

St Antony's Catholic Primary School



**Our Lady of Grace
Multi-Academy Trust**



CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION POLICY

***'Learning Together In
God's Love'***

Reviewed & Agreed by staff: September 2024

Agreed by Governors: October 2024

Review date: September 2026



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

At St. Antony's Catholic Primary School We Celebrate Our Special Talents As Children Of God Therefore:

- We try to be like Jesus and always keep him in our hearts
 - We work together in our homes, school and parish to share our gifts and learn together
 - We understand that we are all different and we respect each other
 - We look after our world so that we may share it together in peace
- By observing all these principles we live our school's Motto:

"WORKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE"

Our School's Policies at St Antony's Are Heavily Inspired by the Words of Pope Francis:

*"Education is the conduit through which we guide, direct, mould and influence young minds. Teachers have an almost divine responsibility handed down to them by the greatest teacher of all**Christ himself**. Teachers must consider that every time they speak and act they represent Christ in their every word and deed.*

Their example is the greatest teacher of all as their 'actions always speak more profoundly than their words'.

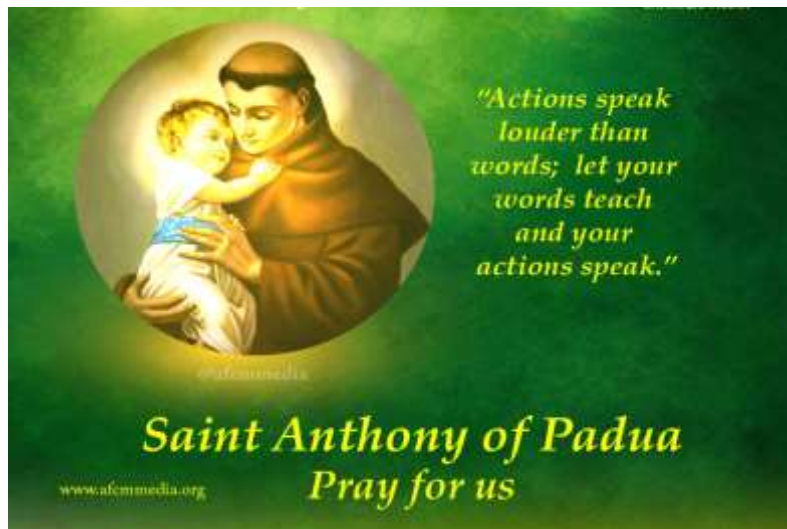
Every child we have inspired by our example and teaching is left with an indelible mark on their heart and mind for the entirety of their lives. Let us ensure that the marks we leave please God and set them on a path for serving others humbly in terms of their behaviour, attitude and approach to life and all whom they encounter."

Pope Francis



Pupil Partners discuss how to be a Pilgrim of Hope. Our Citizens of the Year Awardees and Bishop Alan.

Our Vision At St. Antony's Catholic Primary School



Our Vision at St Antony's Has Christ at the Centre and Our Children at the Heart Of All That We Do To Keep Us Inspired.

We work as an agent of positive, sustainable change through engaging all stakeholders: Governors, Teachers, Parents, Children, Church and Community. We inspire all our children from Nursery to Year 6 to work collaboratively and purposefully with all relevant agencies and stakeholders to aspire to achieve their individual fullest potential and beyond. Our school will function as a centre of excellence and an axis of holistic transformation and development within our community by enabling all under our care to aspire to ultimately achieve self-actualisation through sound **S**piritual, **M**oral, **S**ocial and **C**ultural formation while embedding effective behaviour for life and learning. Through personal and shared values and philosophies we will establish a positive, progressive and faith filled approach to life and living while upholding our core Christian and British Values; leading all to the achievement of the highest academic, socio-economic and sustainable life goals individually and collectively with the direct intent of creating a better world for ourselves and future generations.



Catholic Life and Mission Context

'When Jesus is asked which the greatest commandment is, the answer is the same in all three of the Gospels in which the question is asked: to love God with all your mind, heart, soul and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. This call to love is at the heart of the educational mission of every Catholic school. It is a mission that is clearly echoed in the Second Vatican Council which teaches that the purpose of an education that is distinctively Christian is threefold (*Gravissimum Educationis* 2).

