

**St Hugh's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy**

**Mr G Hughes - Headteacher**



## **Catholic life and Mission Policy**



### **Mission Statement**

St Hugh's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy has a particular distinctiveness in that it seeks to represent the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church as we strive to develop the talents of every member of our community.

1. The Spiritual Life of our School
  - 1.1 We aim to develop the spiritual life of everyone within our community, regardless of their beliefs.
  - 1.2 We provide spiritual development for pupils and staff alike, and invite our families to develop spiritually in connection with the school and parish.
  - 1.3 All pupils and staff have the opportunity for daily collective worship. This is either a class or a whole school act of worship. Children plan and lead class liturgies weekly.
  - 1.4 Christian Meditation for example Lectio Divina take place in Junior and infant prayer club, this is held once a week and is facilitated by Mrs Pallister and Miss Webster, providing time for pupils to quietly reflect on their faith.
  - 1.5 The school environment supports spiritual development through a crucifix in every classroom and in communal areas, prayer corners, displays reflecting the Liturgical Year and other religious images and symbols
  - 1.6 Home-school initiatives throughout the year, including the Travelling Nativity during Advent, prayer initiatives like the spontaneous prayer boxes and Good News prayer packs.in Lent

1.7 Teaching the children when and how to be reverent and when and how to show the joy of their faith through collective worship, songs, words and actions.

1.8 The opportunity to be part of the Mini Vinnies Team or Prayer leaders group (see section 3).

1.9 Providing and fostering opportunities for prayer (see section 2)

## 2. Prayer Life of the School

2.1 Prayer has an important role in our Religious Education as a means of expressing, fostering and nurturing faith.

2.2 We aim to create and maintain an environment where this is developed. Our classrooms, work areas, corridors and school entrance are welcoming, bright, stimulating and creative so that the Catholicity of the school is being lived out through our surroundings.

2.3 Children are encouraged and helped to discover the many different ways in which to pray, formal and informal, private and communal. They are encouraged to be still and listen to God in a variety of ways:

- Daily prayers in class: morning prayer, prayer before lunch, home time prayer
- Traditional prayers are taught, alongside those written by significant individuals
- Prayer areas are in every classroom
- Spontaneous prayer area – prayer wall in the main corridor space
- Class spontaneous prayer boxes which are taken outside for use at lunchtime
- Pupils are taught how to write their own prayers.

## 3. Chaplaincy Team

3.1 Our Chaplaincy Team consists of both Mini Vinnies and Prayer leaders. Their role is to support their peers to grow in their faith. They do this by:

- Maintaining and developing class prayer areas
- Maintaining and developing communal prayer areas
- Writing and leading prayers during whole school Celebrations of the Word
- Taking class prayer boxes outside at lunchtime and encouraging their peers to pray
- Undertaking large projects such as developing a prayer garden
- Keeping the pupils updated with information about donations to charity, such as for food banks and CAFOD
- Being a role model to others by modelling reverence and joy where applicable.
- Writing and leading whole school acts of worship, such as the Remembrance Liturgy.

## 4. Giving to Others

4.1 We aim to develop and harness an awareness of the needs of others: locally, nationally and globally, and foster a spirit of generosity and compassion. There are various fundraising events throughout the year co-ordinated by the Mini Vinnies Team.

4.2 Harvest – children are encouraged to bring in food for local foodbanks and the school is a permanent collection point for donations throughout the year.

4.3 At Remembrance, we sell poppies and related merchandise to raise funds for the Royal British Legion.

4.4 In Advent, a charity of the pupils' choosing is supported, as well as supporting the PTA with the Lincoln Christmas Sacks appeal.

4.5 During Lent we raise funds for CAFOD and an additional charity through activities chosen by the pupils.

4.6 We support the work of the Nottingham Diocese Catholic Youth Service on World Youth Fun Day through a non-school uniform day.

4.7 The school council also support the work of the Mini Vinnies and often plan projects together to benefit local and global initiatives- Like Lincoln United Hospital fund.

## 5. Parental Involvement

5.1 Parents are the first teachers of their children and we work in partnership with them. Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: class assemblies, curriculum meetings, whole school Masses and liturgies which take place throughout the year both in school and with the parishes of St Peter and St Paul's and St Hugh's churches and events such as the Christmas Celebration.

5.2 They are encouraged to participate with their children during Advent when the 'Travelling Cribs' are sent home, encouraging a time of sharing and reflection and also during Lent when Christian Meditation is encouraged at home through using the Good News packs

5.3 Parents are encouraged to join the PTA to help organise and host a range of events for our school community. All funds raised support the development and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

5.4 Parents are encouraged to share their views through questionnaires, as well as at parent curriculum meetings and parents' evenings

## 6. Parish Links

6.1 Links with the local Parish are a vital part of Catholic Life in school. We are very lucky to have two parishes which support the school. Our parish priests are Canon Geoffrey Hunton and Canon Eddy Jarosz.

6.2 Children visit the church to look at the different aspects and features of a church.

6.3 Canon Geoffrey and Canon Eddy also support the teaching of curriculum RE in school by coming in to talk about various topics such as baptism, reconciliation and vocation.

6.4 Links with the priests are strengthened as they celebrate various services in the school with the children and staff, including Mass and the blessings of new school developments such as our reading area and mental health hub.

6.5 We share with our school community communications from Canon Geoffrey and Canon Eddy in order to encourage attendance at church and involvement in church events.

## 7. School Environment

7.1 Every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment within our school.

- All rooms have a crucifix.
- All rooms have a prayer area.
- All rooms have a statue of Our Lady, liturgy boxes and 'Let us Pray 2Gether' resources.
- There are displays in the corridors with reflection on our Mission Statement, information about Pope Francis, Bishop Patrick McKinney and the current Liturgical Season.
  - Displays in the corridor document how we work towards the Bishop's three themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship. Pupil voice is evident throughout
  - Displays within each classroom reflect the 'Come and See' topic being taught, the Liturgical Season, work produced by the pupils, key prayers and scripture.

- There are displays about the key virtue the school are focusing on which is supported by the Saints display – who highlighted this virtue in their commitments to God.

## 8. Leadership and Monitoring

8.1 This policy is the responsibility of the Head teacher and RE Co-coordinator- ( who also oversees the Mini Vinnies and prayer leaders.) They report will back to governors on Catholic Life half termly in governors meetings.

8.2 The Head teacher will monitor the Catholic Life of the school and update the Catholic Life action plan accordingly, ensuring actions are undertaken and Catholic Life enhanced.

## 9. Links with other policies

9.1 This Catholic Life policy is linked to the following policies:

Religious Education Policy

Collective Worship Policy

Relationship and Sex Education Policy