



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

— + —
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

This policy operates in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church¹
and our Academy Mission Statement².

Approved by: the Local Governing Body, Advent Term 2024.

Next Review: Advent Term 2026.

¹ The teachings of the Catholic Church are detailed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church published by the Catholic Truth Society, London, an Official Publisher to The Holy See.

² The Academy Mission Statement is located on page 4 of this policy and on our website.

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

Contents

	Page
Mission Statement	4
Patron Saint	5
1 The impact of the Mission Statement	6
2 Nurturing a Love of God through Prayer and Liturgy	6
3 Nurturing a Love of God through the Performing Arts	7
4 Nurturing a Love of Neighbour through Acts of Virtue and Wider Outreach	8
5 Parental Involvement	9
6 Leadership, Monitoring, and Review	9
7 Supporting documents	10
8 Policy Review	10
9 Prayers of Saint John Henry Newman	11



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

MISSION STATEMENT

Jesus said: "I AM the Light of the World."

By the Light of Jesus Christ, God reveals to each of us who He is.
God is Love, and His Love is revealed in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.
God's Love is revealed in His Creation, in our beautiful world, in His Holy Catholic Church, in our families, in our friends, and in every human person, and we welcome all in the Holy Name of Jesus.
At St. Bernadette's, we believe that every child is a precious gift from God to each of our families, created in His own image and likeness so as to radiate His Love, Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.
We believe that every child has been blessed by God's Grace to know Him and love Him, and to know of God's infinitely deep and abiding Love for each of His children.
Upon entering our academy, children are welcomed into a loving, caring, safe, and nurturing environment, beginning a journey with us through which they will grow and mature, blossom and flourish.
We help our families to form their children by providing a well-rounded education, full of challenge and rigour; fun and creativity; excitement and wonder.

'Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world'

Our academy motto expresses our firm and enduring commitment to endeavour for excellence.
We believe that every child has been created by God to strive for excellence in all aspects of life, and when united in friendship with Jesus, they are empowered to reflect the Light of Christ to the world.

**Jesus said: "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."
"I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full."**

JESUS IS 'THE WAY' so let us walk in His footsteps of Love and Friendship, and follow His example of Goodness.

JESUS IS 'THE TRUTH' so let us listen to what He says, believe His teachings, and profess His Gospel.

JESUS IS 'THE LIFE' so let us live by His commandments to love God, and love our neighbour.

When we do these things, Jesus will help us to lead the life He wants us to have, 'and have it to the full'.
Just as Jesus said that He is 'the Cornerstone' on which we should build our whole lives, in the same way, our Cornerstone Values, centred on Christ, provide the firm foundation for all that we do in our academy.

OUR CORNERSTONE VALUES

- LOVE** To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbour as Jesus loves us.
- VIRTUE AND GOODNESS** To grow in virtue, becoming more like Jesus in what we think, say, and do. To be well-behaved and well-mannered; courteous and polite; considerate and helpful; kind and forgiving.
- PRAYER AND SERVICE** To be friends with Jesus through prayer and devotion, liturgy, and worship of God. To live the Gospel in service of others – our family, academy, parish, the wider community, and in charitable outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves; the poor, the disadvantaged, and the suffering.
- RADIANCE** To enkindle our God-given gifts and talents, so that we may shine like bright stars for all to see.
- JOY** To aspire to be happy, cheerful, and healthy; confident yet humble; compassionate and heroic.
- WONDER** To be inspired by a spirit of enquiry and wonder, taking delight in creativity and discovery.
- EXCELLENCE** To strive for excellence, and have high aspirations to work hard and achieve our very best.

We believe that every child is unique and special, created by God for a special reason, with a unique mission – a vocation which God is calling them towards – and we believe that God has blessed each child with the character, gifts, and talents to help them succeed and be happy in their mission.

At St. Bernadette's, it is our honour and our passion to help, support, and encourage each child to fulfil their God-given potential, and ready them to contribute positively to society in service of others.

