



Little Way Catholic  
Educational Trust

# Catholic Life and Mission Policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	Trust Board	<b>Date:</b> Nov 2024
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	N/A	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	Nov 2027	

## Catholic Life and Mission

'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):

- to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school
- 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 formation of all to live in conformity with the pattern of human goodness, truth and justice that we find in Jesus Christ. That is, all pupils in Catholic schools are called to know God more clearly, to love him more dearly and to follow him more nearly every day.'

This threefold mission is reflected in the three perspectives of the Catholic School framework. 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, Health and Sex Education policy of the Trust.

The aim of this policy is to show how faithfully schools within the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust respond to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

## Trust Mission Statement

Our Trust family is united in its shared mission to develop our Catholic ethos in order to transform the lives of every child, family and community we serve, in Jesus' name.

Our vision is to empower every child to excel academically, socially, morally, culturally and spirituality in order that they may flourish as individuals. Assured of the love of God, we strive to educate children within an inclusive and compassionate community which celebrates the gifts and talents of our pupils and removes barriers to learning. We strive to be a community of life-long learners, contributing to a just and loving society.

Our Trust family is a partnership of equals who work collaboratively so that everyone can grow and learn together. We celebrate the diversity of our schools, retaining our individual characteristics, whilst working together for the greater good of our whole community.

Through honesty, respect, service and solidarity we value each other as one family.

All are welcome.

Each individual school also has their own Mission Statement which is highly visible throughout the school environment. It clearly reflects each school's role in the educational mission of the Church, promoting Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

These mission statements are a touchstone of school life in each Trust school 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 such as class prayers, whole school liturgical prayers, displays, celebration of talents and ensuring a feeling of belonging.
- It is shared with parents and the wider community through school signage, newsletters, policy documents and the website.

## School Environment

Visitors to each Trust school 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 each of our Trust schools, every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment and so you will also find that:

- All rooms have a crucifix

- All classrooms have a cared for, attractive prayer area matching the liturgical season and including a focal point with interactivity
- There is a display to help the children know who our Pope and Bishop is
- All rooms have the school Mission Statement visible
- All classrooms have the Trust motto visible: Little Acts, Great Love, Big Difference
- Displays in the school show activities of the pupil leadership groups including: council, chaplaincy team, eco groups and different mission groups
- Displays within each classroom reflect the Religious Education Directory Branch being taught, the liturgical season, work produced by the pupils, key prayers/scripture and key vocabulary
- There are statues, icons, pictures of saints that are special to the school
- Signage outside shows that it is a Catholic school

## 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.’<sup>1</sup>

Each of our Trust schools 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 all of the curriculum and activities as we recognise the needs of each individual member of the community in each of our schools.

At an age-appropriate level children are introduced to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Our schools 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, Health and Sex Education is taught in a Catholic context recognising we are all made in God’s image and likeness. See the LWCET RHSE Policy.

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

## Charitable outreach

Our Trust schools 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. Through timetabled work on Catholic Social Teaching and *Fratelli Tutti* pupils are taught to stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable.

There are various fundraising events and charitable outreach activities throughout the year co-ordinated by the Chaplaincy Teams within the schools including but not limited to:

- Bringing food in for local foodbanks
- Selling poppies for Remembrance
- Collecting gifts for those less fortunate during Advent
- Raising funds for CAFOD through activities chosen by the pupils
- Raising funds for charities chosen because of special links to the children within each of the schools or the Trust such as McMillian, Sue Ryder or HCPT
- Sending Christmas cards to elderly parishioners or those who are lonely
- Doing small acts with great love, inspired by our trust saint, that make a big difference to live out our Trust mission

Pupils are always encouraged to help each other as well as their parents, teachers and other people in the community. It is our aim that our whole Trust ethos is one that will foster and nurture a generous giving of self, and an appreciation and respect for others.

---

<sup>1</sup> NBRIA The Distinctive Curriculum of the Catholic School

## 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 such as:

- Writing to local MPs to join with campaigns
- Celebrating Refugee Week
- Climate change activities e.g. Switch off fortnight
- Supporting Fairtrade Fortnight
- Reduce, reuse, recycle awareness
- Running soup kitchens to raise awareness and help others

## Chaplaincy

The spirituality and prayer life of each Trust school are an evident part of its Catholic life and mission. The LWCET Prayer and Liturgy policy details the school provision. Chaplaincy provision within the Trust plays an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the whole community.

Each school Chaplaincy Team consists of a member of the Senior Leadership Team and a number of pupil representatives from different year groups.

Their role is to support each member of the school communities to grow in their faith and to be part of the pastoral care system in each 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
- Organising retreat days, days of recollection
- 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
- Accompanying members of the school community, especially in times of need

## Our School Communities

Each LWCET school 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 schools we strive to support and value each member, especially the most vulnerable.

