



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

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Date Agreed	
Chair of Governors (Signature)	Mary Higgins
Head Teacher (Signature)	Helen Milligan
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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)

Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School exists to participate in the mission of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church, we seek to form children and adults who know they are loved by God, recognise their God-given dignity and are called to use their gifts in service of others.

As a Catholic school within the Archdiocese of Birmingham, our mission is rooted in Christ and guided by the Gospel. Catholic Life and Mission is therefore not an addition to school life but the foundation upon which all aspects of our work are built. Through prayer, witness, learning, service and community, we strive to help every member of our school family grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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.

We believe every person is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore possesses innate dignity and worth. Our mission calls us to develop the whole person spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically and socially so that each individual may become the person God created them to be.

Statement of Intent

At Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School:

- Christ is at the centre of all we do.
- The Gospel shapes relationships, decision making and leadership.
- The Mission Statement guides school improvement and strategic development.
- Catholic Social Teaching informs how we respond to local, national and global issues.
- Prayer and worship are integral to daily life.
- Every child is encouraged to recognise their vocation and use their gifts in service of others.
- We work in partnership with families, the parish and the wider community to proclaim the Gospel.

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 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.

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 Society 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.

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.

Catholic Social Teaching at Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is the Church's wisdom on how we are called to live as followers of Jesus Christ in society. Rooted in Scripture and the teachings of the Church, Catholic Social Teaching helps us to recognise the dignity of every human person and challenges us to build a world characterised by justice, peace, compassion and care for creation.

At Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School, Catholic Social Teaching is central to our Catholic Life and Mission. Through prayer, learning, relationships, service and leadership opportunities, we seek to develop children who understand their responsibility to care for others and who are inspired to become active witnesses of Christ in the world.

Our Mission Statement calls us to "pray, work, celebrate and care for each other and other people using the gifts we have been given by God." This commitment is lived out through our promotion of Catholic Social Teaching and our efforts to place Gospel values at the heart of everyday school life.

Human Dignity

We believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and is therefore unique, valued and loved.

This belief underpins all aspects of school life and is reflected through:

- Respectful and positive relationships throughout the school community.
- Inclusive provision for all pupils, including those with additional needs and those within our Resource Base.
- High expectations for every child to flourish spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.
- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all members of our community.
- Pastoral support for vulnerable children and families.

Children are taught that every person is precious in God's eyes and deserves to be treated with dignity, compassion and respect.

The Common Good

We teach pupils that they are part of a wider community and have a responsibility to contribute positively to society.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Serve others through leadership opportunities.
- Participate in decision-making through pupil voice groups.

- Work collaboratively and support one another.
- Promote an inclusive and welcoming school environment.

Through our School Council, House Captains, Liturgy Leaders, Stewards of Creation and other pupil leadership roles, children learn how their actions can contribute to the good of the whole community.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Following the example of Jesus, we encourage pupils to recognise and respond to the needs of those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable.

The school demonstrates this commitment through:

- Support for local foodbanks and community initiatives.
- Fundraising for CAFOD, Father Hudson's Care and other charitable organisations.
- Practical support for families experiencing hardship.
- Charitable collections throughout Advent and Lent.
- Prayer for those experiencing poverty, injustice or hardship.

Pupils develop an understanding that caring for those most in need is a fundamental expression of Christian discipleship.

Stewardship of Creation

As God's creation is a gift entrusted to us, we seek to nurture a culture of environmental responsibility and care for our common home.

Through curriculum opportunities and practical experiences, pupils learn:

- To appreciate the wonder and beauty of God's creation.
- The importance of environmental responsibility.
- How small actions can contribute to protecting creation.
- Their role as stewards of the Earth.

This commitment is reflected through:

- The work of our Stewards of Creation.
- Forest School experiences and outdoor learning opportunities.
- Environmental projects and initiatives.
- Opportunities for prayer and reflection in nature.
- Curriculum links to the care of creation across subjects.
- Solidarity and Peace

We teach children that all people belong to one human family and that we have a responsibility to stand alongside others, particularly during times of need.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Show kindness, empathy and compassion.
- Respect differences and celebrate diversity.
- Pray for communities affected by conflict, disaster or injustice.
- Support charitable appeals and campaigns.
- Develop an understanding of global citizenship.

Through our curriculum, prayer life and charitable work, children learn to see themselves as part of God's global family.

Participation

We believe that everyone has a valuable contribution to make within the life of the school and wider community.

Children are encouraged to participate actively in:

- Prayer and liturgy.
- Collective worship.
- School leadership opportunities.
- Charitable initiatives.
- Community events.
- Parish celebrations and activities.

We ensure that all pupils, including those with SEND and those attending our Resource Base provision, are able to participate fully in the spiritual, social and communal life of the school.

Dignity of Work and Vocation

We help pupils recognise that work is a gift from God and that everyone is called to use their talents in service of others.

Through the curriculum, pupil leadership and encounters with a range of people and professions, children learn:

- That all work has value and dignity.
- That God calls each person to use their gifts for the benefit of others.
- That vocation is about responding to God's call through everyday life and service.
- That their talents can help build God's Kingdom.

Our commitment to vocation extends beyond future careers and encourages pupils to recognise how they can serve God and others through their daily lives.

Living Catholic Social Teaching at Guardian Angels

Catholic Social Teaching is not taught as a stand-alone topic but is woven throughout the life of the school.

It is evident through:

- The Mission Statement and Gospel values.
- Religious Education through the Religious Education Directory.
- Prayer and Liturgy experiences.
- Pupil leadership opportunities.
- Charitable outreach and fundraising.
- Forest School and environmental initiatives.
- Parish and community partnerships.
- Support for vulnerable families.
- The inclusive nature of our school community.
- Daily acts of kindness, service and respect.

By placing Catholic Social Teaching at the heart of school life, we aim to form young people who know they are loved by God, recognise the dignity of others, and are committed to building a more just, compassionate and peaceful world in the light of the Gospel.

Inclusion and SEND

At Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School, we believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and is uniquely loved by Him. This fundamental belief shapes our Catholic Life and Mission and underpins our commitment to creating a community where every individual is welcomed, valued and able to flourish. We recognise and celebrate the unique gifts, talents and contributions of all members of our school family and strive to ensure that every child experiences a genuine sense of belonging within our community. Inspired by the example of Christ, we endeavour to foster a culture of respect, compassion and acceptance, where diversity is celebrated and every person is treated with dignity.

As a fully inclusive Catholic school, we are committed to ensuring that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are able to participate fully in the life and mission of the school. We recognise that all children are called by God to make a unique contribution to His world and that each child has gifts that enrich our community. Through inclusive practices, meaningful relationships and personalised support, we seek to remove barriers to participation and ensure that every pupil has opportunities to develop confidence, achieve their potential and contribute to the wider school community. Our Resource Base further strengthens this commitment by reflecting our belief that diversity enriches our school and that every child has an important place within God's family.

Guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly human dignity, participation and the common good, we are dedicated to building a community in which everyone can thrive together. We work in partnership with families, parish and external agencies to support children and enable them to

participate fully in school life. Through our words, actions and relationships, we strive to bear witness to Christ's message of love and inclusion, ensuring that all members of the Guardian Angels community know they are valued, respected and called to play an active part in the mission of the Church and society.

This version keeps the focus firmly on Catholic Life and Mission, human dignity, belonging, vocation, participation and the common good, which is exactly what CSI inspectors would expect to see under this strand.

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