



# Sacred Heart Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Catholic Life Policy

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

October 2019

Date of next review \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Mission Statement

*What would Jesus do? Do what Jesus did!*

This helps us to make good choices in all areas of our lives,  
using Jesus as our role model.

## INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Governors are committed to 'inclusion' in education: this involves minimizing barriers to learning and participation.

We believe that each child is unique and has unique needs '*belief in the individual leads Catholic schools to have the duty to care for the poor and to educate those who are socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged*' Catholic Bishops' Conference May 2014.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

The Governors and Staff at Sacred Heart believe that all people are entitled to equal opportunities, respect and consideration regardless of race, colour, creed, gender, disability or personal circumstances. Therefore, we are opposed to any form of prejudice or discrimination which denies people this equality. This principle applies to both adults and children in our school.

### Rationale

In the life and faith of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and central part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.

'Catholic Schools have a distinctive nature of education' - Catholic Bishops' Conference 2014

### Catholic Life

In placing '*Christ at the Centre*' (Christ at the Centre, Catholic Trust Society, 2012), all that we do in school is based around the Gospel Values. All of our policies take into consideration our Mission Statement and Motto.

We celebrate and live a Catholic life in our school by living out our Sacred Heart Values:

- **Hard-work**: Trying hard to look after our environment. Year 2 Gardening Club, Laudato Si recycling centre, School parliament, Chaplaincy team - maintaining prayer environments and our outdoor prayer garden.

- **Enthusiasm**: Taking part in all opportunities to lead in Catholic Life and prayer. In House Groups, every child has the chance to prepare and lead a parish Mass and fundraise for their chosen charity. Our School Parliament, Chaplaincy and Faith in Action teams offer extra opportunities for pupil leadership. Our sports teams are chosen for their ability to be good ambassadors for our school, as well as their sporting ability.
- **Aspiration**: Always trying to do the best we can and improve ourselves - Individual Dojo points and Good to be Green certificates, Heart values certificates and rewards for key subjects including RE, Reading, Writing, and Maths. Also helping others to improve, as in our Reading Buddy scheme.
- **Respect**: Showing that we value our faith: We have regular prayers, Collective Worships (see policy), Stations of the Cross and Masses with the parish. Learning about other cultures and religions through our World Faith topics and special days, e.g Pentecost and Black History Celebration.
- **Togetherness**: Working together for the benefit of everyone in our school, parish and our global neighbours. This can be seen in our Anti Bullying Policy, Children's Behaviour policy, class Codes of Conduct, school rules, SEN Statement and curriculum policies. Raising money for local, national and international charities. Surveying all stakeholders about Catholic Life in our school and what we can do to improve this.

All pupils are at the centre of shaping the school's mission and ethos. Pupils contribute in a planned and systematic way to the school's evaluation of its Catholic Life and take a lead in planning improvements to it, pupils are involved in planning Masses, Collective Worships and Academy events.

We encourage all pupils to have a deep experience of belonging and enthusiastically embrace the demands that membership of the community entails. Pupils take a leading role in those activities which promote the school's ethos within school and in the wider community e.g Parish Ambassadors and carol singing.

We have high expectations of our children and this can be seen in the excellent behaviour of pupils at all times. We follow our Mission 'What would Jesus do? Do what Jesus did!' so pupils are always thinking of Jesus as their role model when they are making decisions.

We encourage all pupils, including those who are not Catholic, to be proud of their own religious identity and beliefs and have a strong sense of personal worth.

Through every day interactions they recognise the validity of these feelings in others even when they do not share their convictions.

Pupils are taught to treasure the outward signs of the school's Catholic identity - including the prayer spaces in their classrooms and common areas.

Pupils understand the importance and celebrate key celebrations in school throughout the liturgical year and in the parish community and have regular involvement with parish and diocesan activities and celebrations.