

St. Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy

CATHOLIC LIFE POLICY

St Alban's Catholic Primary School will educate our young children within a happy caring environment and Christian atmosphere, thus their whole lives may be inspired by the Spirit of Christ they experience.

"Learning together, side by side with God."

This policy has been adapted from Holy Cross Catholic Voluntary Academy.

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 Catholic Voluntary Academy 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

CATHOLIC LIFE

In placing 'Christ at the Centre' (Christ at the Centre, Catholic Trust Society, 2012), all that we do in school is based around the Gospel Values. All of our policies take into consideration our Mission Statement ALBAN values and school Motto.

We celebrate and live a Catholic Life in our school by:

- Valuing our environment – Gardening Club, Mini Leaders, Year 5 and 6 children having positions of responsibility in school, School Council, Mrs Tomlinson's Prayer Group, Chaplaincy team.
- Valuing others – Anti Bullying Policy, Prayer partners, Children's Behaviour in class and on the playground, school rules, SEND Statement and curriculum policies.

- Valuing our faith – we have regular prayers, Collective Worship (see policy), visit to the parish church, working with the parish and STLB.
- Valuing our community – surveying everyone in our community about Catholic Life in our school and what we can do to improve this, our Mission.
- Valuing our achievements – DOJO points, Star reader, writer and mathematician, Golden Book award, A Heart which sees (lunchtime award), class certificates, dinner time certificates and Golden Table awards.
- Challenging others – raising money for charities, including all stakeholders in our mission and Motto.
- Challenging ourselves to think about what Jesus would do and to act how Jesus taught us too.
- All of us challenging ourselves to be the best we can be – staff, pupils, governors and parents. Word of the week from the Wednesday Word.
- Loving each other as Jesus taught us (Behaviour/ Anti Bullying policy)

Pupils are at the centre of shaping the school’s mission and ethos. They contributed to our ALBAN values and wrote the school motto. Pupils have more recently contributed in a planned and systematic way to the school’s evaluation of its Catholic Life and take a lead in planning improvements to it. Pupils are involved in planning Masses both in school and at St Alban’s church for our parish community, Acts of Collective Worship 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 all pupils to be exemplary at all times. We follow our Motto “Learning together, side by side with God” and reflect on it daily so pupils are aware of the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community.

We 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 involvement with parish and diocesan activities and celebrations.