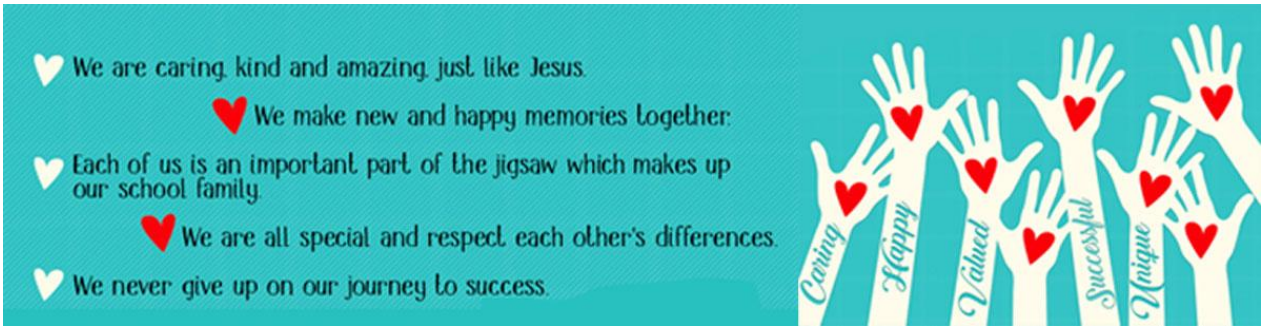
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Living as a community centred in Christ



Policy	September 2026
Review date	September 2028
Headteacher	Mrs Philippa Martin
Chair of Governors	Mrs Catherine Stephenson
Catholic Life and Mission Lead	Mrs Jane Hayes, RE Lead and Year 2 Teacher

Catholic Life and Mission

This policy complements the school's Religious Education Policy, Prayer and Liturgy Policy, Relationships and Health Education Policy, Behaviour Policy and curriculum policies.

Its purpose is to explain how Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School lives as a community centred in Christ and serves the Church's educational mission. It describes our shared expectations and the provision through which pupils, staff, families, governors, parishioners and clergy contribute to the Catholic life of the school.

Our Mission

> *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School is a community centred in Christ. Teaching is permeated by the Gospel values and the traditions of our Catholic faith.*

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We seek to promote a happy, stimulating and caring environment in which each person is valued as an individual with unique talents. The curriculum and activities of the school are carefully framed so that each pupil may fulfil his or her potential and know success.

Each will grow in awareness of his or her role within the family, the school and society, and be sustained by a deepening relationship with God.

Our Core Values

- Caring - we are caring, kind and amazing, just like Jesus.
- Happy - we make new and happy memories together.
- Valued - each of us is an important part of the jigsaw that makes up our school family.
- Successful - we never give up on our journey to success.
- Unique - we are all special and respect each other's differences.

Our mission and values are visible in the school entrance, hall and classrooms. They are referred to in prayer, teaching, pastoral care, awards and decision-making. Friday celebration assembly recognises pupils who have lived out the school's core values. The mission is shared with parents and the wider community through the website, school communications, meetings and community events.

School Environment

The school environment gives visible expression to our Catholic identity. It invites prayer and reflection, celebrates pupils' spiritual development and helps every member of the community encounter scripture, the liturgical year, Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching in daily school life.

- The mission statement has a prominent place in the school entrance and the school values are displayed in the hall and every classroom.
- Every classroom and shared space has a crucifix.
- Prayer areas are cared for, purposeful and responsive to the liturgical season, current Religious Education learning and the prayer life of the class.

- Celebration of the Word boxes contain suitable artefacts, liturgical cloths and planning materials so that pupils can plan and lead prayer and liturgy.
- Displays across the school celebrate children's work, scripture, prayers, Religious Education topics and themes from the Church calendar.
- A Catholic Life display in the main entrance celebrates the faith, mission and service of the school community.
- The hall display connects the school values with photographs and examples of how pupils live them out.
- The library includes a Catholic Social Teaching display and carefully selected books linked to its principles.
- The school prayer garden and other reflective spaces provide opportunities for prayer, stillness and encounter with God's creation.
- Displays are used as active points for reflection, prayer and discussion rather than decoration alone.

Class Saints

Each class is named after a special saint. At the beginning of each school year, pupils learn about their class saint, exploring their life, virtues and response to God's call. Pupils consider how they can follow the saint's example throughout the year.

