



PRAYER AND CATHOLIC LIFE POLICY

Approved By	Date approved	Review date
Governors of the Catholic Ethos Committee	November 2023	November 2024

As a Christ centred community, our Mission is to consistently focus upon:

“Becoming the People God Calls us to be”

This mission statement is the foundation stone on which we build The Catholic Life of the School and we aim to achieve our mission by:

- Establishing, maintaining and developing a Catholic ethos which is permeated in everything we do and is apparent to all those who enter or experience our community.
- Providing frequent opportunities for conscious and active participation in collective worship through Holy Mass and other services/celebrations in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church to all in the community.
- Creating a place of learning where Gospel values and the teachings of Christ are evident in everything we do so that the young people entrusted to our care can fulfil their God-given potential.
- Modelling the image of Christ in the way we lead and manage the school.
- Providing an enriched curriculum which is creative, inspiring and inclusive for all pupils which is fundamentally based on the teachings of Jesus and his Holy Church.
- By encouraging all students and staff to pursue their gifts and talents and to experience through them the joy and fullness of life that Christ offers us.
- Developing the prayer and spiritual life of all members of our school and the community it serves.
- To be an outreaching centre of God’s mission on earth in supporting the most vulnerable in our society, and in the wider world, by being witnesses to our belief that all people are made in the image and likeness of God.

Collective Worship

“In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

At SPH, we start every day with an act of Collective Worship. These times of prayer and reflection can take place during Assembly or Tutor Time, are student focused, creatively delivered, and Gospel centred.

Staff Prayer

**“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.”
Matthew 18:20**

Times of prayer for the staff body provide refreshment and times of stillness. Prayer is open and invitational, begins every meeting, and places Jesus at the heart of all our decision making as educators. Opportunities for staff to prayer together are faithful and frequent.

The Liturgical Year

**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Throughout the school year, the liturgical calendar is highlighted and celebrated through additional times of prayer and liturgy, including, but not limited to;

- November prayers for the dead
- Advent Liturgies
- Ash Wednesday Services
- Annual Services of Reconciliation
- Lenten Liturgies
- Patronal Feast Day Liturgies

These additional times of prayer and reflection strengthen the Ethos of the school, and encourage every member of the community to consider how they might continue ***Becoming the People God Calls them to be.***

A Giving Community

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Luke 3:1

At SPH, we aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others in our school, in our wider community, and in our world. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to raise awareness and to assist those in need with practical support as well as dedicated times

of prayer. Students are encouraged to lead and galvanise their peers with these initiatives where appropriate.