

# Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



## CATHOLIC LIFE POLICY

Policy Date:	17/05/20	Kate Hayles Head Teacher	
Policy Review Date:	14/05/21	Edward Hayes Chair of Governors	

# **Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy**

## **Policy for the Catholic Life of our School**

### **Rationale**

At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School we believe that Children can develop as a person through prayer and that prayer is turning our attention to God. It is raising our minds and hearts to God. It is putting ourselves in His Presence and so our starting point for prayer is the place where we find God.

Our school is both a place of prayer and of worship.

### **Mission Statement:**

'We believe that God's Spirit is at work in all our children. We will endeavour to foster an environment of joy, hope and fulfilment to enable everybody to develop fully as human beings.'

### **Through developing the pupil's spirituality, we endeavour to encourage children to develop:**

- Sets of values, principles and beliefs, from the tradition of the catholic faith, which inform their perspective on life and their patterns of behaviour.
- An awareness and understanding of their own and others beliefs.
- Respect for themselves and others.
- A sense of empathy with others, concern and compassion for those I need.
- An ability to show courage in defence of their beliefs.
- A readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit e.g. lack of self-confidence and belief, aggression, greed, justice, self-interest, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination.
- An appreciation of moments of Wonder and Awe e.g. beauty, truth, love goodness, order as well as for Mystery, paradox and ambiguity.
- A respect for insight as well as knowledge and reason. An expressive/and or creative impulse.
- An ability to think in terms of the 'whole' e.g. concepts such as harmony, interdependence, scale, perspective and an understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact.

**We aim to develop the Spirituality of our pupils by:**

- Giving pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs and the way they have an impact on people's lives.
- Giving pupils the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
- Developing a climate as Ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.
- Celebrating differences and respecting the integrity of individuals.
- Promoting teaching styles which values pupil's questions and gives them space for their thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Encouraging pupils to relate to their learning to a wider frame of reference e.g. asking 'why', 'how', and 'where' as well as 'what'.
- Monitoring in simple pragmatic ways the success of what is provided.
- Taking part in Liturgies (in class and whole school)
- Taking part and leading assemblies
- Developing the use of class prayer
- Developing empathy by raising monies for charity.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other policies connected with religious education:

The RE policy

The Collective Worship policy

The RSE policy

The British Vales policy

The Prevent duty document (DfE June 2015)

It will be monitored by the Head Teacher, R.E Link Governor, R.E Lead Practitioner and 'School Chaplain'.