In September, a Saints Assembly enables each class to present what they have learned. Every class chooses an act of kindness inspired by its saint to complete during the year. Each class also marks its saint's feast day in a special way, helping pupils understand how the saints inspire Christians to show love, kindness, courage and compassion.

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 rooted in the Gospel. Religious Education is at the heart of the curriculum, while Catholic beliefs, values and the dignity of each person permeate the wider curriculum and all aspects of school life.

The school follows the Religious Education Directory. Magister supports teachers in planning and delivering this curriculum. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith, scripture, tradition and worship and learn to make thoughtful links between faith and life.

Catholic Social Teaching is a golden thread through the curriculum. It is explored explicitly in key-stage assemblies and applied through pupils' learning, relationships, service, stewardship and response to local and global issues. Appropriate resources, including those provided by CAFOD, help pupils understand principles such as human dignity, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, participation, stewardship, dignity in work, peace and the preferential option for the poor.

Relationships and Health Education is taught through the Trust-wide curriculum in a Catholic context. It affirms that each person is created and loved by God and supports pupils to develop healthy, respectful relationships.

Other religions and worldviews are taught through the Religious Education curriculum. Learning about those who do not share the Catholic faith is one way in which the school embodies Christ's command to love our neighbour and prepares pupils to live respectfully and confidently in modern Britain.

Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. They enable the community to encounter Christ, reflect on scripture, respond in prayer and carry the Gospel into daily life. Provision is developed in accordance with the school's Prayer and Liturgy Policy.

The Weekly Pattern

When	Provision
Daily	Classroom prayer takes place three times each day, helping pupils offer the day to God, pause in reflection and give thanks.
Monday	Whole-school Celebration of the Word centred on the Sunday Gospel, involving all pupils and staff.
Tuesday	Pupil-led Celebration of the Word in classrooms. Key Stage 2 pupils use the Celebration of the Word boxes, artefacts, cloths and planning sheets to prepare and lead prayer.
Wednesday	Singing celebration develops the repertoire, confidence and participation needed for joyful worship and Mass. Alternate week Key Stage One assembly focused on Catholic Social Teaching and Liturgical Calander.
Thursday	Key-stage Two focus on Catholic Social Teaching and liturgical Calander. Two classes also visit Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church each week to celebrate parish Mass.
Friday	Celebration assembly recognises pupils who have lived out the school's core values.

The following Tuesday, Key Stage 2 pupils take their prepared Celebration of the Word box and plan to Key Stage 1 and model the liturgy they led in their own class. This develops pupils as prayer leaders, strengthens progression and gives younger pupils an authentic example of reverent, purposeful pupil leadership.

Mass is celebrated in school twice each term by Father John Ryan, the Trust priest. The annual calendar also includes Advent, Christingle and Easter services and productions, together with prayer and celebration appropriate to the liturgical year. Parents are welcomed to school Masses and invited to coffee mornings afterwards.

Charitable Outreach

We foster an awareness of the needs of others locally, nationally and globally and develop a spirit of generosity and compassion grounded in the life and teaching of Jesus. Pupils are encouraged not only to raise money, but to understand why action is needed and how their response expresses Catholic Social Teaching.

- CAFOD appeals and initiatives
- The Good Shepherd Appeal
- Support for local foodbanks
- RNLI fundraising and awareness
- Other local, national and global causes identified in response to need
- Pupil-led fundraising and service projects coordinated with the Catholic Life Team

The range of causes supported may change from year to year so that pupils can respond thoughtfully to current needs. Leaders ensure that charitable activity is age-appropriate, connected to prayer and learning, and evaluated for its impact on pupils' understanding and on those being served.

Working for Social Justice and Caring for Creation

Pupils are encouraged to put their faith into action by responding to issues of justice, poverty and care for creation. Through the curriculum, Catholic Social Teaching assemblies and the work of the Catholic Life Team, pupils learn about local and global challenges and consider how they can make a positive difference.

- working with the Green Team to care for the school allotment;
- promoting recycling, composting and responsible use of resources;
- collecting and donating food for local foodbanks;
- planning and leading campaigns in response to issues that matter to pupils;
- visiting local care homes and serving the wider community;
- supporting charitable appeals, including CAFOD and the Good Shepherd Appeal;
- reflecting on the difference their actions make and identifying meaningful next steps.

