

POLICY

POLICY TYPE

MAT Policy to adopted in full across all schools	
LGC Policy to be reviewed and approved locally	✓



*"Share the Love of God,
every day in everything
we learn, do and say"*

Approval Date:	2026/27 – AUTUMN TERM
Review Date:	2027/28 – AUTUMN TERM

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION POLICY

The Context of Catholic Life and Mission at St Philomena's

Catholic Life and Mission are central to the identity and purpose of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School. As a Catholic community, we seek to place Christ at the centre of all that we do, ensuring that our faith shapes our relationships, our learning and the way we serve others.

Inspired by the life and example of our patron saint, St Philomena, we strive to create a community where every person is valued, respected and encouraged to flourish as a child of God. We recognise that every member of our school community is created in the image and likeness of God and has unique gifts and talents to share.

Our Catholic mission is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and reflects the call to love God and love our neighbour. Through our daily actions, decisions and interactions, we aim to live out the Gospel message and prepare our pupils to become compassionate, responsible and faith-filled members of the wider community.

This policy works alongside our Religious Education Policy, Prayer and Liturgy Policy and other relevant school policies to ensure that Catholic life and mission remain central to every aspect of school life.

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

At St Philomena's, we share the love of God every day in everything we learn, do and say. Our vision reflects our belief that God's love is at the heart of our school community.

Inspired by St Philomena, we are a Christ-centred school where everyone is loved, valued and supported to achieve their God-given potential.

We believe that by sharing the love of God through our words and actions, we can make a positive difference within our school, our parish and the wider world.

Mission

With Christ at the centre, we strive for excellence, act with respect and serve our community.

Our mission encourages every member of our school community to use the gifts God has given them, to pursue excellence, to recognise the dignity of others and to respond to the needs of those around us through love and service. Through our mission, we seek to nurture the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, emotionally and academically.

Our Values

Our mission is lived out through our three core values:

Excellence

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

Colossians 3:23

We strive to be the best that we can be by using the gifts God has given us. We encourage

perseverance, ambition and a commitment to doing everything with care and dedication.

Respect

"Love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12:31

We recognise the dignity and uniqueness of every person as a child of God. We show kindness, compassion and understanding, creating a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued and respected.

Community

"Serve one another humbly in love."

Galatians 5:13

Following the example of Jesus, we use our gifts to serve others. We care for one another, support those in need and contribute positively to our school, parish and wider community.

Our Catholic Identity

At St Philomena's, our Catholic identity is lived throughout the daily life of the school. We seek to create a community where faith is not simply taught but experienced through relationships, actions and service.

Our Catholic character is reflected through:

- placing Christ at the centre of our decision making;
- valuing every person as created in God's image and likeness;
- encouraging pupils to live out Gospel values;
- developing strong links with our parish and the wider Church;
- supporting pupils to recognise their responsibilities towards others;
- promoting compassion, forgiveness, justice and peace.

We recognise that members of our community may be at different stages of their faith journey. We welcome and respect pupils, families and staff from different backgrounds, while remaining faithful to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Environment at St Philomena's

The Catholic character of St Philomena's is visible throughout our school environment. Our surroundings provide opportunities for reflection, celebration and a deeper awareness of God's presence.

Our Catholic environment includes:

- religious symbols and images that reflect our faith;
- displays celebrating Scripture, saints and the Church's liturgical year;
- spaces that encourage prayer, reflection and spiritual development;
- opportunities for pupils to share their faith, achievements and acts of service.

Our Prayer and Liturgy Policy provides further detail about prayer spaces and opportunities for worship within school. Through our environment, we aim to create a welcoming and spiritually enriching place where all members of our community feel that they belong.

Catholic Curriculum

The Catholic vision of education inspires all aspects of learning at St Philomena's. While Religious Education has a central place within our curriculum, our Catholic values influence every subject and every opportunity for learning.

We encourage pupils to:

- recognise the dignity and uniqueness of every person;
- develop a sense of responsibility towards others and the world around them;
- explore moral and ethical questions through the lens of faith;
- use their knowledge and gifts to make a positive contribution to society.

Catholic Social Teaching is woven through our curriculum and helps pupils understand their responsibility to care for others and work for justice. Through age-appropriate learning, pupils explore themes such as dignity, stewardship, solidarity and care for creation.