“The first key reason why Catholic schools are established, then, is ...to place Christ ...at the centre of people’s lives.” Stock, M. *Christ at the Centre: Why the Church Provides Catholic Schools*. (Catholic Truth Society, 2012), p.7

Each school’s Behaviour policy is driven by a belief that all are unique and made in God’s image and likeness. See individual school policies.

Children and staff within the Trust are encouraged to engage with a range of awards that recognise the work that our schools do to implement Catholic Social Teaching. Across the Trust, these include: Live Simply, Eco schools, Faith in Action, Rights Respecting, Fairtrade.

Each school recognises that it is part of a family of Catholic schools and works collaboratively with local Catholic schools in the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust, our Gloucestershire Partnership and across the diocese. Through work in RE, our children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family.

Within LWCET, 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 programmes. New teachers are enrolled on the New to Catholic Education Programme and new Head Teachers have an allocated mentor as part of their induction to teaching or leading in a Catholic school.

## 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 tasks set and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

We ask parents whose children are of other faiths to share their religious celebrations with their child's school so that we can all learn together about key parts of their faith year and support those community members who are of other faiths.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: parent review sessions, whole school Masses and liturgical prayers which take place throughout the year both in school and at some of our parish churches and events such as Christmas services and celebrations.

Parents are encouraged to join with each of our schools to help organise and host a range of events for their school community. All funds raised support and enhance the provision the school offers for their pupils and families. This is also an important way to immerse themselves in their school community.

Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, as well as at parent meetings. Our Trust schools operate an open-door policy and there is always a senior leader available at the start and end of each school day.

## **Parish Links**

Links with each school's local parish are a vital part of Catholic life in our schools. We actively encourage each of our schools to be an active part of parish life and to have a close working relationship with the clergy in their linked parishes.

The children know who the Parish Priest is because they visit the church or welcome the priest into school and refer to him during Celebration of the Word.

Each Trust school supports the work of their parish/es by participating in events at the parish and supporting local groups which include: Justice and Peace group, St Vincent de Paul, foodbanks and running warm spaces. Parish newsletters are also shared with our school communities as well as invitations and encouragement for our children to attend parish events and Mass.

## **The Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission**

The Coordinator for Catholic life and mission is the Headteacher. A job description for this role can be found at Appendix A. Pro-formas for monitoring Catholic Life and Mission and to support the coordinator in carrying out their role can also be found at Appendix B.

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life and Mission Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed in the usual way with other LW CET schools every three years to include all schools, their staff, their children and their governors. The Foundation Governors of each Local Governing Committee, in particular, will play a most important role.



## Appendix A

### **The Role of the Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission in LWCET schools**

- Formulating a written policy for Catholic Life and Mission and reviewing alongside the staff, children, governors regularly in collaboration with the Trust SLT
- 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
- Liaising with chaplaincy team to organise 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
- Working alongside coordinators for RE and Collective Worship

#### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation for planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating
- Together with the Chaplaincy Team, 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 (CSED)
- Involve children in monitoring and evaluating the Catholic Life and Mission of the school

#### **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 regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Catholic Life and Mission
- Through the induction process, 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 schools and colleges.

#### **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 and feeding back to school community
- Keeping up to date with encyclicals and diocesan information to support formation of others

#### **Resources**

- Evaluating existing resources and contacts
- Ensuring resources are available to promote the Catholic Life and Mission of the school
- Budgeting efficiently



Appendix B

**Chaplaincy & Prayer Life**

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 3.10, CLM1.6
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Carried out by:</b>
<b>Group Conferenced:</b> (suggested conferencing Chaplaincy Team members and non-chaplaincy team members separately to compare opportunity)		
<b>Conferencing (pupils):</b>		
What do you think a Chaplaincy Team do?		
Is the Chaplaincy Team important at this school? Why?		
Can you tell me about some of the activities that the Chaplaincy Team have done here recently?		
Can anybody be in the Chaplaincy Team? How?		
What is your understanding of Catholic Social Teaching?		
Who teaches you about Catholic Social Teaching and what difference do you think knowing about that will make to your life?		



Can you tell me about the training that the Chaplaincy Team have and is it helpful?	
What charitable work have you done as a school and how did you choose the charities you support?	
Do you help to lead the prayer life of the school? How?	
What is prayer?	
When do you have an opportunity to pray?	
Why do we pray?	
Can you tell me about a time when you have stood up for someone you thought was being treated unfairly?	





