

The school Mission Statement clearly expresses the educational mission of the Church and underpins everything that happens in Our Lady's. All members of the community have had the opportunity to reflect on it and evaluate its effectiveness.

Staff members are committed to its implementation across the curriculum and the whole of school life. They participate in school activities which reflect the Catholic Life and mission of the school, such as staff prayer and continuing professional development on Catholic Life.

There is a clear sense of community at all levels, evident in the high-quality relationships and the centrality of prayer to the whole community. The school fosters a sense of belonging that enables all involved in the life of the school to play an active role.

The school environment reflects its mission and identity through obvious signs of its Catholic character. Visiting artists have worked with children to create several beautiful, inspirational displays which truly celebrate the school's Catholic Life. One such display in the school hall has photos of all the staff, governors and children on it and depicts how the school mission is lived.

The Mission Statement, itself, is very proudly displayed in all areas of the school, is written on all correspondence and documentation and even emblazoned on the side of the school mini-bus and on staff lanyards. All policies and practices emanate from it.

Staff members promote high standards of behaviour and are outstanding role models of mutual respect and forgiveness for pupils. They are alert to the needs and well-being of all.

The curriculum reflects a commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, to care for our common home and to the dignity of every human person.

The needs of the whole child are also catered for through a range of experiences provided including visits to cathedrals, libraries, art galleries etc. Members of staff provide several after school clubs and there are other enrichment activities available. These include key board club, cross-country, Science club etc. The school is very involved in the Schools Shakespeare Festival and local community events.

The school is very attentive to the spiritual and moral development of pupils. Ideas from the *Prayer Spaces* website have been used to great effect in providing ideas and inspiration to enhance the children's spiritual growth. Pupils are given to opportunity to reflect on their own mission and vocation. The school arranges annual careers events whereby pupils in Year Six meet representatives from various professions. One of the parish Deacons was invited along latterly to provide guidance to the pupils.

Members of the parish clergy as appropriate are highly effective in supporting and promoting the Catholic Life of the school. There are very strong links with the local parishes

Policies and structures are in place, which provide excellent pastoral care to pupils and their families, and there is a commitment to the most vulnerable and needy in both policy and practice. Members of staff have undertaken training and the skills they acquired have been shared. Mindfulness and Yoga sessions have been offered to children and staff. Materials from the *Relax Kids* programme have also been used to great effect in supporting the emotional development of pupils. A member of support staff commented that the school, "...makes every child's views and beliefs a key priority in their day to day experience making them feel valued and important."

The Sensory and Rainbow Room provide a quiet haven for pupils with emotional difficulties. The headteacher and pastoral leader are present on the yard at key times during the school day to look out for any issues that may arise.

The school has a high regard for the pastoral and spiritual needs of staff and these needs are understood and catered for especially with the help of the link governor who was previously a chaplain in a local secondary school. She supports and guides staff members and shares appropriate resources.

The school supports and facilitates the *With You Always* sacramental preparation programme where children from one of the parishes meet in school and church with their parents to prepare.

The school values all the help received from governors and parishioners and to show their appreciation, invites them all to an annual afternoon tea party at Christmas time.

Pastoral programmes, Personal, Social and Health Education and Relationships and Sex Education are effectively planned, well taught and reflect Catholic teachings and principles. The *Journey in Love* programme is used very effectively to support this area of the pupils' education.