



# **Catholic Life and Mission Policy**

**2025-26**

## Our Mission Statement

### **Learning**

*We try our best*



### **Loving**

*We show respect*



### **Living**

*We take care of one another and our things*



## Our Vision

### **Learning**

- *Embrace my opportunities to grow, aspire, thrive and excel.*
- *Become Christ through the Good News.*

### **Loving**

- *Show love, tolerance and acceptance of all around me.*
- *Love others as Christ loves us.*

### **Living**

- *Leading, serving and walking with my community.*
- *Living in communion with Christ.*

**INCLUSION STATEMENT** - The Governors are committed to `inclusion` in education: this involves minimizing barriers to learning and participation. We believe that each child is unique and has unique needs `belief in the individual leads Catholic schools to have the duty to care for the poor and to educate those who are socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged`

*(Catholic Bishops' Conference May 2014.)*

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT** - The Governors and Staff at St Alban's believe that all people are entitled to equal opportunities, respect and consideration regardless of race, colour, creed, gender, disability or personal circumstances. Therefore, we are opposed to any form of prejudice or discrimination which denies people this equality. This principle applies to both adults and children in our school.

## **Rationale**

In the life and faith of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and central part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.

*'Catholic Schools have a distinctive nature of education' – (Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2014)*

## **Ethos**

At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, being Catholic is at the heart of everything we do. This means we focus on loving God and loving others, just like Jesus taught us. We learn about our faith in fun and meaningful ways, like through prayer, school Masses, and helping others in our community.

Every day, we start and end with prayer. We celebrate important times in the Church year, like Christmas and Easter, with special events and assemblies. We also come together for Mass and other moments of worship where everyone is welcome to join.

Our school believes in showing kindness and care for everyone, no matter their background. We learn about Catholic Social Teaching, which helps us understand how to make the world a fairer place. This could mean caring for the planet, helping those in need, or supporting charities through projects like food drives and fundraisers.

Our teachers and leaders help us grow in faith and character. They guide us to be the best we can be, not just in lessons but in how we treat each other. There are also chaplaincy opportunities where we can join in prayer groups, plan liturgies, or take part in retreats to deepen our spiritual journey.

We believe everyone is unique and made in the image of God, which is why we celebrate the gifts and talents of every student. Whether it's through music, art, or helping others, there's always a way to contribute to our school's Catholic mission.

Together, we are building a loving and supportive school community where faith and learning go hand in hand. Our Catholic Life helps us to grow closer to God, care for each other, and prepare for the future with faith, hope, and love.

At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we believe that all children have the right to develop their potential and our aim is to create a welcoming, caring environment where children feel safe and happy. Staff are committed to their responsibility for children's social and emotional attitudes to learning and managing behaviour appropriately, as laid down in the Professional Standards for Teachers.

Essentially our Ethos is demonstrated by the outward signs and the personal experiences of the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church in the totality of daily life in our school.

We recognise that for the children to fulfil their potential, the Gospel values and virtues need to be explicitly named, defined, modelled and for all pupils to be supported to understand how they relate to their lives both at school, at home and in society. At St Alban's, this enterprise is not in addition to the quest for academic success and high standards of behaviour but integral to it.

The **Gospel values** are taken from Luke's Gospel and explicitly taught at St Alban's which include:

- Love
- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Hope
- Preferential option for the lost and least
- Justice
- Humility
- Integrity
- Simplicity
- Non-violence

### **Catholic Virtues**

Our values will then influence our culture which is created by the actions of our school community. Virtues are positive patterns of behaviour intended to respect God, ourselves and our brothers and sisters. Therefore, our children learn about the Theological and Cardinal virtues and how to develop the positive patterns of behaviour required to live Christian and virtuous lives. The intention is to create a distinctively Catholic place of educational and spiritual development where a virtuous culture is focused on our Gospel values and on Christ being at the centre.

Throughout this year, St Alban's will be developing and implementing '*Virtues to Love by*' and '*Virtues to Learn by*', which are taken from the Leeds Diocese '*Virtues to Live by*' resources.

### **Intent**






St Alban's is a school where all are valued as a child of God, where everyone is enabled to mature towards their full growth in Christ and achieve their potential. Our Curriculum is based on our school Motto of *Learning, Loving, Living, side by side with God* and is rooted in Luke's Gospel values, British Values, Catholic Social Teaching principles, is knowledge rich and ambitious for all our learners. Our new curriculum follows seven themes that allow our children to develop deeper knowledge and understanding of the curriculum themes as they progress through each year group.




