



# *New to Catholic Schools guide.*





This guide has been created to help support new parents who may want to know more about Catholic life within our school.

Whether you are a parent who is of practicing Catholic faith currently, have been in the past or have never practiced religion, we know as a school it can feel like an aspect you want to know more about and also, possibly worry about asking particular questions.

This guide aims to clear up any of those questions, worries or confusion simply and clearly for all.

The overall ethos and values in which the Catholic Faith teaches such as love, charity, hope, courage, faith, solidarity, truth all enable the children to be nurtured within all of these elements. This prepares each member of the school community to play an active part in the building of a 'just' society.

# What does Catholic Life in school look like?

Catholic life in school essentially means how the Catholic ethos, values and teachings are actively developed and sought by all throughout school.



When your child starts school with us we ensure that all aspects of Catholic life are developed at an age and stage appropriate level and that the children are encouraged to have an element of awe and wonder within their Religious Education.

## Celebration of the Word

Celebration of the Word refers to any moment when we come together to pray and worship regardless of location. It is a beautiful time of the day where we stop to come together and gives us all a much needed opportunity to offer prayers to God, give praise and reflect on our spirituality.

These Celebrations of the Word happen both as a whole school gathering, Key stage or Class. The children are given the opportunity to be involved in the planning, preparation and leading of elements within the celebration. Each Celebration is a focus on a reading from the Gospel and provides time to reflect, discuss and complete a Mission which is related to the Weekly Word.

Every week the children all take part in a whole school Celebration of the word on a Monday morning which is led by the Year 6 Chaplaincy team. The children will also have a class Celebration of the word and also some terms will have a key stage 1/2 celebration of the word also.

## Religious Education

Religious Education is a core subject, therefore finding itself at the centre of our school. All students will have Religious Education twice weekly with their class teacher. As an academic subject it is rigorously planned and delivered with the same expertise as all other core subjects.

However, Religious Education is more than just an academic subject. It informs our faith, nurtures our personal quest for God and inspires us to continue on our quest for a greater understanding of God and God's creation. Each topic is based upon Catholic teaching and the children are also taught about two other faiths each year.

## Parish Community

Our school ensures a strong link with our Parish Community by attending Mass weekly and inviting the members to school events and celebrations.

One of the first experiences of God's love and of their Catholic faith, is for many of our students, had within their local parish. The parish priest plays a central role in nurturing and supporting both young people and staff alike.

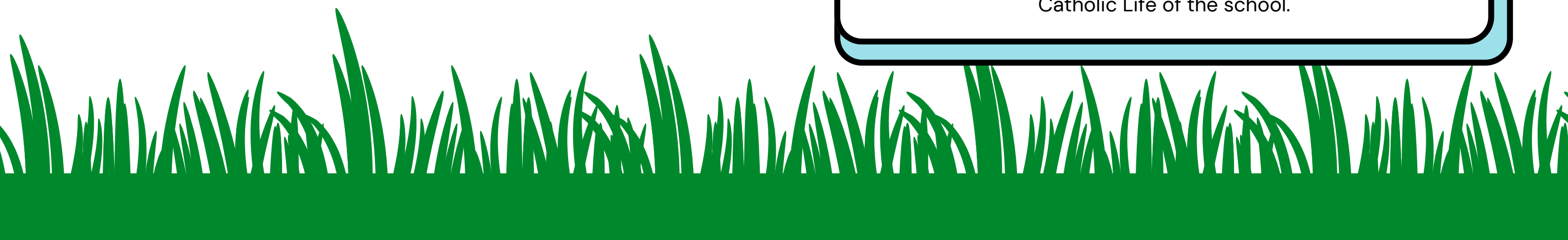
First and foremost, this happens through the celebration of the Sacraments. It also comes in the form of catechesis, both in the parish and in the school.

## Year 6 Chaplaincy Team

Chaplains play a central role in supporting all members of the school community in their faith life. The chaplaincy team will regularly meet to plan Celebration of the Word, write prayers and carry out charity work.

Further to these activities, their role is to share their knowledge and expertise with others in school so all can join in with this central and defining characteristic of our Trust.

Ultimately, their role is to support staff and students with the Catholic Life of the school.



Children in Class 4 created and developed these to make the link between each letter's stand more accessible, we love them!

## Mission statement

Schools create their own mission statement to outline clearly where they want to be – it's a future state and communicates clearly the values and purpose. It details how the school is going to get to that future state and achieve their vision – it defines purpose and the school's primary aims.