- ❖ Its first purpose is to ensure that all pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity as a Catholic school.
- ❖ The second, is to ensure that all are invited to learn how to worship God in spirit and truth, through the prayer and liturgy of the Church.
- ❖ The third, is the formation of all, to live in conformity with the model of human goodness, truth and justice that we find in Jesus Christ.' ¹

This threefold mission is reflected in the three perspectives of the Catholic School Inspection process.

- ❖ Through religious education pupils are invited to love God with all their mind,
- ❖ Through collective worship with all their heart, soul and strength and
- ❖ Through the Catholic life and mission to love their neighbour as themselves.

This policy on Catholic life and mission complements the Religious Education policy, the Prayer and Liturgy policy and the Relationships, Sex and Health Education policy.

The aim of this policy is to show how faithfully **St Antony's Catholic Primary School** responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Mission Statement



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Learning Together In God's Love



EFYS RE Baptism Role Play



KS1 Partners in Phonics



Y3 Catholic Social Teaching in Drama

¹ CSI Inspection Handbook

The mission statement of ***St Antony's Catholic Primary School*** is immediately visible upon arrival at the school and has pride of place in the school's main office entrance and is featured throughout the school environment. It clearly reflects the school's role in the educational mission of the Church, promoting Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Our Mission Statement and Motto is at the heart of school life so that:

- Pupils have a clear understanding of its meaning and can articulate this at an age-appropriate level across all phases
- All staff embrace and implement the statement in daily school life through a range of opportunities captured in : class assemblies, whole school SMSC and citizenship projects involving all stakeholders, class and school action which reflect the life and mission of the school such as our Virtues Festival and our Feast day Celebration
- Our Mission and Motto are shared with parents and the wider community through our Parents' Information Evenings, banners and signage, all our school policies, our newsletters, email footers, RE pupil work book covers, class and school displays, and on our website.

School Environment

Visitors to ***St Antony's Catholic Primary*** are aware of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the physical environment, the presence of religious images and symbols and the recognition of a learning environment that respects the human dignity of all individuals as being wonderfully made in God's image and likeness (Psalm 139).

At ***St Antony's*** we endeavour to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment by ensuring:

- All rooms (classrooms, meeting rooms, offices and common use areas) have a crucifix
- All classrooms and common use rooms have a cared for, attractive prayer focus area
- All main corridors and common meeting areas such as the school hall, staff room, RE zone and mini-chapel/prayer room feature core Catholic artefacts banners, religious pictures, wall plaques, displays, images, statues, tableaus as well as Bibles
- Each class has a 'liturgy' box with coloured prayer table cloths for each season of the liturgical year and arrange of good quality religious artefacts (mini-statues, candles, prayer boxes, class crosses, rosaries and bibles) appropriate for the age/ phase
- There are displays in the corridors and classes reflecting our Mission Statement and liturgical season as an intentional focal point for prayers
- Displays in the hall reflect core actions, projects and initiatives in SMSC/Citizenship, the Jubilee Year 2025 and Catholic Social Teaching. Black History Month work displayed make cross curricular links to the school's virtues, values and mission and features inspirational icons who have served the wider community unselfishly.

- RE Displays within each classroom reflect either a 'Come and See' or RED topic or themes that have been explored or is being taught, the liturgical seasons of the church, and work produced by the pupils as well as key prayers and scripture quotes
- There are child-friendly quotes from scripture around the school corridors
- The school grounds have a peaceful prayer garden, and eco-friendly area, a school allotment

Catholic Curriculum

'The Catholic vision of education is distinctive and the beliefs it holds, the values and aspirations it has, must inspire the whole of the curriculum.'²

Our school is a community of learning with a distinctive educational philosophy which is based on the Gospels. Whilst Religious Education is at the core of the core curriculum, this philosophy permeates all our curriculum and activities as we recognise the needs of each individual member of the community.

