



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Date Written	September 2024
Date Agreed	
Chair of Governors (Signature)	Mary Higgins
Head Teacher (Signature)	Helen Milligan
Date for review	September 2025

At the heart of the Church's very being is her mission to teach. Christ's own words to his disciples are addressed to his Church today. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time".

(Matthew 28: 18-20)

We see Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School as having an integral role in fulfilling this command of Jesus, our Lord. The challenge that Christ sets us in the gospel is a goal we seek to attain within our school community. Guardian Angels, through its Mission Statement, Aims and Policies, seeks to realise the ideals of “true education”, firmly rooted in the Christian tradition. In partnership with home and community, we strive to nurture the religious instinct with which we believe all human beings are endowed, thereby helping each young person to reach his or her full human potential.

Mission

The school’s mission is explicit in the Mission Statement which is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. This Mission Statement is clearly visible around the school environment and school website, prospectus and documentation. During induction for new staff, children and families, the mission of the school is clearly shared and explained. All children in school learn the Mission Statement by heart and are able to explain its meaning.

Guided by the teachings of the Church we pray, work, celebrate, and care for each other and other people using the gifts we have been given by God the Father, Son and Spirit.

This 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.
- Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in liturgy and prayer through Holy Mass and other services/celebrations in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church to all in the community.
- Providing a supportive Sacramental Programme in collaboration with the Parish in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church and diocesan policy.
- Creating a place of learning where Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church are evident in everything we do.
- Modelling the image of Christ in the way we lead and manage the school.
- Providing 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.
- Developing the prayer and spiritual life of all members of our school and the community it serves.
- Being an outreaching centre of God’s mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, hope and charity.
- Engendering the culture of vocation by educating pupils to be active in their faith and by reaching out to those in our community and beyond.
- Ensuring that the Gospel values are permeated through all policies which include inclusion, behaviour, curriculum etc
- Caring and meeting the pastoral, spiritual, moral and social needs of the children.
- Providing good Catholic role models for the younger citizens of the future so that they may follow in Jesus’ footsteps.
- Maintaining, working with and developing successful links with the home, parish, archdiocese, community and the wider world.

Partnership and Collaboration

The school has built and maintained successful working relationships with the parish, local and global communities.

a) Parish Community Links – We have very strong links with our Parish community and are supported by our Parish priest. Our Parish Priest fulfils this by:

- Being the celebrant at bi weekly school Masses.
- Working with children, parents and staff in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation.
- KS2 children's services of Reconciliation.
- Where opportunities arise, explaining the rituals, symbols, prayers of the Church to the children.
- Joining us for various school assemblies and celebrations during the year.

b) Local Community Links – We work closely with groups in our local community to fulfil our Catholic duty of reaching out to others. We raise money for local charities such as Father Hudson's Caritas and collect food for Kingfisher Food Bank. We hold monthly parishioner's tea in school and have links with local care homes which children visit and communicate with throughout the year particularly at Christmas. We have strong links with local Primary and Secondary schools in our area through our involvement with the MAC. Staff and pupils meet regularly and participate in various events and meetings throughout the year.

c) Global community Links – We understand our duty as a Catholic school to serve the needs of others in our global community. We raise money for CAFOD annually who support vulnerable communities worldwide. We participate in the Operation Christmas Child initiative collecting shoe boxes of items to be sent to children around the world. We respond to the demands of Catholic Social Teaching and aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. This is an on-going process and those less fortunate than us are remembered in daily prayer.

Throughout the school year we raise funds for several charities, including CAFOD, Father Hudson's Society and the Birmingham Children's hospital, our parish church. Money is raised through several events including cake sales, non-uniform days, raffles, games and competitions. We also offer the opportunity for children of different ages to work together during Lent to raise money for charity.

As Catholics we believe that everybody is made in the image and likeness of God and that nobody should be excluded from the wonderful gift of God's creation because God loves us all unconditionally. It is for this reason that we work tirelessly at Guardian Angels in order to serve others through charitable outreach.

At the start of each year, classes research and select a charity that they would like to raise money for. Each year during Lent every class thinks creatively to generate a fundraising idea to raise money for their chosen class charities and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Promotion of Culture of Vocation

Staff and pupils are reminded of their vocation and encouraged to reflect upon the call of God in their lives through various events and activities. Members of our parish community along with people from charities and organisations are invited into school to discuss their role in the Church. We hold a vocations week in school to ensure that children are exposed to a range of vocations. Through prayer sessions and liturgy, we pray for vocations to the priesthood and for the seminarians in our diocese. Pupils are encouraged to apply for various roles in school which help them to fulfil their vocations. These include: House Captains, School Councillor, Stewards of Creation, Liturgy Leaders and Rights Respecting School Ambassador

Chaplaincy

Our parish priest, is a regular visitor to our school and supports us in the following ways:

- Being the celebrant at our weekly school Masses.
- Working with children, parents and staff in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- KS2 children's services of Reconciliation.
- Where opportunities arise, explaining the rituals, symbols, prayers of the Church to the children.
- Joining us for various school assemblies and celebrations during the year.

Pupils and staff have the opportunity to contribute to Masses through writing Bidding Prayers, reading at Mass, taking part in the Offertory Procession, leading class prayer services and collective worship.

Pastoral Care, Support and Guidance

We see Home/School/Parish liaison as vital so that co-operation, between each, may be mutually enriching and beneficial to the development of our children. We build links by:

- Inviting families and parishioners to all liturgical celebrations e.g., school/class masses, sacramental liturgies.
- Encouraging and helping parents to work with us in preparing their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Meeting with parents on parents evening to discuss their child's development.
- Organising Inspire workshops on a variety of topics.
- Teachers being available most afternoons, after 3.15pm, for parents to speak to them concerning their child-open door policy.
- An induction programme for new children and parents to the school.
- Supporting vulnerable families through food parcels.
- Providing counselling and sessions for vulnerable pupils.
- Breakfast club for disadvantaged pupils.
- My Concern is used as a safeguarding tool to report concerns about pupils.

School Buildings and Physical Signs

Every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting and aesthetically pleasing environment within the School. All classrooms, teaching rooms and offices have a crucifix. Classrooms have religious displays and prayer tables which reflect the current Liturgical season. There are displays in the entrance hall, school

hall and around the school which reflect the Catholic nature of our school. A variety of stained-glass windows, statues, plaques and permanent displays demonstrate our Catholic ethos