These experiences enable pupils to encounter and live out stewardship, dignity, solidarity, participation, the common good and the preferential option for the poor. Pupil voice and leadership are integral: children help identify needs, shape responses and communicate the impact of their actions.

Chaplaincy and Pupil Leadership

The spirituality and prayer life of the school are evident throughout its Catholic life and mission. Pupil leadership provides meaningful opportunities for children to grow in faith, serve others and contribute to the direction of the school's mission.

Catholic Life Team

The Catholic Life Team includes pupils from across Key Stage 2. Members receive annual formation and training led by Father John Ryan and meet each Friday with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The team supports school and parish events, fundraising, Mass and practical action for social justice and care for creation.

- supporting the preparation and celebration of school and parish events;
- helping to prepare for and serve during Mass;
- leading or supporting prayer and liturgy;
- contributing to charitable fundraising and pupil-led campaigns;
- working as part of the Green Team on the allotment, recycling and composting;
- supporting foodbank collections and community service;
- gathering and sharing pupil voice about Catholic life;
- acting as visible role models of the school's mission and values.

Praise and Worship Team

The Praise and Worship Team supports weekly singing praise assemblies and leads singing during Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Its ministry helps the whole community participate confidently, reverently and joyfully in worship.

Rosary Club

Mrs Hayes and the Catholic Life Team lead a weekly Rosary Club each Thursday. This gives pupils an additional opportunity to deepen their relationship with Mary and Jesus and to pray for the needs of the school, parish and wider world.

School Community

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School welcomes children, families and staff from all faiths and none. As a community centred in Christ, we strive to recognise the dignity and unique gifts of every person and give particular care to those who are vulnerable or in need.

Pastoral care, behaviour and relationships are shaped by our belief that every person is made in the image and likeness of God. We promote respect, reconciliation, forgiveness, restoration and the opportunity to begin again.

The school is part of St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust and the Diocese of Hallam. It works collaboratively with Catholic schools through termly local Religious Education coordinator events, Trust and diocesan formation, shared professional development and other opportunities for partnership. Through Religious Education and Catholic Social Teaching, pupils understand that they belong to the local and universal Church.

Parents and Families

Parents and carers are the first educators of their children. The school seeks to work in respectful partnership with them and to make Catholic life welcoming and accessible to every family.

- Parents are invited to school Masses and offered regular coffee mornings after some celebrations.
- Families are welcomed to whole-school events, including Advent, Christingle and Easter services and productions.
- School communications share opportunities for prayer, worship, charitable action and parish involvement.
- Parents' views are gathered through questionnaires, meetings and informal dialogue and inform evaluation and improvement.
- Parents are encouraged to join our PTA to help organise and host a range of events for our school community. All funds raised support and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

Parish Links

Links with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church are a vital part of the Catholic life of the school. Father Elliot is the parish priest. Father John Ryan, the Trust priest, celebrates Mass in school twice each term and supports the formation of the Catholic Life Team.

Two classes attend Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church each Thursday. This regular participation helps pupils understand the Eucharist as the source and summit of Catholic life and strengthens their sense of belonging to the parish community.

Designated parishioners visit the school every half term to work with pupils. Their contributions include Advent wreath making, learning walks, pupil voice activities and support for Christingle. These relationships enable pupils to learn with and from members of the parish and ensure that school and parish communities share in one another's life and mission.

Staff Formation and Professional Development

The school's continuing professional development programme gives clear priority to Catholic life, mission and Religious Education. Formation helps staff understand the distinctive purpose of Catholic education, articulate the school's mission and lead pupils confidently in faith, learning, prayer and service.

Mrs Jane Hayes, the Religious Education and Catholic Life and Mission Lead, has dedicated leadership time every Tuesday morning. This is used to quality-assure Religious Education and Catholic life, evaluate provision and support colleagues through book looks, learning walks, pupil voice, coaching, joint planning and professional dialogue. Staff also engage with relevant Trust and diocesan training and formation. Mrs Hayes also has regular opportunities to work with other 'Outstanding' schools in our Trust to share and gain valuable knowledge to further strengthen our school.

Induction for new staff includes the school's mission and values, expectations for the Catholic environment, prayer and liturgy, Religious Education, Catholic Social Teaching and the responsibility of every adult to contribute to the school's Catholic life.

