Holy Cross Catholic

Voluntary Academy

We live, grow, learn and pray together in faith, showing God's love in all we do and say.

Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic

Academy Trust

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Policy Revised:	September 2025
Next Review:	September 2027
Headteacher:	Karen McVea
Chair of Governors:	Hilari Chetwood

1 Mission Statement

1.1 Our mission statement is the foundation stone on which we build the Catholic Life of the school and 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.
- 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.

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

2.1 We aim to develop the spiritual life of everyone within our community, regardless of their beliefs, or none. We provide spiritual development for pupils and staff alike, and invite our families to develop spiritually in connection with the school and parish.

2.2 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, prayer focus area which reflects the liturgical year and has relevant Christian symbols and artefacts relating to the current Religious Education Curriculum, 'To Know You More Clearly' branch.
- Training members of the Chaplaincy team, two children from each class from Year 2 – Year 6, to take the lead in organising the prayer focus and leading class prayers throughout the day. They receive training from staff and members of the clergy throughout the year.
- Appointing two lead chaplains from year 6 to provide additional support and guidance.
- Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child; class led masses, liturgies and whole school celebration of the word.
- Mini Vinnies- help to promote catholic social teachings around the school and demonstrate how this can be lived out in daily life through outreach and supporting those in our community.
- Mission Circles
- Eco- Team – help us to live sustainably , remind us of God's creation and how we can be stewards of the earth.
- Fundraising opportunities

3 Prayer and Liturgy

3.1 The school day is punctuated with prayer. Teachers and pupils pray at the beginning of the school day, lunchtime and end of the school day. Pupils are encouraged to pray spontaneously throughout the day by making use of class prayer areas within school.

4 Plays and Performances

4.1 Children in EYFS and KS1perform a Nativity play at the end of the Advent term. Year 3 and 4 children deliver the Easter Play in Lent Term 2. Year 6 celebrate the end of primary school with a Leaver's Liturgical Prayer opportunity and blessing by a member of the clergy.

4.2 All classes are involved in leading and participating in liturgy, liturgical prayer and celebrations of the word throughout the year.

5 Parental Involvement

5.1 Parents are the first teachers of their children, and we work in partnership with them. They are encouraged to support Religious Education and Catholic life opportunities in the school through school liturgical events and supporting outreach in the community.

5.2 We provide information on the TenTen programme (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups. We welcome feedback from parents regarding the teaching and learning of Relationship and Sex Education in light of Church teachings.

5.3 Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include whole school, masses and liturgical prayer opportunities for Harvest, Advent, Holy Week, Holy Days of Obligations and for our Year 6 Leavers, to name a few.

5.4 Parents are encouraged to share their views through ClassDojo and questionnaires, as well as parents' evenings. Holy Cross operates an open-door policy.

6 Faith in Action

6.1 We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. A timetable of charitable support for the year is created in September after consultation with the Chaplaincy Team, Mini Vinnies and parish priests. 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 and supporting the homeless at Christmas with donations of care packages. . We also demonstrate our faith through supporting Christian Aid work such as CAFOD.

6.2 Children of Holy Cross 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.

7 Leadership, Monitoring and Review

7.1 The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the RE subject leader and Chaplaincy Lead (alongside the headteacher) who also supports colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. 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.

7.2 The RE subject leader 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.