At Holy Cross Primary CVA, the **intent** is to offer a knowledge-rich curriculum which is broad and balanced and ambitious. Our curriculum will build on the knowledge and understanding of all children, whatever their starting points, as they progress through each Key Stage linked to Luke's "Gospel Values" of Compassion, Gentleness, Justice, Integrity, Simplicity, Humility, Preferential option for the lost and least, Love, Forgiveness and Hope and to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

### ***We celebrate and live a Catholic life in our school by:***

- Valuing our environment –Forest Schools, Laudato Si work, School Council, Chaplaincy Group – maintaining prayer environments
- Valuing others – Virtues to Love by, Fairtrade Fortnight, Children's Anti Bullying Policy, Children's Character Behaviours, Children's Rights Week, The St Alban's Way, SEND Statement and curriculum policies.
- Valuing our faith – we have regular prayers, Collective Worships (see policy), visit to the parish church and working with the parish and our priest.

- Valuing our community – surveying all stakeholders about Catholic Life in our school and what we can do to improve this, our Mission.
- Learning through our achievements – Virtues to Learn by, Individual dojo points and merits, class certificates, Character behaviour award, end of year awards.
- Living out our mission – raising money for charities, including all stakeholders in our mission and Motto.
- Learning to think about what Jesus would do and to act how Jesus taught us too.
- Learning to be the best we can be – staff, pupils, governors and parents.
- Loving each other as Jesus taught us (Behaviour/ Anti Bullying policy) through explicit teaching of the Catholic Social Teaching principles:

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle	Link to CAFOD character	Link to a Saint
<p><b>Human Dignity</b> Each of us is made in God’s image. Every person has an innate human dignity no one can take away.</p>	 <p>Luc the Deer</p>	<p>St Maximilion Kolbe St Josephine Bakhita</p>
<p><b>The Common Good</b> Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all. The common good is about respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people and leaving no one behind.</p> <p><b>Solidarity</b> Being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good</p>	 <p>Chikondi the Giraffe</p>  <p>Shristi the Sun bear</p>	<p>St Oscar Romero St Alban</p>
<p><b>Stewardship</b> Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources.</p>	 <p>Sofia the Sloth</p>	<p>St Francis of Assisi</p>
<p><b>Option for the poor</b> A preferential option for the poor means that we think first about the needs of those who are the most vulnerable.</p>	 <p>Poppy the Pōpokotea</p>	<p>St Mother Teresa</p>

<p><b>Family, Community and Sharing fairly</b> Distributive justice is all about fair allocation of resources (including income, goods and services) God's plan was for all people to share in the goods of this world.</p>	<p>DJ the Dolphin</p> 	<p>St Vincent de Paul St Joseph the Worker</p>
<p><b>Subsidiarity</b> Subsidiarity involves making sure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level, so all those affected can contribute and have a voice. Everyone has important ideas and knows what is best for their families and communities. They need to have a say and the chance to influence outcomes.</p> <p><b>Participation</b> We all have the right and duty to participate fully in society We have a responsibility to be inclusive so that we allow all people to participate.</p>	<p>Sid the Sheep</p>  <p>Patariki the Penguin</p> 	<p>St Martin de Porres</p>

All pupils are at the centre of shaping the school's mission and ethos. Pupils contribute in a planned and systematic way to the school's evaluation of its Catholic Life and Mission and take a lead in planning improvements to it, pupils are involved in planning Masses, Celebration of the Word and Academy events.

We encourage all pupils to have a deep experience of belonging and enthusiastically embrace the demands that membership of the community entails. Pupils take a leading role in those activities which promote the school's ethos within school and in the wider community.

We have high expectations of Behaviour and encourage the behaviour of almost all pupils to be exemplary at all times. We follow our Motto 'Learning, Loving, Living, side by side with God' so pupils are alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community. All pupils are expected to follow The St Alban's Way.

We will encourage all pupils, including those who are not Catholic, to be proud of their own religious identity and beliefs and have a strong sense of personal worth. Through every day interactions they will recognise the validity of these feelings in others even when they do not share their convictions.

Pupils will be taught to treasure the outward signs of the school's Catholic identity – they will value our environment.

Pupils understand the importance and celebrate key celebrations in school throughout the liturgical year and in the parish community and have some involvement with parish and diocesan activities and celebrations. Our Forest Schools sessions also link to the Liturgical calendar and Catholic Life.

*Updated January 2026 by T. McNamara (Headteacher)*

*This policy will be reviewed annually.*

*Signed By:*

*Mrs Tammie McNamara                      Headteacher                      January 2026*

*Mr Stuart Olivier                      Chair of Governors                      January 2026*