

St Anne Line Catholic Infant School

part of the wider Christus Trust, Multi Academy Trust

Catholic Life and Mission Policy



Love Learn Pray

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Catholic Life and Mission

In St Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery, the call to love is at the core of everything we do. We believe that true education embraces the development of the whole person – spiritually, academically, and socially. Our Catholic ethos ensures every child understands the faith that gives us our identity as a Catholic school.

We invite all to learn how to worship God in spirit and truth, through prayer, liturgy, and daily practice. We form children who will live in alignment with the values of human goodness, truth, and justice, as revealed in the life of Jesus Christ.

Through our values of **Love, Learn, Pray**, we inspire our children to follow Christ’s example, loving God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving their neighbours as themselves. This mission shapes the way we live together in faith and the way we approach education, always striving to grow together in God’s love.

Mission Statement

With Jesus, We Love, We Learn, We Pray.

Together, we grow Our School each day.

Our Vision and Ethos

We aim to instil a love of learning, with Christ at the centre of all we do. Guided by the principle of 'En Magna Constantia'—In Great Constancy—we lay the foundation for a lifelong journey of discovery. We inspire resilience and independence in our learners, encouraging them to remain steadfast and always strive to reach their full potential, no matter the challenges they face.

Our Gospel Values

Love Learn Pray

With faith at the centre of our lives, we strive to nurture each child's potential and purpose. By embracing our Catholic ethos, we help our students grow in wisdom and understanding, while reaching out to the world with compassion and care. We welcome all children into our school community, fostering an environment of kindness, respect, and love, and always striving to be God's servants first.

We aim to:

- establish, maintain and develop a Catholic ethos which is permeated in everything we do and is apparent to all those who enter the school.
- provide frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in collective worship through Holy Mass and other services/celebrations in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church to all in the community.
- create a place of learning where Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church are evident in everything we do.
- model the image of Christ in the way we lead and manage the school.
- provide 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.
- develop the prayer and spiritual life of all members of our school and the community it serves.
- be an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

- ensure that the Gospel values are permeated through all policies which include inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc.
- develop links with the Parish, Diocese and wider community.

School Environment

Our school environment is designed to reflect our Catholic ethos and values in every space. Visitors are immediately aware of the strong Catholic identity through the presence of symbols, displays, scripture, and prayer areas that invite reflection and spiritual growth.

- Each classroom is equipped with a crucifix and a copy of the prayer of St. Anne Line.
- Displays around the school reflect our mission statement, motto, the liturgical season, and our charitable endeavours.
- A peaceful prayer garden in the entrance, in Reception's outdoor space and KS1 offers a space for personal reflection, with the Stations of the Cross in the quadrangle as focal points.
- Our school grounds include a vegetable patch and forest school's area, symbolising our commitment to caring for God's creation.

Caring for Our Children's Hearts and Minds

At our school, we care deeply about every child. We help them grow not just in learning, but also in kindness, love, and understanding. We support each child's feelings, friendships, and sense of right and wrong.

We want everyone in our school family—children, staff, and parents—to feel welcome to grow spiritually, whether they follow a religion or not. As a Catholic school, we follow the example of Jesus by showing love, care, and respect to others.

We build strong links between home, school, our parish, and the wider world, working together to help children become kind and thoughtful people.

We do this by:

- Helping children learn to pray and talk to God through stories from the Bible, songs, acting, and quiet prayer times.
- Giving time for children to think quietly and reflect.

- Making sure every classroom has a special prayer area with a cross, candles, and symbols to match the liturgical year.
- Work with older children (from our partner junior school) in leading Mass and Holy Rites of Obligation at our local Church, Holy Trinity.
- Sending home special tasks at important times like Advent and Lent, so families can join in together.
- Inviting parents to join us in school Masses, class worship, and special prayer times.
- Organising fundraising activities to help those in need.
- Having a caring School Council and Eco Team that looks after God's creation.

Together, we help our children learn to love, care, and grow as part of God's family.

Growing in Prayer and Faith at St Anne Line

Prayer is a special and important part of our day. We believe that children have a natural closeness to God. They can talk to Him in joy, sadness, wonder, and excitement. We help our children grow in their faith by making time and space for prayer every day.

Our school is a calm and welcoming place, full of colour, creativity and love. Our classrooms, corridors, and prayer spaces show that we live out our Mission Statement in everything we do.

We teach the children that prayer can happen in many different ways. It can be quiet or shared, said out loud or held in our hearts. We help children learn to listen to God and to speak to Him in their own words.

At St Anne Line, we help children grow spiritually by:

- Teaching them well-known prayers from the Catholic Church, as well as new and simple prayers they can say on their own.
- Helping them create their own prayers – to ask, to thank, to praise, and to say sorry.
- Reading stories from the Gospels and the Holy Bible together.

- Singing both traditional and modern hymns to worship God.
- Using music, drama and prayer to help them express their love for God.
- Giving quiet time for children to think, reflect, and be close to God, using peaceful music and beautiful religious art for inspiration.

Through all of this, we help our children grow in faith, hope and love as they learn to walk with Jesus each day.

Prayer and Liturgy at St Anne Line

Prayer is a key part of each day at St Anne Line. Children and staff pray together throughout the day – in the morning, before and after lunch, and at home time.

Each classroom has a prayer area dressed in the colours of the Church year, helping children understand the seasons of the liturgical calendar. These areas include a Bible, images, candles, and symbols linked to the Gospel or current feast days. Every classroom also has a crucifix to remind us that Jesus is at the heart of all we do.

Children are encouraged to pray quietly on their own or with others using class prayer spaces or school prayer areas. Our chaplaincy team also leads prayer sessions in the prayer room at break and lunchtime.

