**St Catherine’s Catholic Primary School**

**Religious Education Policy**

**Our Mission**

At St Catherine’s our mission is to

**‘Live, Love and Learn Together’**

The family of St Catherine’s Catholic Primary School helps everyone to do their best, to work hard together in a place of love, warmth and safety, following the teachings of Jesus.

**You will see us**

* Work hard to be the best we can be, celebrating and enjoying our achievements.
* Love, value and respect each other as Jesus taught us.
* Reach out to those who need us both near and far.
* Say sorry with honesty and courage and learn to forgive each other.
* Create a happy atmosphere, lasting friendships and wonderful memories.
* Create an environment where we feel spiritually, emotionally and physically safe, and our thoughts and feelings are listened to.

**Rationale:**

As a school, we understand that the primary goal in religious education is to help pupils come to know and experience God through learning about and reflecting on the life of Jesus. It provides opportunities to reflect on fundamental questions of life and develop values and beliefs through exploration of the Gospel. Children and staff are encouraged to live out these beliefs and values in the daily life of our school.

**Aims & Objectives:**

The aims of Religious Education at St Catherine’s are:

* To ***invite*** children to form a personal relationship with Jesus.
* To support children to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
* To provide children with opportunities for prayer and reflection.
* To develop children’s ability to listen, to think critically, to question, to reflect and to make informed judgements.
* To encourage children to see themselves as part of the wider parish and world community.
* To encourage children to learn about and respect the beliefs and traditions of other major world faiths.

While Catholic in nature, the RE learning journey at St Catherine’s welcomes, respects and celebrates those from all faiths and none.

**Curriculum:**

RE at St Catherine’s is a core subject and is underpinned by our School Mission Statement. RE curriculum follows the God Matters programme over ten units linked to the liturgical year of the Church seeking to engage, explore and reflect on key themes. Timetabled lessons (10% of the teaching time) are supported by liturgies, assemblies, prayer and worship (individual, class and whole school).

**Prayer and Worship:**

Prayer and worship is central to daily life at St Catherine’s. Morning, lunchtime and end of day prayer takes place in all classes across the school. After lunch each day, we have Christian meditation in class. There is a deep need in our world for stillness, simplicity and silence and we give our children an opportunity to have a special time to be still and silent with God.

Worship happens collectively as a whole school during Monday Liturgies and is led by class teachers/pupils following the previous Sunday’s Gospel theme. Parents and parishioners are most welcome to attend. On Wednesdays, Canon Richard leads Prayer and Praise with the whole school and on Thursdays there are class-based liturgies across the school. There are also twice yearly special class liturgies to which parents are invited. On Fridays, the school recognises special achievements during Celebration Assembly.

Mass takes place half-termly alternating between church and school. Each Key Stage 2 class takes it in turn to be responsible for the mass. Parents, parishioners and extended family are warmly invited to attend.

**Prayer & Worship Timetable**