

St John's Catholic Primary School, Bridgnorth



"I am the vine you are the branches" – John, 15.

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Reviewed: September 2025

Reviewed by: G. Welsh

Next review date: September 2028

1. Introduction

As a Catholic school in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, St John's is called to bear daily witness to the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic Life and Mission policy sets out how we form pupils to live as disciples, how our community grows in faith together, and how our mission shapes every aspect of school life.

Catholic Life at St John's is not an additional element of school life but the heartbeat of all that we do. Rooted in *The Vine and the Branches* Religious Education programme, Gospel values permeate our curriculum, relationships, decision-making, and priorities.

2. Mission Statement

At St John's Catholic Primary School, Christ is at the centre of all we do. We believe that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and is called to grow into the fullness of life. Our mission is lived out through faith, hope and love. We seek to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, worship, and the sacraments. We encourage children to develop resilience, aspiration, and a commitment to justice, and we form them to serve others with kindness, compassion, and courage.

This mission is known, understood, and embraced by pupils, staff, parents, and governors. It is visible in the daily life of the school and provides the foundation for all we aim to achieve.

3. Catholic Life and Mission in Action

Our Catholic identity is lived out in practical and meaningful ways. Pupils have a strong voice in shaping Catholic Life through their involvement in the Faith Council, Eco Council, and School Council, all of which contribute to prayer, liturgy, and charitable initiatives. Staff model Gospel values in their relationships and decision-making, ensuring that every person is treated with dignity and respect.

Prayer and worship are central to school life. Pupils are supported to develop confidence in leading prayer, with increasing ownership as they progress through the school. The curriculum is rooted in *The Vine and the Branches*, which ensures that pupils gain a systematic and progressive understanding of Scripture, doctrine, liturgy, and Catholic life. Catholic Life and Mission are not confined to Religious Education but are reflected across the curriculum and in the daily experience of all pupils.

Charitable service and Catholic Social Teaching are integrated into school life. Pupils engage actively with the needs of others through charitable outreach and social justice projects that are often pupil-led and responsive to current needs.

4. The St John's Way – Our Gospel Values in Practice

At St John's, pupils are encouraged to live out the Gospel values in their words and actions. They learn to serve others with joy and generosity, to respect the dignity of all people, to care for God's creation, to act with honesty, forgiveness, and compassion, and to work for peace and justice. These values are embedded into the life of the school and are evident in the way pupils behave, interact with one another, and participate in school and parish life.

5. Catholic Environment

The school environment reflects and celebrates our Catholic identity. Prayer areas are expected to be visible, respected spaces used regularly for daily prayer and reflection. They include a cross or crucifix, a Bible, and symbols appropriate to the liturgical season. Prayer areas are not decorative but form part of the lived prayer life of each class and are monitored through Catholic Life learning walks. Each classroom has a prayer area which is maintained by pupils and reflects the liturgical season. Displays across the school highlight Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching, and pupils' contributions to Catholic Life. The prayer garden provides a dedicated outdoor space for reflection and worship, and communal displays and focal points ensure that the liturgical year is visible and

understood by the whole community. In this way, our environment not only communicates our Catholic identity but also invites all members of the community to prayer and reflection.

6. Catholic Curriculum

The curriculum at St John's is rooted in the Catholic vision of education which seeks to form the whole person. Religious Education, taught through *The Vine and the Branches*, is rigorous, progressive, and provides pupils with opportunities to grow in knowledge, skills, and understanding of the Catholic faith.

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including human dignity, care for creation, community and participation, solidarity, the option for the poor and vulnerable, and the dignity of work, are taught explicitly and lived out and lived out through campaigns, fundraising, and pupil-led projects which connect faith to action. Relationships and Health Education is taught in a Catholic context, affirming the dignity of every person as created in God's image. Pupils also learn about other faiths in a respectful and meaningful way, preparing them to live well in modern Britain and to understand the richness of the universal Church.

7. Charitable Service and Social Justice

Pupils at St John's are formed to be active agents of change. They are encouraged to recognise the needs of others locally, nationally, and globally, and to respond with compassion and generosity. Pupils take responsibility for fundraising projects, especially during Lent, and respond to world events through appeals for disaster relief and other charitable causes. They take part in local initiatives such as foodbank collections and community outreach, and they also engage in advocacy through letters, eco-projects, and campaigns for justice.

Through these experiences, pupils develop as confident, courageous, and compassionate disciples of Christ who understand their responsibility to stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable. The focus, progression and impact of charitable work are mapped and reviewed through the Annual Catholic Life and Mission Plan of Provision.

8. Chaplaincy and Worship

The spiritual life of the school is enriched through prayer and worship that are inclusive, reverent, and pupil led. Weekly whole-school worship is Gospel-centred and provides opportunities for staff and pupils to gather in prayer. Class liturgies and assemblies reflect the liturgical year and encourage active pupil participation. The celebration of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are regular features of school life, strengthening our partnership with the parish.

Pupils in the Faith Council contribute to the spiritual life of the school by preparing prayer areas, leading prayers, and supporting the evaluation of worship. Staff prayer and reflection opportunities further strengthen the adult faith community and ensure that Catholic Life is nurtured at every level.

9. Parents and Parish

Parents are recognised as the first educators of their children and are welcomed as active partners in Catholic Life. They are invited to attend school Masses, liturgies, and assemblies and are encouraged to engage in prayer and reflection at home, particularly during Advent and Lent.

St John's maintains strong and supportive links with the parish. The parish priest is a regular and visible presence in school, celebrating Mass, supporting the sacraments, and joining the community for events. This partnership strengthens the Catholic identity of the school and ensures that pupils grow in understanding of their role within the wider Church.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Catholic Life and Mission are monitored and evaluated rigorously to ensure that provision is both effective and impactful. The RE Leader and Senior Leadership Team carry out regular monitoring of

worship, displays, and curriculum provision. Pupil voice is gathered through the Faith Council and class discussions, while parent and parish feedback further informs evaluation. Governors receive reports and make visits to evaluate Catholic Life, and findings are shared at meetings. This ongoing process ensures that Catholic Life and Mission remain a whole-school priority, with monitoring outcomes informing strategic actions, staff development, and priorities within the Annual Plan of Provision and RE Action Plan.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required, to ensure it continues to reflect the mission of the Church and the needs of the school community.

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