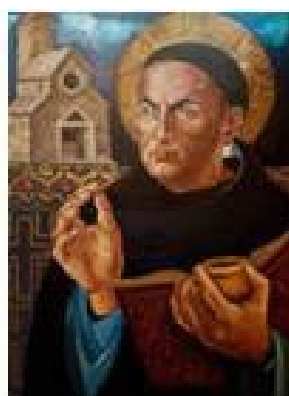
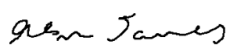


Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Review date		October 2026	
Signed Headteacher		Signed Chair of Governors	
Alison James			
Marie Sexton		Caroline Pinto	



1. Mission Statement

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.
 - Instructing, explaining, and demonstrating the Gospel values.
- Creating 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.

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.

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 'Come and See' topic
- Training members of the Chaplaincy team, two in 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 throughout the year.
- The Caring Candle for KS2 families

- Opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child, class masses, liturgies
- Opportunities for parents to come and watch Christmas nativities.
- Fundraising opportunities
- Holding an annual family mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart – along with Parish BBQ
 - Opportunities for staff to come together in prayer on a weekly basis.

3 Prayer and Liturgy

The 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 corners around school, and using the prayer area on the KS2 playground at lunchtimes. Please see the Prayer liturgy throughout the school week/year.

4 Plays and Performances

Foundation Stage 1 and 2 perform a Nativity each year in December, as do Years 1 and 2. Year 3/4 deliver an Easter Play/ Tableau 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.

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

5 Parental Involvement

Parents are the first teachers of their children, and we work in partnership with them. They are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by talking about the children's day and the work they are completing in school and when appropriate, preparing to receive the Sacraments.

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 Religious Sex Education in light of Church teachings.

Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: curriculum meetings, special masses, and liturgical prayer opportunities to celebrate Year 6 Leavers, to name a few.

Parents are encouraged to share their views through the school questionnaires, as well as at parent curriculum meetings and parents' evenings. Sacred Heart operates an open-door policy.

6 Faith in Action

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 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. We also demonstrate our faith through supporting Christian Aid work such as CAFOD.

Children of Sacred Heart 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.

The school has been instrumental in providing practical support such as food parcels and household goods for families in need. This began over the Pandemic period but has continued as the needs is clearly still there.

Our school breakfast club is sponsored by Greggs the bakery. It is free for any family to attend. Children are offered breakfast throughout the morning and this means that no child starts the day hungry.

The school identifies families at Christmas time who may struggle to provide children with presents. Through working with the 'Toys on the Table' charity, families receive bags of food and toys for every child in the family (whether they are a Sacred Heart or not).

Our school social worker signposts families to charitable organisations when the need arises.

7 The God who Speaks.

Pupils have opportunities to engage with the Scriptures through Liturgical prayer, all forms of collective worship ex. Mass, Advent and Lent days, Trust feast day and Chaplaincy days as well as in RE lessons.

8 Leadership, Monitoring and Review

The coordination and planning of Catholic Life is the responsibility of the RE subject leader. The Headteachers and Chaplaincy Leads, 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.

The RE subject leader will feed back to the Local Governing Body regularly 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.