Walking in footsteps of love with Jesus, following the example of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, may each child come to know of their special place in God's Heart, and when 'Heart speaks unto heart', may each child have the trust and confidence to pray the words of this prayer by Saint John Henry Newman:

**'God has created me to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission.'**



Patron Saint

Saint John Henry Newman

We ask and pray for the guiding and sustaining influence and powerful intercession of this holy saint in the implementation of this policy for our academy.



Saint John Henry Newman (A.D. 1801 – A.D. 1890) was born in London, the eldest of six children in a family who were members of the Church of England. From an early age John Henry became an avid reader of the Bible, and by fifteen he believed it self-evident that there is a Creator who loved him. At sixteen he became an undergraduate at Trinity College Oxford, and during his studies there decided to dedicate his life to God as a 'minister of Christ' in the Anglican Church. In 1830, whilst a tutor in Oxford, he began to read the writings of Church Fathers – the great teachers of the early Christian Church – and saw that the Catholic faith and its apostolic succession through history was clearly present in their teaching which he described as 'magnificent, like music to my inward ear.' So began his journey towards the Catholic Church into which he was received in 1845, his conversion giving him a great sense of peace which he said was 'like coming into port after a rough sea'. In 1847, he was ordained a Catholic priest in Rome where he was impressed by an order of priests living in community following the cheerful example of Saint Philip Neri. On his return to England he founded the first Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in England, in Birmingham. Others followed, first in London, and much later in Oxford, York, Manchester, Bournemouth, and Cardiff.

In 1852 having spent four years working in Ireland, he wrote about the benefits of education and its need to 'educate the intellect to reason well, and to reach out towards truth and grasp it,' but he stressed the importance of striving to live a life of virtue, 'knowledge is one thing, virtue is another.' For the next 40 years he dedicated his life to his work in service of the people of Birmingham. In 1879, he was made a Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII for his service to the Catholic Church in England, but whereas normally a cardinal would be appointed from amongst the ranks of bishops, John Henry wished to remain a priest at the Oratory in Birmingham to serve its people there. He chose for his Cardinal's motto 'heart speaks to heart' saying 'It is the very triumph of God's grace that He enters into the heart of man, and persuades it, and prevails with it, while He changes it.' On his death in 1890, his funeral saw tens of thousands line the streets of Birmingham to honour him. His eloquent preaching had captivated people coming from far and wide to listen to him. He also wrote extensively, and from one of his prayers we have taken inspiration for our Mission Statement and the purpose it inspires to foster in our school a wholesome and cheerful Catholic Life and a sure sense of Mission within each child, created by God for a specific mission to do good and to work for God's glory.

God has created me to do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission.
I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good; I shall do His work.

Words from a prayer by Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman

1 The impact of our Mission Statement

Centred on Jesus Christ, rooted in our faith and hope in Him, and expressive of our love of Him, Our Mission Statement is the foundation stone on which we build the Catholic Life of the school. It is highly visible throughout the school environment. It clearly reflects the school's role in the educational Mission of the Church, promoting wholesome Gospel values, which we call our Cornerstone Values after Jesus who is the Cornerstone on which we should build our whole lives, and the timeless teachings of the Catholic Church. Its impact is felt throughout the school, advancing, promoting, and helping nurture the Catholic Life and Mission of our school by:

