

**Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Academy Boundary Road
Newark NG24 4AU**



CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION POLICY

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**POLICIES & PROCEDURES
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Holy Trinity Catholic Voluntary Academy

Mission Statement



“In every child there is a space only God can fill”

St Thomas Aquinas

At our school we continually strive to develop the full potential of the school community in an environment permeated by the Catholic Faith and promoting Gospel values.

At the heart of our mission is the family, school and parish, each supporting and working in mutual co-operation for the benefit of the children.

We are seeking to enrich the lives entrusted in our care through a broad and balanced curriculum designed to meet the needs of each pupil.

The school provides opportunities for young children to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically and emotionally, and share their qualities, abilities and ambitions thus fulfilling individual potential.

As a worshipping community we respect all people and create a loving, caring atmosphere which overflows into an ethos of warmth and welcome towards parents, parish and the local community

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Catholic Life & Mission Policy

At Holy Trinity Catholic Academy we welcome everyone in our community as we share the joys of our faith. Inspired by our School Mission Statement, 'In every child there is a space that only God can fill' and our School Virtues of Respect, Reconciliation, Resilience, Care, Compassion and Courage, we learn, pray and play together in the love of Jesus, helping one another to develop our God given talents and make a difference in the world.

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.
- Developing children's understanding that they are made in God's image and likeness, that He loves everyone and wants us all to love one another as He loves us
- Supporting the Sacramental Programme within the Parish.
- Ensuring that all members of our community feel valued, welcome and included

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 and prayer
- Opportunities for pupil led liturgical prayer weekly and support from our School Chaplains
- 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 'Come and See' topic
- Travelling Nativity for all year group families
- Lenten Prayer bags for all year group families
- Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child; class masses, liturgies, confession, adoration, homework activities related to the Bishop's themes and other times of the year such as Remembrance Day etc
- Whole School Retreat Days
- Word of the Week films
- Further strengthening links with the parish and those who are housebound through sharing posts on their social media pages, Christmas Cards, Thinking of You cards etc
- 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, prayer stations around school

3.2 The school chapel is also available for Personal Prayer for key stage phases during the mornings and at break times

4 Plays and Performances

4.1 All classes, from Nursery to Year 2, perform a Nativity play in the Advent term. Year 3 and 4 children lead the Christingle Service at the end of the Advent Term and an Easter Play; Year 5 and 6 lead an Advent Liturgical Prayer in church and a Crucifixion Liturgical Prayer and Stations of the Cross in Holy Week or before we break up for Easter.

4.2 All classes are involved in leading and participating in prayer and liturgy throughout the year.

5 Parental Involvement

5.1 We value a strong partnership with parents as their child's first educators. They are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete any 'Explore' homework tasks and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments.

5.2 We provide information on the Ten:Ten programme (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups, and hold a parent's meeting for the RSHE curriculum for all parents of children across the school to share the programme with them. We welcome feedback from parents regarding the teaching and learning of RSHE.

5.3 Parents are regularly invited into school to attend Retreat Day celebrations, Liturgical Prayers led by classes, Celebrations Liturgical Prayers and any other performances and plays. Parents are also regularly invited to support with homework activities related to different times of the church's year such as making family poppies in Remembrance in October or Christmas Cards for the sick and housebound of the parish and local hospitals etc

5.4 Parents are encouraged to join Friends of Holy Trinity to help organise and host a range of events for our school community. All funds raised support the development of the home environment and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

6 Putting our Faith into 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 House Captains. This includes local, national and overseas charities. Charities are supported at liturgically-fitting times throughout the school year

The Faith In Action Award is offered to Year 6 children who receive their pin on completion, presented by the Nottingham Diocesan Youth Service

6.2 We encourage all children to make a difference to our school by becoming involved in a variety of Catholic Life and Mission voluntary roles. These include: The Chaplaincy Team, The School Council, House Captains, Respect Rangers, Peer Mentors, Playground Leaders, Take 5 Ambassadors, Agents for Change, International Ambassadors, Eco Team. These groups are lead and supported by different staff. Our aim is for the children to know that when they volunteer for these groups, they are acting as Missionary Disciples and are doing God's work here on Earth. Each of these groups has a designated Catholic Social Teaching principle connected with their group which drives and inspires their work.

7 Leadership, Monitoring and Review

7.1 The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the RE subject leader and Head teacher, who support colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. Both 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 Governor and Chair of Governors are kept informed regularly regarding Catholic Life and Mission initiatives in school at Local Governing Body meetings and also through learning walks and pupil interviews.

7.3 This policy is reviewed by the Head Teacher and the Local Governing Body every two

years or more regularly as required.