



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

As a Rights Respecting School, we acknowledge our role as 'duty bearers' in promoting and protecting children's rights.



We respect the dignity and worth of every child. We believe that children have the right to choose their own religion and beliefs and that they should be helped to decide what is right and wrong and what is best for them.

1. Mission Statement

At Saint Norbert's we strive to follow Jesus' example in all that we do — showing love, seeking wisdom and serving others with joy and humility.

Rooted in the Gospel and guided by the teachings of the Church, we nurture every child as a unique creation of God, with dignity and worth.

As a Gold Rights Respecting School, we also affirm the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), recognising that these rights echo the Gospel call to love, respect, justice and service.

Together, our Catholic ethos and Rights Respecting values form the foundation for a community in which every child can flourish spiritually, morally and academically.

2. Purpose of this Policy

This policy outlines how our school promotes, sustains and evaluates its Catholic Life and Mission, while embedding the principles of a Rights Respecting School, in accordance with the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) Framework and UNICEF Rights Respecting School criteria.

We aim for a school where:

- Faith is lived out daily through love, respect and justice.

- The rights and dignity of every person are upheld as part of our Gospel mission.
 - Pupils, staff and families encounter Christ in one another.
 - All members of our community are empowered to be witnesses to faith and advocates for others.
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3. Our Theological and Moral Foundation

Our mission *‘to live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus’* expresses our commitment to:

- Live faithfully, following Christ’s example of peace, humility and justice.
- Love generously, seeing the face of Christ in every person.
- Learn joyfully, developing the gifts God has given us to serve others.

These principles are rooted in:

- Scripture – The Gospel message of love and justice.
- Catholic Social Teaching – The dignity of the human person, the common good and solidarity.
- The UNCRC – Every child’s right to safety, education, participation and respect.
- Prayer and Sacrament – Drawing us into communion with God and with one another.

Together, these shape a moral vision that recognises both human rights and divine responsibility: to love God and to love our neighbour.

4. Catholic Life in Practice

4.1 Witness to Faith and Rights

- Our mission statement and rights-respecting ethos are visible in every aspect of school life.
- Pupils and staff demonstrate respect, inclusion and compassion as expressions of Gospel love.
- The dignity of every child is upheld through policies, relationships and teaching.
- Pupils understand their rights and responsibilities, recognising that living like Jesus means ensuring those rights for others.
- Our school environment celebrates diversity, faith and shared humanity through symbols, displays and the language of respect.

4.2 Prayer, Worship and Reflection

- Prayer and worship are central to school life, engaging the whole community in daily encounter with God.
- Pupils plan and lead acts of worship, reflecting both their faith and their understanding of global justice and rights.
- Our liturgical calendar and acts of collective worship promote empathy, gratitude and service.
- Reflection areas and prayer spaces connect Gospel values with global themes, such as peace, stewardship and fairness.

4.3 Pastoral Care and Relationships

- Every relationship is grounded in love, forgiveness and mutual respect.
- Behaviour policies reflect restorative practice, dignity and the rights of all.
- Staff model Christ’s compassion and listen to pupil voice, affirming that every child has the right to be heard (Article 12 UNCRC).
- We foster inclusion, equality and emotional wellbeing so that every pupil feels safe, valued and loved.

4.4 Community, Service and Global Citizenship

- Pupils are formed as ‘global disciples’ — acting for justice and the common good.
- Charitable initiatives (e.g. CAFOD, Foodbank, WaterAid) are linked to both Catholic Social Teaching and children’s rights.
- Pupils lead social action projects that challenge injustice, promote sustainability and celebrate diversity.
- Partnerships with the parish, diocese, families and wider community build a living faith community rooted in both Gospel and human rights values.

5. Mission in Action

Our mission *“to live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus”* is evident through:

- Curriculum design which integrates Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching and the UNCRC.
- Collective Worship which deepens faith and promotes reflection on moral and global issues.
- Pastoral systems and a behaviour curriculum that promote wellbeing, safety and equality.
- Pupil leadership through the Leading Lights liturgy group, School Council and Rights Respecting Steering Group.
- Service and social justice projects that bring faith to life and empower pupils to be agents of change.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

We regularly evaluate our Catholic Life and Mission through:

- CSI Framework self-evaluation.
- UNICEF Gold Award Standards review of impact on pupils and community.
- Pupil and parent voice surveys.
- Staff reflection, training and formation opportunities.
- Governor monitoring which focuses on witness, worship and wellbeing.
- Celebration of evidence showing pupils acting as courageous advocates for justice and peace (e.g. our weekly ‘Footprints’ badges).

Outstanding practice is evident when every member of our community can articulate and live out our mission with joy and confidence — as both disciples of Christ and defenders of human dignity.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher / RE Leader / Catholic Life Coordinator: Leads the integration of Catholic and Rights Respecting values across all aspects of school life; ensures that the mission and rights ethos are embedded and evaluated.
- All Staff: Model Gospel values and uphold every child’s right to safety, love, respect and learning.
- Pupils: Actively live the mission and rights ethos through leadership, service and advocacy.
- Governors: Monitor, challenge and celebrate the impact of Catholic Life and Rights Respecting practice.
- Parents and Parish: Share in the mission of faith formation and uphold the values of love, respect and justice.

8. Review and Renewal

This policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with key stakeholders, including – but not limited to – the Headteacher, Governing Body, staff and pupils. The review will focus on:

- The lived impact of our mission and rights-based approach.
- Evidence that pupils and adults embody Gospel values and children’s rights in daily life.
- The extent to which our community continues to grow as a beacon of faith, love and justice.

Our ongoing commitment is to walk faithfully together - to live, love, and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

The Catholic Life Link Governor is Mr Gary Heane.

Policy updated: October 2025