- ❖ Establishing, maintaining, and developing a Catholic ethos which is reflected in who we are as followers of Christ, striving to live by Christian principles and values, and our Catholic ethos permeates everything we do and is apparent to all those who enter the school;
- ❖ Developing children's knowledge and understanding that they are beautifully created in God's image and likeness, that He loves each one of them deeply, that He desires our love of Him, and His Church, His Blessed Mother and all His Angels and Saints, and that He desires that we should love one another as He loves us;
- ❖ Instructing, explaining and demonstrating the Gospel values;
- ❖ Creating a distinctively Catholic culture where all members of the school community strive to lead good and virtuous lives;
- ❖ Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in Collective Worship;
- ❖ Creating a place of learning where the Catholic faith is central;
- ❖ Providing an enriched curriculum which is creative, inspiring, and wholesome;
- ❖ Being an outreaching centre of God's mission on earth in promoting the virtues of faith, hope and charity;
- ❖ Ensuring that our Cornerstone Values are permeated through all policies;
- ❖ Developing children's understanding of vocation, that God created each person for a unique and special purpose in life;
- ❖ Supporting the Sacramental Programme within the Parish;
- ❖ Ensuring that all members of our community feel welcome, valued, and loved.

2 Nurturing a Love of God through Prayer and Liturgy

We aim to nurture a love of God within our community through prayer and liturgy offered with joy, reverence, and childlike affection. We provide spiritual development for pupils and staff alike, and invite our families to develop spiritually in connection with the school and parish. We do this by:

- ❖ Providing children with the skills to develop their own prayer life – through the reading of Holy Scripture, music, drama and prayer;
- ❖ Providing opportunities for pupil-led liturgical prayer weekly and support from our Lay Chaplain;

- ❖ Weekly prayer group, led by the Lay Chaplain and Chaplaincy Team;
- ❖ Providing opportunities for reflection, including the daily reading of the Bible;
- ❖ Providing opportunities for pupils to encounter Christ: whole school Masses, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, class liturgies, Celebration of the Word, class assemblies, Headteacher assemblies and hymn singing;
- ❖ Providing opportunities for parents to encounter Christ with their child(ren); whole school Masses, class assemblies and Nativity plays;
- ❖ Developing the environment – each classroom in the school has a crucifix, prayer display, including opportunity for spontaneous prayer, a focal area which reflects the liturgical year and has relevant Christian symbols and artefacts relating to the current 'Come and See' topic. Front entrance and corridor displays, including Bible story display boards, and opportunities for pupils and staff to encounter the Lord at prayer stations;
- ❖ Liturgical events, including the celebration of Holy Mass each term, and special assemblies dedicated to marking important times of the year such as Harvest Festival, Advent, Christmas, Lent which includes Stations of the Cross, Easter, and Pentecost;
- ❖ Celebrating the Feast Days of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette;
- ❖ Devotions to Mary, including the Rosary during the months of October and May;
- ❖ Further strengthening links with the parish through the Parish Prayer Partner Scheme;
- ❖ Fundraising opportunities, serving those in need;
- ❖ Advent Travelling Nativity for all classes;
- ❖ Lenten Devotional Prayer bags for all classes;
- ❖ The school day is punctuated with prayer. Teachers and pupils pray at the beginning of the school day, lunchtime and end of the school day. Pupils are encouraged to pray spontaneously throughout the day by making use of class prayer areas;
- ❖ The school is in the process of developing an outdoor prayer space which will be available for class and personal prayer throughout the school day.

3 Nurturing a Love of God through the Performing Arts

- ❖ All classes, from Reception to Year 6, perform in our Harvest festival, reading Scripture, performing poetry, and singing songs and hymns;
- ❖ The school performs a Nativity play in the Advent Term each year, with pupils from Nursery to Year 2 performing one year and then pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 the following year;
- ❖ Our Chaplaincy Team, plan, prepare and deliver our Christmas Carol Concert in Advent and The Stations of the Cross in the Lent Term;
- ❖ The Choir prepare and perform Christmas Carols which are performed at a local nursing home;
- ❖ All classes are involved in leading and participating in prayer and liturgy throughout the year, including whole class assemblies, Celebration of the Word and class liturgies.