At an age-appropriate level our children are introduced to the nine principles of Catholic Social Teaching, using the CAFOD resources. We use child friendly approaches and resources that are inclusive to explore the writings of Pope Francis on 'Laudato Si' and 'Fratelli Tutti'. In this way we are developing their moral compass and enabling them to respond to social, moral and ethical issues in the world with a perspective linked to Jesus' missionary example. Our Catholic curriculum inspires our charitable outreach and work for social justice in collaboration with CAFOD, London Living Wage, Citizens UK and TELCO.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught in a Catholic context using the TEN TEN Life to the full curriculum; acknowledging that we are all made in God's image and likeness (Psalm 139)- see our RSHE Policy.

Other faiths are taught as part of the RE curriculum to foster deeper understanding of the principles of inclusion, fairness, equality and tolerance which directly link with British Values-see our RE policy. Learning about the religious faith and cultures of those who do not share the Catholic faith is one of the ways in which Catholic schools embody the call to love one's neighbours in the way that Jesus did. It prepares our children for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the tapestry of beliefs of others which obtains in multi-cultural Britain.

Charitable outreach

We foster and develop a strong awareness of the needs of others: locally, nationally and globally, and promote a spirit of generosity and compassion as taught and exemplified by Jesus and our Patron Saint. Through our planned whole school annual SMSC and Citizenship project work which incorporates Catholic Social Teaching, and the principles underpinning

² NBRIA The Distinctive Curriculum of the Catholic School

Ladauto Si and Fratelli Tutti- pupils are taught to stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, having a real 'preferential option for the poor'.

There are various fundraising events and charitable outreach programmes throughout the year co-ordinated by the RE Lead, RE Team and Leadership of the school inclusive of:

- ❖ Our SMSC and Citizenship Project month in spring term 1 annually ensures children are inspired the work of our Patron Saint's action towards the poor by bringing in food for local foodbanks and charities such as: St Antony's Bread, St. Martin's Food Bank, Magpie Project, Refugee and Migrant Programme (RAMP) and the school is a permanent donation point for bread donations throughout the year from Hovis.
- ❖ Remembrance Day annually, where we participate in the London Borough of Newham's Deanery schools official Armistice Day commemoration ceremony at the cenotaph in East Ham, with our choral speaking choir performing the timeless poem "*In Flanders Field*" honouring those who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms and liberties.
- ❖ Our prefects also sell poppies and related merchandise across the school to raise funds for the Royal British Legion every year in the month of November.
- ❖ Every Advent and Lent, we support the Peabody Home for the Aged, with the upper school pupils visiting, bringing cheer and collecting gifts for the elderly
- ❖ During Lent and at Christmas we raise funds for CAFOD and the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) respectively, in collaboration with the MAT through activities chosen by the pupils such as our last whole school Pyjama Party and Rudolph Run.
- ❖ We have also raised funds for a variety of causes through the years such as partnering with the NHS to campaign for better pay for our key workers (nurses and doctors) during and after the pandemic our original song : "Wake up-Pay Up...Realise We're Alive!" generated a lot of interest and support.
- ❖ We have raised funds for the MacMillan Trust through our black History Month (Healers and Teachers) cake making and design competition –the sales following generated funds for cancer research.
- ❖ Sending originally designed Valentines and Christmas cards made by the children and sent to elderly parishioners and the families and children that our partner charities serve through the Magpie and RAMP partnerships.

Pupils are always encouraged to help each other as well as their parents, teachers and other people in the community. It is our aim that our whole school ethos is one that fosters and nurture generous giving of self (time, talent, treasure, care and compassion) in appreciation and respect for others within the school and in the wider community.



Representatives of the many charities that we work with and support on our Charity Celebration “Wear Red Day” annually in February -features a stage and rooms in the school filled with our pupils’ and families generous donations to bring our annual SMSC and citizenship project to a joyful end each Spring half term. No Charity leaves empty handed. Many are literally ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ who have journeyed to our school for specific aid and support. Others have always worked while “Living in Harmony” with the school’s Catholic Life and Mission philosophies.