Collective Worship

We gather daily for class worship and also join together for whole school worship:

- **Mondays** – led by the Headteacher
- **Thursdays** – led by our Lay Chaplain or our Parish Priest
- **Tuesdays** – led by our Deputy Head

All acts of worship are rooted in Christian themes and follow a clear structure: **Gather – Word – Response – Mission**. Language, stories, and symbols used are age-appropriate and meaningful for the children.

Celebration of the Mass

Mass is an important part of life at our school. We celebrate Mass at key times of the year, including feast days, holy days of obligation, and during our sacramental programme. Children learn about the parts of the Mass and take part in school and parish liturgies such as the Rosary, Advent, Holy Week and our school's patron saint feast day.

Through all these celebrations, we help children grow in love for the Eucharist and understand their special place in the Church family.

Catholic Curriculum

Our curriculum is infused with the spirit of the Gospels, guiding our students to grow in their understanding of God, others, and themselves. Religious Education (RE) is central to this, but we also incorporate the values of Catholic Social Teaching throughout our entire curriculum. Children are encouraged to reflect on moral, ethical, and social justice issues, using resources such as Pope Francis's **Laudato Si'** and **Fratelli Tutti**, to inspire responsible and compassionate action in the world.

We also teach about other faiths, promoting a culture of respect and understanding, and preparing our students to live in a diverse and global community.

Charitable Outreach

Following Christ's example of compassion and service, we aim to foster a spirit of generosity in our students. Throughout the year, we engage in various fundraising and charitable activities, supporting local, national, and global causes.

Our pupils are encouraged to make a positive impact through campaigns such as:

- **Harvest collections** for local food banks.
- **Lenten fundraising** for CAFOD.
- **Advent gift collections** for families in need.
- **Charity runs, bake sales, and donations** to various causes.
- **Charity Week in July** - each class supports a charity which has been chosen by the children.

Through these activities, our children develop an awareness of Catholic Social Teaching, social justice, standing in solidarity with those who are most in need.

Working for Social Justice

Our students are taught the importance of advocating for social justice, responding to the Gospel's call to stand up for the vulnerable. Opportunities for action include:

- **Supporting refugees** through campaigns like Refugee Week.
- **Climate action** through Earth Day events such as World Environment Day and sustainability campaigns.
- **Anti-bullying initiatives**, and more.

These campaigns give our students the opportunity to actively engage in changing the world for the better, living out the values of love and justice.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy Team plays a central role in supporting the spiritual and moral development of our community. Through prayer, liturgy, and reflection, we encourage each student to grow in their personal relationship with God. Chaplaincy activities include:

- **Daily prayer and reflection** times, led by pupils and staff.
- **Retreat days and days of recollection** to deepen faith.
- **Opportunities for pupil-led prayer** and acts of worship.

School Community

At our school, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual, recognising that each person is made in God's image. We work together to build a supportive and inclusive environment, where all are encouraged to reach their full potential. Our partnerships with parents, the wider community, and local parishes are key to achieving this goal.

We actively involve parents in school life, inviting them to participate in events such as **Masses, Advent and Lent activities**, and **school fundraisers**.

Parental Involvement

We recognise that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children, especially in faith. We believe that for our Religious Education to be truly effective, we must work closely with families and support them in helping their children grow in faith and love.

We involve parents by:

- **Inviting them to take part** in school events such as class Acts of Worship, Masses, liturgies, and special celebrations including the Nativity, Easter, Our Lady service, and our Leavers' Mass.
- **Holding meetings** where Religious Education is discussed, including Foundation Stage induction, parent evenings, and RSE meetings.
- **Encouraging shared prayer at home**, such as taking part in our **Prayer Bags during Advent and Lent** and helping with weekly homework tasks in our Newsletter.
- **Keeping parents informed** through up-to-date information on our school website and in our Newsletter.
- **Listening to their views** through feedback forms, meeting evaluations, and questionnaires.
- **Welcoming parents to join the PTA**, helping to plan events that build our school community and enrich the lives of all our pupils and families.

Together, we nurture each child's faith journey, hand in hand with home, school, and parish.

Faith in Action

We help our children understand the importance of caring for others, following the example of Jesus and the values of Catholic Social Teaching. We pray daily for those in need and encourage children to think about how they can help others in both big and small ways. Each year, we support a range of local, national and global charities through fundraising and giving. Some examples include:

Harvest collections for the local food bank

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

Mary's Meals

Non-uniform days to support parish or local charities

Supporting the local homeless

Singing at the town centre in support of St Luke's Hospice

We build links with local groups, such as care homes and dementia charities. Our children share music, crafts and books during visits throughout the year. We aim to nurture a spirit of generosity, care and respect, helping our children grow into thoughtful and compassionate members of the community.

Leadership of Catholic Life and Mission

Our Catholic mission is led by the headteacher, who works alongside staff, students, and parents to ensure the values of faith, compassion, and learning are at the heart of everything we do. This shared leadership ensures our mission is not just a statement, but a living reality in our school community. The RE subject leader, Headteacher, Deputy Head and Chaplaincy lead will provide CPD opportunities for all staff where necessary and will lead on staff meetings to ensure they are aware of expectations within school and Diocesan initiatives.

Policy Monitoring and Review

We regularly review and evaluate our Catholic Life and Mission to ensure it remains central to our school's life. This review process involves collaboration with staff, governors, and the wider community, ensuring we are always striving to live out the Gospel values of love and service.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

All staff follow our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies. Sensitive issues are handled with discretion, and children are always reminded that safeguarding concerns must be shared with trusted adults. We view our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

Equality and Inclusion

We believe every child is uniquely created by God. Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance, and justice for all. Lessons are adapted to ensure full access for children with SEND and EAL, and are delivered in line with Catholic principles of human dignity. Please view our Equality and Inclusion policy.

Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if curriculum developments arise.