4 Nurturing a Love of Neighbour through Acts of Virtue and Outreach

- ❖ We aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching and a loving compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves;
- ❖ A timetable of charitable outreach for the year is created in September after consultation with the Chaplaincy Team, Mini Vinnies and School Council members. The school supports a number of local, national, and global charities, such as local hospices and food banks, Children In Need and Red Nose Day, Samaritan's Purse, and CAFOD;
- ❖ Pupils are also taught the importance of standing up for justice and peace as an important aspect of Christian life;
- ❖ We encourage all children to make a difference to our school by becoming involved in a variety of pupil leadership roles. These include: The Chaplaincy Team, The Mini Vinnies, The School Council, Wellbeing Ambassadors, and Safeguarding Crew. These groups are led and supported by different staff;
- ❖ Our aim is for the children to know that when they volunteer for these groups, they are acting as Missionary Disciples and living out the prayer of Saint John Henry Newman: *'God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission;'*
- ❖ Through our Values to Virtue program, the children are introduced to 21 Christian Virtues taught through the seven year groups from Reception all the way to Year 6 with three virtues learned by each year group each school year. Through a series of lessons, the pupils study Holy Scripture and discuss how and where the virtue can be performed in their day-to-day lives at home, at school, and conclude with a noble act of mission;
- ❖ Engaging in acts of virtue and outreach, inspired by our Values to Virtues program, through a growth in knowledge and understanding of the Corporal and Spiritual and Works of Mercy. These are taught as is deemed appropriate to age, circumstance, and opportunity to perform such works, the ability of either pupils or staff to fulfil the call of Jesus to be merciful to our neighbour just as Our Father in Heaven is merciful to us:

Corporal Works of Mercy

- ❖ To feed the hungry.
- ❖ To give drink to the thirsty.
- ❖ To clothe the naked.
- ❖ To shelter the homeless.
- ❖ To visit those in prison.
- ❖ To comfort the sick.
- ❖ To bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- ❖ To instruct the ignorant.
- ❖ To counsel the doubtful.
- ❖ To admonish sinners.
- ❖ To bear wrongs patiently.
- ❖ To forgive offences willingly.
- ❖ To comfort the afflicted.
- ❖ To pray for the living and the dead.

5 Parental Involvement

- ❖ We greatly value the partnership between home and school and see it as our privilege to support parents who we recognise as the first educators of their children. From staff undertaking a home visit prior to the children commencing in Nursery or Reception, and a new starters' information evening held in school, we understand that clear communication from the very start is vital. The school aims for parents to feel included, supported, and well-informed at every stage of their child's school journey;
- ❖ Parents are encouraged to support Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete any homework tasks and discuss with their children work being completed when preparing to receive the Sacraments;
- ❖ We provide parents with information on the Ten:Ten programme Life to the Full (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups, including details of the content taught and the right to withdraw from the more sensitive aspects of RSE. Parents are informed by letter when these lessons will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning;
- ❖ The school provides numerous ongoing opportunities for parents to engage in their child's educational journey, including phase transition meetings, parents' evenings, Mass, class assemblies, concert performances, and other popular community events, such as the Christmas Fair, Strawberry Tea and Sports Day;
- ❖ Parents can volunteer to attend school trips, and join our Friends of St. Bernadette's Parent / Teacher Association, which help to organise and host a range of events for our school community. All funds raised help to support and enhance the provision we offer for our pupils and families.

6 Leadership, Monitoring and Review

- ❖ The coordination and planning of Catholic Life and Mission is the responsibility of the Subject Leader and Headteacher, who support colleagues in their efforts towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. Both will provide CPD opportunities for all staff where necessary, and will lead Catholic Life staff meetings to ensure staff are aware of expectations within school and Diocesan initiatives;
- ❖ Termly monitoring is conducted to gather and collate a range of monitoring evidence to identify strengths and drive standards forward. Such evidence is gathered through: learning walks, pupil voice, staff voice, parent voice, and governor monitoring;
- ❖ The RE Governor and Chair of Governors are kept informed regularly regarding Catholic Life and Mission initiatives in school at Local Governing Body meetings;
- ❖ This policy is reviewed by the Headteacher and the Local Governing Body every two years or more regularly as required.

