season and the mood and colour expressing these changes. Children are given the associated language, signs and symbols. This involves progression, some repetition and deepening of understanding.

A soundly based devotion to Our Lady as Mother of Jesus and our Mother is encouraged. We celebrate the months of May and October as a devotion to Our Lady. The Chaplaincy Team alongside our Lay Chaplain run a Rosary Club during these months.

During the preparation times of Advent and Lent the children participate in a Reconciliation Service. All children who have received their First Holy Communion are then able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, whilst all other children have the opportunity to experience the forgiveness in the classroom through a follow-up activity.

Adoration is also an important part of our Catholic Life and an opportunity is provided at least once a year for this special devotion to take place in the school.

Giving to Others

We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. This is an on-going process and those less fortunate are remembered regularly in our prayer life.

During the season of Harvest, Advent and Lent the school raises funds for various charities at home and overseas, e.g. CAFOD. Charitable outreach activities are planned and shared by the Mini Vinnies and children 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.

Parental Involvement

We believe that if our Religious Teaching 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 all Class Worships
2. Inviting them to celebrate Mass at different times during the school year.
3. Inviting them to special celebrations e.g. Nativity, Carol Service, other services throughout the year and Leavers' Mass and Assembly.
4. They are encouraged to support the Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete any tasks that may be linked to RE.
5. Providing information events on the RSE sessions.
6. Inviting them to share their views through Parent Workshops and Parent questionnaires

Signed _____

(Headteacher)

Signed _____

(for and on behalf of the Local Governing body)

Date _____