

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow



In God's love we learn and grow

Catholic Life Policy

Start Date:	Review Date:	Adopted:
May 2023	September 2025	May 2023



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Our Mission Statement-

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)

INCLUSION STATEMENT - The Governors are committed to `inclusion` in education: this involves reducing 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 St Joseph's Catholic Primary School 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.

Intent

St Joseph's is a school where all are valued as a child of God, where everyone is enabled to mature towards their full growth in Christ and achieve their potential. Our Curriculum on Gospel values, British Values and Catholic Social Teaching. It is knowledge-rich and ambitious for all of our learners. At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, the intent is to offer a knowledge-rich curriculum which is broad and balanced and ambitious. Our curriculum will build on the knowledge and understanding of all children, whatever their starting points. The curriculum has been created by staff from various schools in our Catholic Education Trust.



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We celebrate and live a catholic life in our school by:

- Valuing our environment-School Council, Eco Council
- Valuing others School rules, Kindness Matters,
- Valuing our faith-Regular liturgical prayer, visits to church and working with the parish, Year 6 RE Ambassadors.
- Valuing our community-regular communication with Governors and staff about the Catholic life of our school.
- Valuing our achievements- Celebration assemblies, Gold Book assembly.
- Reaching out to others-Raising money/goods for those in need eg CAFOD, Operation Christmas Child, Socks for a Stranger
- Challenging ourselves to think about what Jesus would do
- Challenging ourselves to be the best we can be-Staff, pupils and parents. BHAWA for staff health and well-being.

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 and leading Masses and Collective Worship.

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 both in our school and in the wider community.

We have high expectations of behaviour and we encourage the behaviour of all pupils to be exemplary. We will encourage all pupils, including those who are not Catholic, to be proud of their own religious identity and beliefs. We hope pupils will have a strong sense of personal worth. Pupils understand the importance of key church celebrations in school and they understand why we celebrate these times throughout the liturgical year. At different times of the year, we are involved in celebrations within our parish, our cluster and within the diocese. We hope our pupils find these rewarding and inspiring opportunities.

Updated May 2023 by M Jordan (RE Lead)



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We are a Catholic school. This means that Christ is at the centre of everything that we do. Everything that happens here is informed by Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus.

We are proud to be a loving and caring family here at St Gregory's and the presence of God is reflected in our daily routines. We want our pupils to learn, to grow and to be inspired by Gospel values, so that they can reflect God's love in their everyday lives.

Our mission statement fully expresses the identity of St Joseph's school and we strive to live this out every day:

A Catholic school is a community of love and hope. It provides young people with a Catholic education, which perceives life as a faith journey. The ultimate aim of a Catholic school is to develop the full potential of all young people, leading to their life-long activities being guided by the Spirit and presence of Christ, in the service



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of God and of others.

Catholic education is distinctive in placing all learning and teaching in a Catholic moral context and in both challenging and supporting young people to develop in mind, body and spirit. The role of a Catholic school is to help everyone in the school community to discover the true value and dignity of each and every human being who, loved by God, has a mission on earth and a destiny which is eternal.

The Catholic school is an open community, concerned with the education of the whole person. It presents a unique, clear vision of God, people and life, centred on Gospel values and reflective of the teaching of the Catholic Church. Hence, the formation of each person is regarded as being as important as the information which is transmitted through the teaching offered.

The Catholic school is supported in its mission by the active partnership of the home, the school and the parish. Together, they provide support for the faith community, helping to form and develop in all a mature Christian conscience, and in addressing the increasingly secular influences of popular culture.