Leadership of Catholic Life and Mission

The Headteacher, Mrs Martin, has overall responsibility for ensuring that the school remains faithful to its Catholic foundation and serves the educational mission of the Church. The Catholic Life and Mission Lead is Mrs Jane Hayes, Religious Education Lead and Year 2 teacher. Leadership is shared with senior leaders, governors, clergy, staff, pupils, families and parishioners.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Catholic life and mission are monitored systematically so that evaluation leads to sustained improvement. Evidence includes:

- Catholic self-evaluation and improvement planning;
- learning walks and review of the school's Catholic environment;
- monitoring Religious Education and Celebration of the Word;
- book looks and scrutiny of pupils' work;
- pupil voice, including feedback from the Catholic Life Team;
- staff and parent questionnaires and consultation;
- review of prayer areas, displays and class provision;
- evaluation of charitable action, social justice, care for creation and community engagement;
- reports and discussion with the governing body;
- feedback from clergy, parishioners, Trust leaders and diocesan partners.

Findings are used to identify priorities, plan staff development, strengthen pupil leadership and evaluate the impact of provision on pupils' knowledge, participation, spiritual development and commitment to putting faith into action.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and Catholic Life and Mission Lead and is evaluated with staff and governors. Foundation governors have a particular responsibility for preserving and developing the Catholic character of the school. The policy will be reviewed in September 2028, or earlier if diocesan, Trust or national guidance changes.

Appendix 1

Role of the Catholic Life and Mission Lead

Strategic Leadership

- Formulate, implement and review the Catholic Life and Mission Policy.
- Ensure Catholic life and mission are integral to the school improvement plan and Catholic self-evaluation.
- Work with the Headteacher, governors, clergy, Trust and diocese to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school.
- Ensure pupils can explain the school's mission and its impact in ways appropriate to their age, aptitude and faith background.
- Promote equitable opportunities for every pupil to participate in and contribute to Catholic life.

Provision and Formation

- Support staff to understand, articulate and live the school's mission and values.
- Coordinate relevant formation and professional development.
- Develop staff confidence in Catholic Social Teaching, prayer and liturgy and the wider mission of Catholic education.
- Ensure new staff receive an appropriate induction into the school's Catholic identity and expectations.
- Promote strong links between Catholic life, Religious Education, Relationships and Health Education and the wider curriculum.

Pupil Leadership and Outreach

- Guide the Catholic Life Team and support its weekly meetings with senior leaders.
- Coordinate annual formation for pupil leaders with Father John Ryan.
- Enable pupils to plan, lead and evaluate prayer, service, fundraising, social justice and care-for-creation activities.
- Maintain a coherent annual pattern of charitable action and community engagement while allowing pupils to respond to emerging needs.
- Support pupils to evaluate the difference their actions have made.

Monitoring and Communication

- Maintain effective systems and documentation for planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- Evaluate the quality and impact of Catholic life and mission using a broad range of evidence.
- Report to and consult the Headteacher and governing body about strengths, priorities and progress.
- Communicate the significance and impact of Catholic life and mission to pupils, staff, parents, parishioners and the wider community.
- Contribute accurate evidence and evaluative judgements to the Catholic self-evaluation process.