Working for Social Justice

Pupils are also taught the importance of standing up for social justice as an important aspect of Christian life. There are planned opportunities for pupils to engage in campaigns for social justice through our work in partnership with NGOs at the local, regional and national level through:

- ❖ Writing to our local MP, Mayor of Newham and the Mayor of London to add to their campaigning platforms and manifesto- to support the Living Wage, Social Housing and Migrants’ in partnership CTIZENS UK and TELCO (The East London Community Organisation)
- ❖ Celebrating Migrants Mass and Refugee Week with the Parish Faith Community annually
- ❖ Participating in climate change activities e.g. ‘No Mow May to summer holiday’ keeping our grassy areas and gardens wild to encourage mini-beasts and other wildlife: birds, butterflies and bees with the ECO and sustainability clubs’ staff and pupils linked to Ladauto Si
- ❖ Supporting CAFOD with Fair Trade and equal opportunity initiatives globally, The Magpie Project and RAMP (Refugee and Migrants Programme) as well St Antony’s Bread charity.
- ❖ Reduce, reuse and recycle awareness
- ❖ Supporting causes such as ‘fair pay for key workers’ in the NHS and other organisations and industries during the pandemic, and pairing this action with our Black History Month 2020-2021 Theme: ‘Healers and Teachers’ linked to teachings in RE on the fact that Jesus and many of his disciples were healers of the sick and the lost and teachers of the faith.
- ❖ Raising the plight of migrants such as the Windrush Generation to national attention in 2022 in performances such as the Drama Club’s **‘Passport to Prove’** dramatic choral

performance at the ceremony held for the unveiling of the Windrush monument in 2022. The piece was written from the perspective of the migrants and penned by the RE and Drama Club Lead and pupils- in the ceremony held for the unveiling of the Windrush Monument at Waterloo Station and the South Bank Centre.

- ❖ Campaigning for the homeless and for more social housing at the Mayoral Assembly in 2024-2025 in central London



Performance of 'You Called... We Came' for the Local Community on the school grounds

Our RE and Performing Arts Leads collaborated with the NHS and Ebony Steal Band to honour all the people who came from the Caribbean and other parts of the former British colonies after WW2, to support the re- building of Britain. Our children performed "You Called ...We Came" originally penned as a poem by Professor Laura Serrant, highlighting the experiences of the Windrush Generation to which she belongs. The learning from this experience was rich and impactful with the children exploring the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural as well as the CST factors linked to migration set in the affective domain of our RE Curriculum impacting the quality of learning in terms of a deeper understanding of the humanity of migrants as many of our pupils are from migrant families.



Our pupils jubilantly performing 'You Called ...We Came' and 'London Is The Place For Me' on Windrush Day 2022 at the South Bank Centre after the unveiling of the Windrush Monument at Waterloo Station.

Chaplaincy - Pastoral Care and Support

The spirituality and prayer life of the school are an evident part of its Catholic life and mission. The Prayer and Liturgy policy details the school's provision. Chaplaincy provision at **St Antony's** plays an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the whole school and faith community. Our Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care Team operates on several levels and consists of:

- ❖ Our parish priests (Father John Jesus and Fr Arnaud) who work very closely with staff, parents and pupils of the school and parish through their actions in the development of the spirituality of the pupils, staff and parents through their presence at Mass, insets, meetings, Staff Days Away for prayer and reflection and as RE Link Governors.
- ❖ The CSEL and Governors who exercise their duty of care for the leadership and staff by supporting the Head and SLT through their prayers, visits, guidance, mentoring challenge and advice.
- ❖ The Senior Leadership Team who work very closely with the staff, pupils and parents under their individual remits as Phase Leaders across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 giving good spiritual and wellbeing counsel to pupils daily and to staff and parents in need of prayer and support in times of bereavement and existential crises as warranted.



Y1 pupils' eyes filled with awe and wonder as They learn about symbols and signs in Church.



