

# St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School



## Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Wickhay,  
Basildon  
Essex.  
SS15 5AF

Policy approved

October 2024

Date of next review:

October 2026

**With Jesus, through the St Anne Line Way,  
We Love, We Learn, We Share, We Pray.  
Together, we grow Our School each day**

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**Catholic Life and Mission**

‘When Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment, 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 pattern of human goodness, truth and justice that we find in Jesus Christ.’

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 of the school 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. Anne Line Catholic Junior School responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church’s educational mission.

**Mission Statement**

St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School is inspired by the teaching and life of Christ. We are a family community where every individual is valued and respected. Our school seeks excellence in teaching and learning, to be inspirational to others through our words and actions. **With Jesus, through the St Anne Line Way, We Love, We Learn, We Share, We Pray. Together, we grow our school each day.**

The mission statement of St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School is highly visible 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 is a touch stone of school life so that:

- Pupils have a clear understanding of its meaning and can articulate this at an age-appropriate level
- All staff embrace and implement the statement across daily school life through a range of opportunities e.g. class prayers, whole school liturgical prayers and displays
- It is shared with parents and the wider community through school signage, our newsletters, email footers, school policy documents and the website

**School Environment**

Visitors to St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School are aware of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the physical environment, the presence of images and symbols and the recognition of a learning environment that respects the human dignity of all persons as made in God’s image and likeness.

At St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School every effort is made to provide a spiritually uplifting, stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment:

- All rooms have a crucifix
- All rooms have a cared for, attractive prayer area
- All rooms have a class candle and 'Let us Pray 2Gether' resources
- Each class has a 'liturgy' box with coloured cloths and has access to a range of good quality religious artefacts
- There are displays in the corridors which reflect on Catholic Social Teaching with information relating to the current liturgical season
- Focal points for liturgical prayers reflect the theme and season
- The focal point in the hall reflects the Gospel value of the week
- Displays in the school central environment document the activities of charitable work and our work within the local community
- Displays within each classroom reflect topic being taught, the liturgical season, work produced by the pupils, key prayers and scripture
- The school has a prayer room, a peaceful prayer garden, and 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.' 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 children are introduced to the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We use child friendly resources to explore the writings of Pope Francis, such as Caritas, CAFOD, Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti. In this way we are building their moral compass and enabling them to respond to social, moral and ethical issues in the world. Our Catholic curriculum leads our charitable outreach and work for social justice. Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught in a Catholic context recognising we are all made in God's image and likeness. See our RSHE Policy. Other faiths are taught as part of the RE curriculum. See our RE policy. Learning about the religion 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 neighbour. It prepares our children for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the beliefs of others.

### **Charitable Outreach**

We aim to foster and develop an awareness of the needs of others: locally, nationally and globally, and promote a spirit of generosity and compassion as taught by Jesus Christ. Through timetabled work on Catholic Social Teaching and Fratelli Tutti pupils are taught to stand in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable. There are various fundraising events and charitable outreach activities throughout the year organised by our house teams including:

- Anne Frank – St Luke's Hospice
- Florence Nightingale – Royal British Legion
- Martin Luther King – Guide Dog's Appeal
- Nelson Mandela – Basildon Foodbank

Other fundraising takes place for a variety of causes throughout the year such as Cancer Research through Friday Football Shirt Squad, Children in Need through a cake sale and when large scale disasters hit through the Disasters Emergency Committee. 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 will foster and nurture a generous giving of self, and an appreciation and respect for others.

### **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:

- Celebrating Stephen Lawrence Day
- Celebrating Windrush Day
- Climate Change activities
- The Eco Warriors

### **School Community**

St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School is a welcoming place for children, families and members of staff from all faiths and none. Recognising that Christ is at the centre of our school we strive to support and value each member, especially the most vulnerable. Our behaviour policy is driven by our beliefs of mutual trust and respect for all. See our Behaviour Policy. Children and staff are encouraged to engage with a range of awards that recognise the work that we do to implement Catholic Social Teaching. Through our work in RE children learn about the Universal Church and how we belong to a global family. At St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School all are encouraged to live life to the full and reach their full potential. Members of staff have opportunities to take part in the diocesan continuing professional development.

### **Parents**

Parents are the first teachers of their children, and we work strongly in partnership with them. Parents are invited to attend a variety of school events throughout the year, which include: SAL's Big Breakfast, Mother Figure Morning, Father Figure Morning, The World Food Day event, class assemblies, open afternoons, whole school Masses and liturgical prayers which take place throughout the year both in school and at Holy Trinity Parish Church. As well as all of this St Anne Line Catholic Junior School has an open-door policy and the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher are always on the gate at the start and end of the school day.

### **Parish Links**

Links with the local parish are a vital part of Catholic life in school. The parish which serves our school is Our Lady and All Saints. Children visit the local church to look at the different aspects and features of a church. Links with the parish priest are strengthened as he celebrates various services in the church of Holy Trinity with the children and staff. We also share communications from the parish priest with our school community to encourage attendance at church and involvement in church events.

### **The Coordinator for Catholic Life and Mission**

The Coordinator for Catholic life and Mission is Marie Slee.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the headteacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every year. The Foundation Governors in particular, will play a most important role.