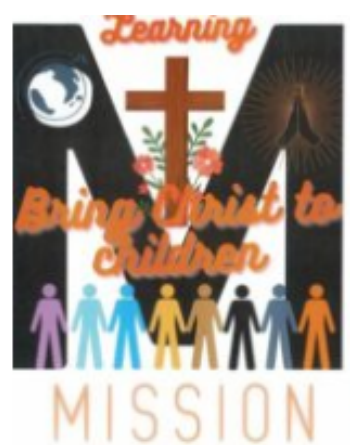
### S – Service and Stewardship

- We care for each other – 'Love one another as I have loved you'
- We understand our obligation and responsibility to other in our local, national and world wide communities.
- We are learning to become global citizens, courageously following in Jesus' footsteps.
- We are working together to Building God's Kingdom on Earth.
- We are helping to look after the most vulnerable in our communities.



### T – Togetherness

- We work together for the greater good.
- We work together cooperatively as a team.
- We are disciples of Christ and we show this through our actions.
- We are stronger together.



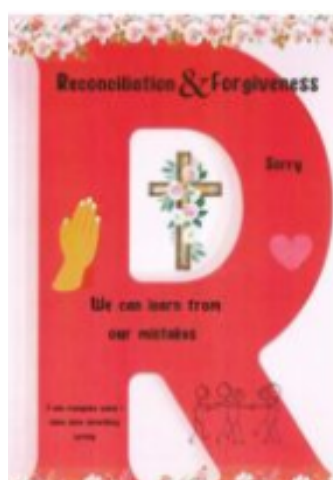
### M – Mission

- We ensure all of our pupils receive the best learning opportunities through the provision of a broad and diverse curriculum.
- We bring Christ to all of our children, ensuring that he is front and centre in everything we do – 'Rip of the Roof'.
- We are the living Gospel.
- We strive to be the best we can be and achieve our God given potential.



### A – Awe and Wonder

- We are inspiring our pupils to be future leaders.
- We recognise the awe and wonder in God's creation.
- We recognising our uniqueness in the eyes of God.
- We are being inspired to learn more, know more and understand more.



### R – Reconciliation and Forgiveness

- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.



### Y – Yes!

- We are Saying 'yes' to God by following in His footsteps and accepting Him into our hearts.
- We are Saying 'yes' to opportunities that present themselves to us.
- We are saying 'yes' to new challenges and persevering when they prove difficult.
- We are saying 'yes' to helping those in need.
- We are saying 'yes' to achieving our best through the provision of our broad and diverse curriculum.
- We are saying 'yes' to celebrating our differences.