7 Supporting documents

The following school documents should be consulted to support the Catholic Life and Mission Policy:

- ❖ Religious Education Policy;
- ❖ Collective Worship Policy;
- ❖ RSE Policy;
- ❖ Assessment, Recording, and Reporting Policy;
- ❖ SEND Policy;
- ❖ Equal Opportunities Policy;
- ❖ Safeguarding Policy;
- ❖ Continued Professional Development Policy.

8 Policy review

The Catholic Life and Mission Policy should be reviewed and updated every two years.
Next Review: Advent Term 2026.

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life and Mission Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and Governors. As a Catholic Voluntary Academy, responsibility for Catholic Life and Mission rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

9 Prayers of Saint John Henry Newman

Prayer is a raising of the heart and mind to God, and it is through prayer, offered in faith and with hope in the loving care of God for each of us. Saint John Henry Newman's founding of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Birmingham was centred on a life of prayer, the study of Scripture, and making Jesus known and loved through the preaching of God's Word, through the Sacraments of His Church and ministering to His people in charity and humility and with spirit of joy and cheerfulness which strengthens the heart and helps us to persevere, trusting always in God's Providence and Love for us.

To Our Blessed Mother, Mary

O Mother of Jesus, and my Mother,
let me dwell with you, cling to you,
and love you with ever-increasing love.
I promise the honour, love, and trust of a child.
Give me a mother's protection,
for I need your watchful care.
You know better than any other
the thoughts and desires of the Sacred Heart.
Keep constantly before my mind
the same thoughts, the same desires,
that my heart may be filled with zeal
for the interests of the Sacred Heart
of your Divine Son.
Instil in me a love of all that is noble,
that I may no longer
be easily turned to selfishness.
Help me, dearest Mother,
to acquire the virtues that God wants of me:
to forget myself always,
to work solely for Him,
without fear of sacrifice.
I shall always rely on your help
to be what Jesus wants me to be.
I am His; I am yours, my good Mother!
Give me each day
your holy and maternal blessing
until my last evening on earth,
when your Immaculate Heart will present me
to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Heaven,
there to love and bless you
and your divine Son
for all eternity.
Amen.

Radiating Christ

Dear Jesus,
Help me to spread Thy fragrance
everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with Thy Spirit and Love.
Penetrate and possess
my whole being so utterly
That all my life
may only be a radiance of Thine,
For You are the Light of the World.
Shine through me, and be so in me
That every soul I come in contact with
May feel Thy Presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see
No longer me but only Jesus!
Stay with me,
And then I shall begin to shine
As You shine,
So to shine as to be a light to others.
The light, O Jesus,
will be all from You;
None of it will be mine.
It will be You shining on others
through me.
Amen.



A man going into a far country, called his servants,
and to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one,
to every one according to his proper ability: and took his journey.

After a long time the lord of those servants came, and reckoned with them.

He that had received the five talents brought five talents more, saying:
"Lord, thou did deliver to me five talents, behold I have gained five more."

His lord said to him: "Well done, good and faithful servant,
because thou hast been faithful over a few things,
I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

And he also that had received the two talents came and said:
"Lord, thou delivered two talents to me: behold I have gained two more."

His lord said to him: "Well done, good and faithful servant:
because thou hast been faithful over a few things,
I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

But he that had received the one talent, came and said:

"Lord, I know that thou art a hard man;

And being afraid I went and hid thy talent in the earth:
behold here thou have that which is thine."

And his lord answering, said to him: "Wicked and slothful servant,
cast ye out into the exterior darkness."

Words from The Parable of the Talents in the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 25

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Anne's Crescent, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN16 2LW

Telephone 01724 842382 **Email** admin@stbernadettesacademy.com **Website** www.stbernadettesacademy.co.uk

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
Diocese of Nottingham