Resources and Environment

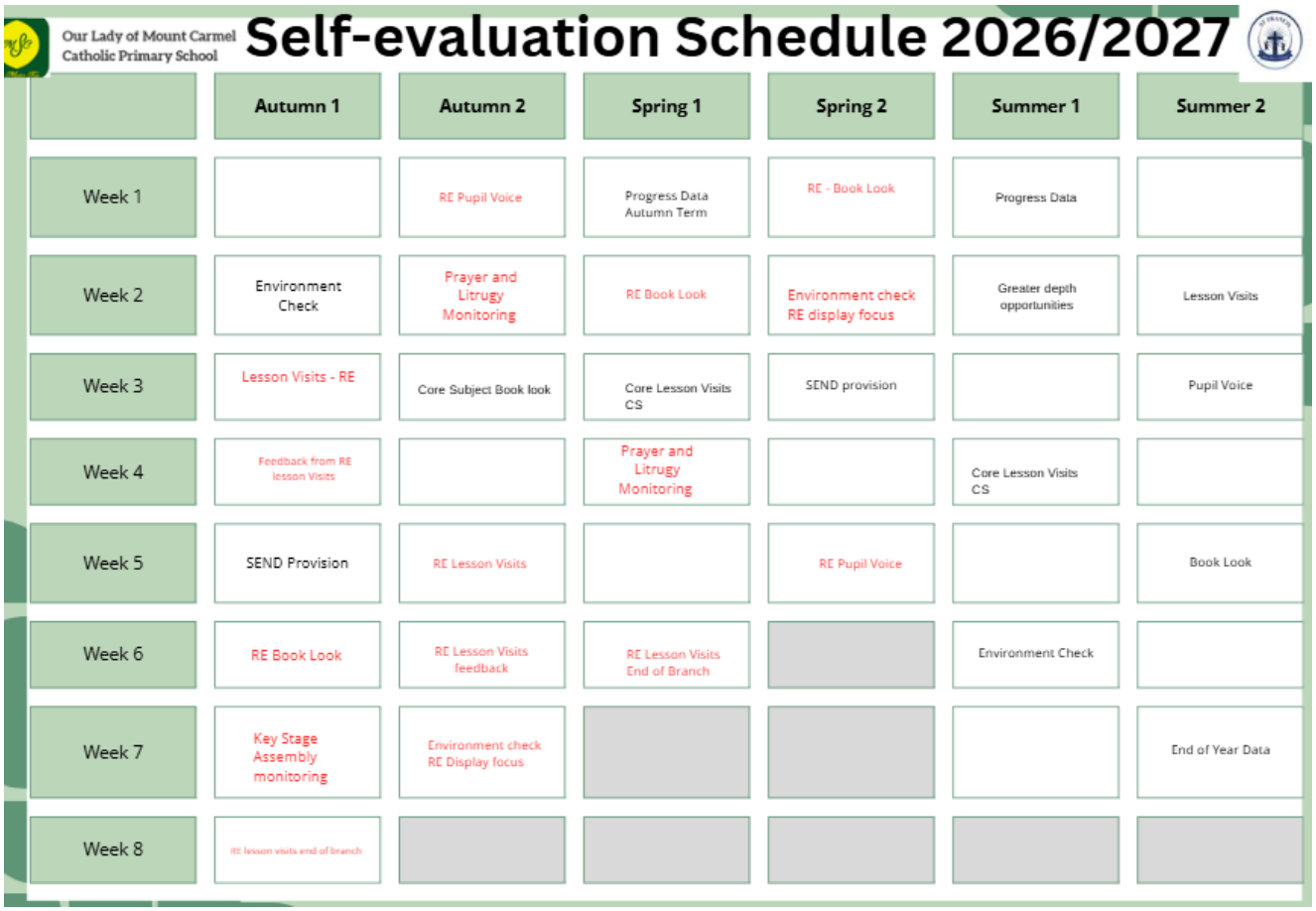
- Ensure suitable resources are available for prayer, Celebration of the Word, Catholic Social Teaching, pupil leadership and pastoral support.

- Monitor prayer areas, displays and shared spaces so that they remain purposeful, current and reflective of the liturgical year.
- Use delegated resources and leadership time effectively to improve provision and outcomes.

Appendix 2

Monitoring Cycle

The precise timing may be adjusted to reflect the liturgical year and school priorities. Evidence is triangulated and reported through the school's Catholic self-evaluation and governance arrangements.



	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Week 1		RE Pupil Voice	Progress Data Autumn Term	RE - Book Look	Progress Data	
Week 2	Environment Check	Prayer and Litrugy Monitoring	RE Book Look	Environment check RE display focus	Greater depth opportunities	Lesson Visits
Week 3	Lesson Visits - RE	Core Subject Book look	Core Lesson Visits CS	SEND provision		Pupil Voice
Week 4	Feedback from RE lesson Visits		Prayer and Litrugy Monitoring		Core Lesson Visits CS	
Week 5	SEND Provision	RE Lesson Visits		RE Pupil Voice		Book Look
Week 6	RE Book Look	RE Lesson Visits feedback	RE Lesson Visits End of Branch		Environment Check	
Week 7	Key Stage Assembly monitoring	Environment check RE Display focus				End of Year Data
Week 8	RE lesson visits end of branch					