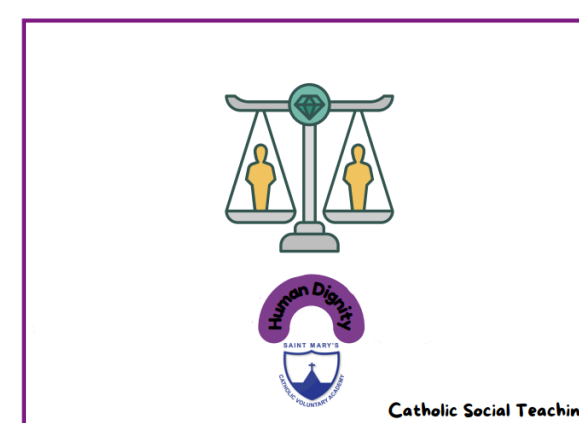
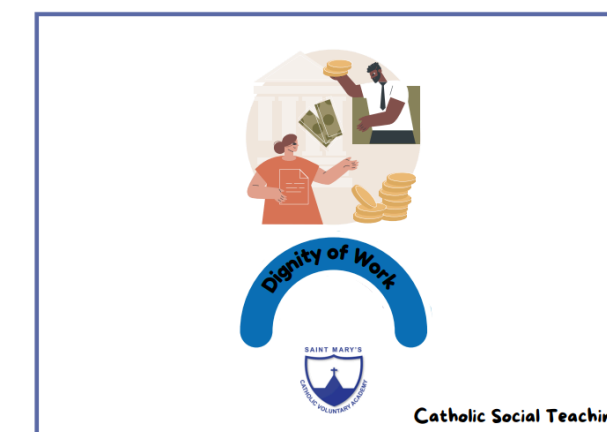
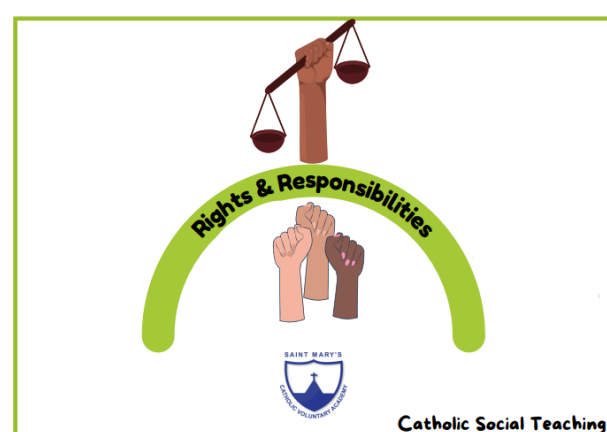
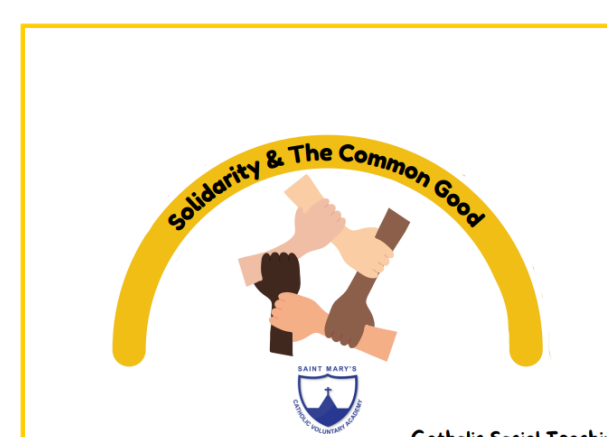
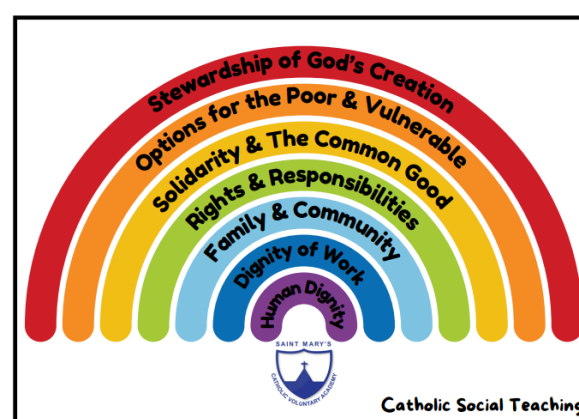
### S – Spirituality

- We recognise our faith in God and that we are all part of something greater.
- We know that through prayer we discover who we are and why we are here.
- We grow through our Gospel Values, of acceptance, hope, faith, courage, honesty, love, charity, solidarity and truth.
- We all know that "I am Important and Precious because God loves me".

# Catholic Social Teaching

St Mary's Catholic Social Teaching ensures all our pupils develop important life skills so that they go out into this world and do something good. We empower them to be confident and unique individuals who can articulate the following: how man kind impacts on our world, to show dignity for all, rights and responsibilities, option for the poor and solidarity for the common good. They learn to practice kindness and compassion in everything they do, to be acceptant of others and celebrate are similarities and differences. We are helping all our pupils to recentre their moral compass focusing on being the disciples of Christ through their actions and words. We are inspiring them to be the next generation of world leaders and they will know that they can make a positive difference in our world.

*"Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world"*  
CAFOD



To allow for Catholic Social Teaching to be understood and accessible to the children at St Mary's we have created a rainbow arch which shows each strand within each of the seven arches and an image to represent this further.

Each class has this displayed throughout the classroom to recognise the link between the curriculum and the children are provided the opportunity to discuss how they can make links between their learning and how these are supported and encouraged through the Catholic Social Teaching strands.



## How to make the sign of the cross

The children are taught how to make the sign of the cross during the first week of attending school. We ensure the children understand what this means and that we do this at the beginning and end of each prayer said throughout the school day.