## Community Engagement

<b>Catholic Life &amp; Mission Monitoring</b>		<b>CSED domains - CLM 2.3, CLM3.2, CLM3.3, CLM3.4</b>
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Carried out by:</b>
<b>Group Conferenced:</b>		
<b>Conferencing (parents):</b>		
How are you welcomed to be involved in the life of the school?		
Are these events at different times of the day/week/term to make it easier for all to engage?		
How do the school communicate with you about what's happening in the life of the school?		
If you need to speak with someone, are you able to at short notice? How?		
If you need help with something, do you know who you can go to?		
How does the school support you in your family life?		
How does the school support you in linking faith back into your home?		
How does the school help your child to stand up to injustice?		

## Environment

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring				CSED domains – CLM2.7																	
<b>Date:</b>				<b>Carried out by:</b>																	
<b>Learning walk:</b> (carried out by staff, governors or children)		<b>room</b>																			
<b>All rooms have:</b>	Crucifix																				
	Mission statement																				
	School values																				
<b>All classrooms have:</b>	Trust motto																				
	RE branch display (key vocab, work, prayer, scripture)																				
	Catholic Social Teaching																				
	Prayer area matched to liturgical season																				



Within the school somewhere:	Pope & bishop pictures	
	LWCET display	
	Pupil leadership groups and activities	
	Statues, icons, saints special to school	
	Outdoor signage showcasing Catholic school	
WWW:		
	EBI:	



## Inclusivity

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 1.2, CLM1.5, CLM2.4, CLM2.6
Date:		Carried out by:
Class/group/area monitored:		
Learning walk:		
<p>Are children polite, showing manners and respect for each other?</p> <p>(eg: holding doors open, speaking kindly, helping others)</p>		
<p>Entrance is welcoming and accessible to all.</p>		
<p>Staff make themselves readily available to speak with parents at short notice – key staff are very present.</p> <p>(gate, open door policy, coffee mornings, SLT on call, welcomed to liturgies, soft starts etc)</p>		
<p>Staff responsible for pastoral support make themselves available to parents to support.</p> <p>(gate duty, welcoming in morning, parenting workshops, stall at parent's evenings etc)</p>		
Conferencing (pupils):		
What makes you special?		



(link to faith, talents, image of God)	
Are you happy at school?	
Do you feel safe at school?	
Tell me about how you care for others?  (local, national, global)	
Have you learnt about people from other faiths? What do you know and what similarities are there?	
What is behavior like in lessons? Does it ever stop you from learning?	
How do you look after people who are vulnerable?	
If you needed help or had a worry, what would you do?	



## Staff induction & CPD

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 3.12, CLM3.11
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Carried out by:</b>
<b>Group Conferenced:</b>		
<b>Conferencing (staff):</b>		
Do you know the mission statement of the school?		
What will I see in this school when the mission statement is at work?		
What are Catholic Social Teaching Principles? Why do they matter at our school?		
What are our school charisms and where do they come from?		
How did you learn about the distinctiveness of this Catholic school and who from?		
What CPD have you been given to help you understand what's important for us as a Catholic school?		



<p>What happens if you are unsure about something you need to teach in RE or something to do with CST – who can you go to and is it helpful?</p>	
<p>What was included in your staff induction?</p>	
<p>Tell me about how leaders in this school look after your wellbeing.</p>	



## School Mission & Identity

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		CSED domains - CLM 2.1, CLM1.1	
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Carried out by:</b>	
<b>Class/group/area monitored:</b>			
<b>Learning walk:</b>			
Is mission statement displayed prominently?			
Can you see children and staff living out the mission statement?		Give examples of what you see.	
Entrance is welcoming and accessible to all.			
Environment shows this is a Catholic school.		Crucifix [ ]    Icons [ ]    Statues [ ]    Prayers [ ] Liturgical colours [ ]    Reflective areas present [ ]    Bibles [ ]	
<b>Conferencing (pupils):</b>			
Do children know the mission statement?			
Can children explain what the mission statement means?			





Can children link mission statement to how they love their life?	
What I might I see you doing to show you're living out the mission statement?	
Do you know what the school charisms are and how will I see them bring lived out here?	
How do the Gospels help you to live out the school's mission?	
How does our faith bring people together as a community?	
<b>Conferencing (staff):</b>	
How does the mission statement of the school impact the way you live your life here?	
What are the charisms of the school and how will I see them being lived out here?	



## Child-led Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring

Catholic Life & Mission Monitoring		Carried out by:
<b>Date:</b>		
Can you see the mission statement / values in your classroom?		
Does the prayer area have the correct liturgical colours?		
Does the prayer area have a Bible, candle and objects to help you pray?		
Do you use the prayer table in your classroom?		
What would you like to see on your prayer table?		
Are you able to set up the prayer table?		
Does the RE display have vocabulary you need for the branch you are studying?		
Is the RE display helpful when you are working?		
Do you have a timeline so you can see Bible stories you have learnt this year?		
What would you like to see on the RE display in the classroom?		