Y2 pupils commemorate remembrance by showing their respect and admiration for those who made the ultimate sacrifice

The Governors, Headteacher, Leadership and RE Team take their role of supporting members of the school community with growing in their faith very seriously. Engaging in a range of purposeful and intentional actions which form part of the pastoral care provision in place across the school catering to all pupils as well as staff and parents. They do this by:

- ❖ Governors attending Inset days, sharing in and supporting the plans for CLM
- ❖ Link governors and RE Leads ensuring RE provision is well budgeted for
- ❖ SLT and Staff maintaining and developing class and communal prayer areas
- ❖ RE Lead and RE team writing and leading original personal prayers and songs during whole school assemblies and celebration of the word for Stations of the Cross

- ❖ Offering opportunities for spontaneous pupil led prayer during class prayers
- ❖ Organising adoration, times of quiet reflection and reconciliation for pupils
- ❖ Undertaking large projects such as developing a prayer garden, Rosary club, Eco Club and Sustainability Club to promote the virtues of Ladauto Si-*'caring for our common home.'*
- ❖ Taking the children on pilgrimages to holy places such as Brentwood and Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Walsingham and Aylesford
- ❖ Encouraging pupils to be generous in their stewardship with using their time, talent and gifts for the benefit of those most in need in the wider community
- ❖ Informing pupils about how their donations to charity, such as for St Martin's Foodbank, the Magpie Project and CAFOD help others- by inviting the leads of the charities in to give talks and thanks to their generous donors-our children
- ❖ SLT and Staff being models to staff and pupils by showing reverence and joy in assemblies, prayer and liturgy ministry in class and school and at Mass
- ❖ Writing and leading whole school acts of worship, such as the Remembrance Service
- ❖ Praying for and supporting members of the school community, especially in times of need evidencing that "Faith without works is dead" James 2:17



Year 1 embodies the principles of CLM in their assembly promoting our Motto: 'Working Together In God's Love' through their Class Assembly message: 'Together we shine when hands are joined'



A section of our parents in attendance at one of our RE and SMSC Parents' Workshop –in close partnership with the school by engaging in discussions exploring the link between prayer and wellbeing-with our NHS Mental Health and Wellbeing partner promoting healthy self-care strategies while caring for others.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Catholic life and mission Coordinator (our Headteacher) and is evaluated and reviewed by our Foundation governors and staff every two years.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Lead for Catholic Life and Mission

- Formulating and outlining a written policy for Catholic life and mission of the school
- Ensuring that the SIP/ SDP includes Catholic life and mission principles which underpin our RE provision overall
- Ensuring that pupils are able to explain the Catholic life and mission of the school, appropriate to their age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds
- Organising themes for outreach, timetable of charitable support and the school's involvement in local, regional and national campaigns
- Developing staff confidence and expertise and enabling them to articulate the mission of the school and its impact on the lives of the children

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation on CLM actions (in SMSC files)
- Planning school involvement in national and local projects e.g. housing, homeless, the environment
- Use a global planner to ensure relevant days are marked in school e.g. Armistice Day and Windrush
- Making judgements on outcomes, provision and leadership of Catholic life and mission to inform the ongoing work on the school Catholic Self Evaluation Document

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance of Catholic life and mission in the life of a Catholic school
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors regarding matters for further/future development
- Acting as consultant/a point of reference to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Catholic life and mission of the school
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Catholic life and mission in induction
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community about school's RE plans
- Liaison with the school chaplain/Chaplaincy team
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education on relevant training and formation for staff

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation on the Catholic life and mission of the school
- Attending appropriate in-service courses e.g. RED training, CPD on CAFOD and Catholic social Teaching and cascading the pedagogy to staff via staff ongoing CPD training
- Conducting Research and attending network, diocesan, MAT meetings relevant to role

Resources

- Evaluating and auditing existing resources and updating resources in school as needed
- Ensuring that key contacts/resource persons are maintained to add value to staff development/CPD
- Ensuring resources are available to promote the Catholic life and mission of the school e.g. securing books (RED, PLD Curriculums, Catholic Bibles and artefacts) for staff and engaging a good range of resource personnel to conduct insets/CPD on RE, Catholic Social Teaching and Prayer and Liturgy.