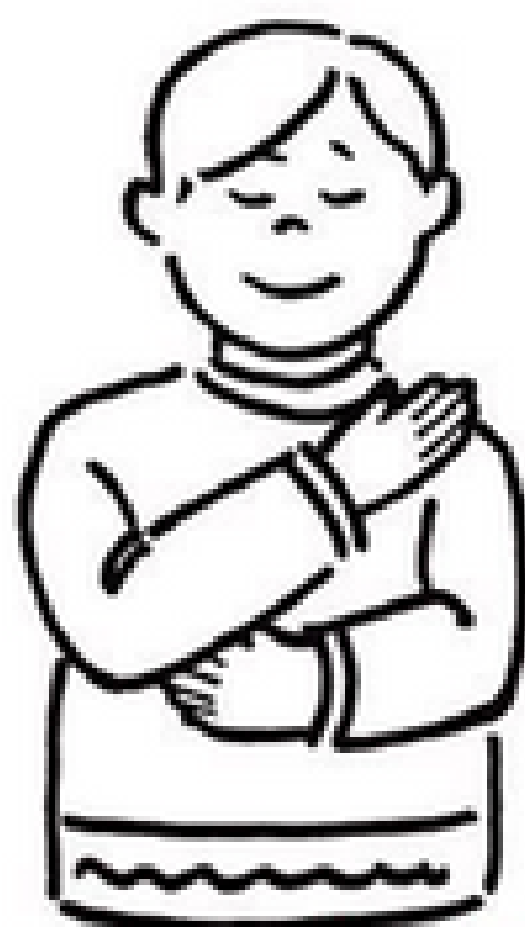
"In the name of



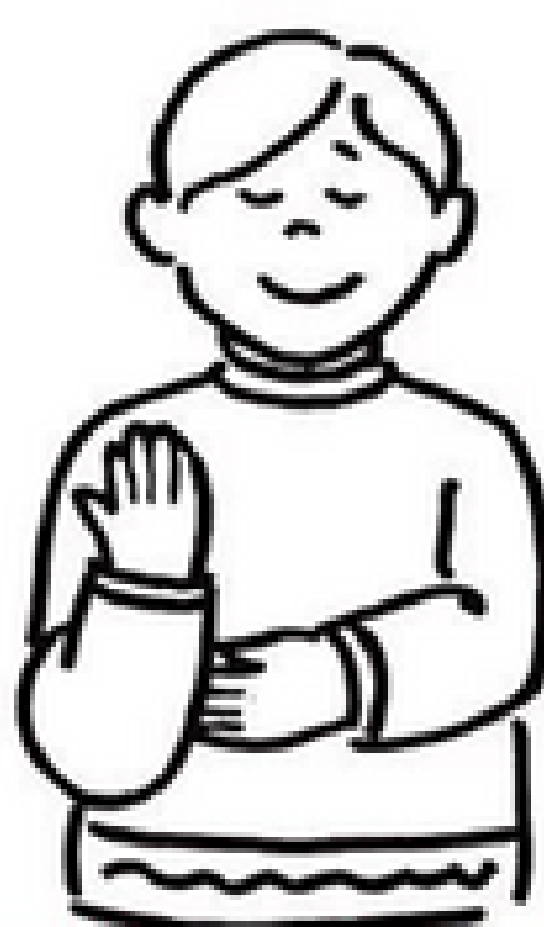
the Father,



the Son



and the Holy



Spirit



Amen"

# Prayer

**“Prayer is like a musical score, giving life melody, meaning”  
Pope Francis**

Throughout the school day prayer is woven throughout to reflect, to feel, give thanks, wish and be mindful of God. We open each prayer with the sign of the cross and say the words with our hands together throughout.

We have four prayers which are said every day within the classroom and the children learn these when they arrive in Reception and will remain their daily prayers throughout each class.

There are also prayers the children will learn when they start school such as the Hail Mary and the Our Father. These prayers may be said within Mass or classroom and whole school Celebration of the Word. As they move through school the children learn a full range of traditional and non-traditional prayers.

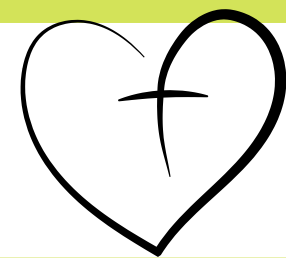


## MORNING PRAYER

# 1

Oh my God you love me,  
you're with me night and day  
I want to love you always  
in all I do and say

I'll try to please you father  
Bless me through the day  
and we ask God to help us  
to have a happy day together  
to try our best and be kind to others  
Amen.



## GRACE BEFORE MEALS

# 2

Bless us oh God as we sit  
together  
Bless the food we eat today  
Bless the hands that make the  
food  
Bless us oh God  
Amen.