Living Out the Gospel: Charity and Social Justice

At St Philomena's, we believe that faith must be lived through action. Inspired by Jesus' example of love and service, pupils are encouraged to recognise the needs of others and respond with generosity and compassion.

Throughout the year, the school community supports charitable initiatives and opportunities for service, including:

- fundraising for CAFOD and other Catholic charities;
- supporting local community needs;
- responding to appeals for those experiencing hardship;
- participating in seasonal acts of giving during Advent and Lent;
- caring for creation through environmental initiatives.

Pupils are encouraged to understand that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference and that we are all called to serve others.

Chaplaincy and Formation of Leadership

Chaplaincy plays an important role in supporting the spiritual and pastoral life of St Philomena's. Our pupil leaders are encouraged to develop confidence, responsibility and a deeper understanding of their role within the Catholic community.

The Chaplaincy Team supports the mission of the school by:

- encouraging faith in action;
- supporting charitable initiatives;
- promoting Gospel values;
- helping to create a sense of belonging;
- supporting opportunities for pupils to contribute to the spiritual life of the school.

Opportunities for pupil participation in prayer and worship are outlined further in our Prayer and Liturgy Policy.

School Community

St Philomena's is a welcoming and inclusive Catholic community where every individual is valued and supported. We believe that strong relationships are built on the understanding that every person is made in God's image and likeness. Our behaviour and pastoral approaches reflect our commitment to dignity, forgiveness, respect and compassion.

We encourage pupils and staff to use their God-given talents and strive to reach their full potential. Through our shared values, we aim to create a community where everyone feels loved, supported and able to flourish.

As part of the wider Catholic family, St Philomena's works in partnership with Catholic schools, the Diocese of Southwark and other members of the Church community. Staff are encouraged to continue developing their understanding of Catholic education through opportunities for formation and professional development.

Parents and Families

At St Philomena's, we recognise parents and carers as the first educators of their children. We value strong partnerships between home, school and parish. Families are encouraged to participate in the Catholic life of the school through:

- Masses and liturgical celebrations;
- school faith events;
- opportunities to celebrate pupils' achievements;
- charity and community activities;
- meetings and opportunities to share views.

Through working together, we seek to support children in developing their faith, character and understanding of their place within the wider community.

Links with Parish and the Wider Church

St Philomena's values its close relationship with the parish community and recognises the importance of belonging to the wider Church. Our parish link is with Our Lady of the Cray Parish, supported by our parish priest Father Subbo.

Through our partnership with the parish, pupils have opportunities to:

- celebrate Mass and important moments in the Church's year;
- strengthen their understanding of the Sacraments;
- participate in parish and school celebrations;
- develop a sense of belonging within the wider Catholic community.

The school works collaboratively with parish and diocesan partners to ensure that our Catholic mission continues to grow and remain faithful to the teachings of the Church.

Leadership and Responsibility for Catholic Life and Mission

Responsibility for Catholic Life and Mission is shared by the whole school community.

The Governors ensure that:

- the Catholic mission and identity of the school remain central;
- policies reflect Catholic teaching and diocesan expectations;
- Catholic life and mission are monitored and evaluated;
- appropriate support and resources are available.

The Headteacher ensures that:

- Catholic life and mission are central to school development;
- staff are supported in understanding and living out the mission of the school;
- strong links with parish and the wider Church are maintained.

The RE Coordinator is responsible for:

- supporting the development of Catholic life and mission;
- promoting the school's vision, mission and values;
- supporting charitable outreach and social justice initiatives;
- working with pupils, staff, governors and the parish community;
- monitoring and evaluating the impact of Catholic life and mission.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Catholic Life and Mission of St Philomena's is monitored regularly to ensure that it continues to reflect the mission of the Catholic Church and the expectations of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate.

Monitoring considers:

- how clearly the school's Catholic identity is lived and understood;
- how pupils demonstrate Gospel values in their daily lives;
- the strength of links with families, parish and the wider Church;
- opportunities for pupils to participate and lead;
- the impact of charitable work and service.

Evaluation helps us to celebrate strengths, identify areas for development and continue to grow as a Catholic community.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to reflect:

- the mission and vision of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School;
- guidance from the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Southwark;
- expectations of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate;
- the developing needs of our school community.