## GRACE AFTER MEALS

# 3

Thank you God for the food we  
have eaten  
Thank you God for all our  
friends  
Thank you God for everything  
Thank you god  
Amen

## END OF DAY PRAYER

# 4

God our father, I've come to say  
Thank you for our love today  
Thank you for my family  
and all the friends you give to me  
Guide me in the dark of night  
and in the morning., send your light  
Amen



Week 1  
Eucharist



St Ralph  
Sherwin  
Catholic Faith Academy Trust

Christ Jesus, Bread of Life, feed us with  
your love and wisdom and show us how we  
can help others, so that all people may  
have enough to eat. Amen.



Pause for Prayer is also  
incorporated throughout the  
week to have a moment of  
spiritual reflection within  
class.

## HAIL MARY PRAYER

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord  
is with thee; blessed art thou  
among women and blessed is  
the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray  
for us sinners, now and at the  
hour of our death.  
Amen.



## OUR FATHER

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom  
come; Thy will be done on earth as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as  
we forgive those who trespass against  
us; and lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

# Mission

Each week the children are set a mission within their class Celebration of the Word. This is given to the children to achieve in their day to day lives to continue to live out the catholic virtues, values and beliefs.

The mission is set by our Lay Chaplain or class teacher and is linked to that weeks focus from the Ordo calendar. It will have a link to the scripture, read to the children and then posted on Class Dojo to allow parents to know the weeks mission also to allow this to be encouraged at home also.





# COMMON TERMS AND PHRASES USED AND THEIR DEFINITION.

<i>Crucifix</i>	<i>A cross with Jesus on it. This is hung in the alter in every church.</i>
<i>Father</i>	<i>Term used for addressing the priest</i>
<i>Catholicism</i>	<i>Everything that describes the Catholic Church and its beliefs.</i>
<i>Lectionary</i>	<i>The readings from the Bible in a 3-year cycle that are read at Church daily.</i>
<i>Genuflection</i>	<i>Kneeling in front of the tabernacle (which is close to the alter) and making the sign on the cross.</i>
<i>Rosary</i>	<i>Beaded chain for praying with which has a set number of prayers.</i>
<i>Sacred Scripture, The Scriptures</i>	<i>the Bible.</i>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## ? WHO

Who teaches the children Religious Education?

Their class teacher will teach the whole class Religious Education.

## ? WHAT

What if we are of another faith/religion at home?

The children are taught to be respectful of all religions and faiths therefore, they will be taught to respect and take part in appropriate daily celebrations

## ? WHEN

When do each class attend Mass at church?

Each class typically will attend Mass at least once each term but Class One children will not be expected to attend Mass until their teacher feels they will be able to sit for the duration. This is typically within their second term.

## ? WHY

Why make the sign of the cross before and after prayer?

There are many reasons why but simply, when we sign ourselves we are making ourselves aware of God's presence and opening ourselves to his action in our lives.

## ? HOW

How can we support our child with their Catholic Teaching?

Our Parish church welcomes everyone and attending Mass really can support and nurture your child's engagement with their faith and their deeper understanding and respect for Catholicism.

## ? I ...

I have another question, where shall I go to ask?

We are an extremely welcoming and understanding school. If there is anything at all you would like further clarity on please do email [info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk) where we will ensure your question is directed to the best person to support you.



# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN...

How we pray together

## Liturgy



Liturgy is the set prayers of our Church, they all have an order and are all done the same way. For example Mass, First communions and Baptisms are all Liturgies. These celebrations are usually lead by a priest.

Mass



Ash Wednesday



Sacraments




How we pray together


## Celebration of the Word




A Celebration of the Word is what we see the most in school. They are the prayers we plan and deliver to each other. They will follow our order of **Gather, Word, Respond & Mission.** Celebrations of the word will also be a chance for us to be creative with our Prayer.



RE Lesson



Assembly



Class

How we pray together

## Prayer



Prayer are the little things we say and do together. They are the moments in our day when we stop and talk to God. Often its not very long or very complicated, but is still very important.

Start of day



Grace before meals



End of Day



http://



## Useful resources and websites.

sometimes it is great to have a look online to familiarise yourself further. Here are some useful websites we recommend:

### Catholic Social Teaching

[catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles](http://catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles)



### CAFOD

[cafod.org.uk/about-us/cafod-catholicism](http://cafod.org.uk/about-us/cafod-catholicism)

### Catholic Bishops' Conference in England & Wales

[cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)

### Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

[ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk)

### Word on the Go: the Bible for Busy Catholics

[wordonthego.org](http://wordonthego.org)

