



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

## Chaplaincy Policy

<b>Produced by</b>	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
<b>Date approved and adopted by Governing Body</b>	24/06/2025
<b>Review Date</b>	June 2026
<b>Date Amended</b>	

### Mission Statement

The aim of our school is:

To provide a loving Catholic environment which will help each individual member of the school family grow morally, spiritually and academically in the love of Jesus Christ.

This means we aim to meet our children's needs in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ that God loves us all. This is found in the life of the school through:

- The quality of relationships based on love, care, respect and trust.
- Prayer, reflection and celebration
- Learning and teaching that enables children to reach their full potential.
- Partnership between home, school and parish.

***"LIVING AND LEARNING IN FAITH"***

***This policy will be reviewed by the RE Subject Leader at the end of every academic year.  
Last updated: June 2025***

## **Chaplaincy Policy**

### **Philosophy**

At Our Lady's, we recognise the need for the chaplaincy role to help foster and maintain the Catholic ethos in our school. We believe its purpose is to serve the personal and spiritual needs of the school community both staff and pupils alike. In the light of our mission statement we acknowledge that within our Catholic community we will act as chaplains to one another and to the children and parents through our everyday actions and behaviour.

### **Aim**

Our aim is to develop the role of chaplaincy through links with the Parish of Our Lady and the Apostles. The Parish Priest supports us in this and, as far as possible, endeavours to provide us with school chaplaincy support. The RE Subject Leader is the named chaplaincy coordinator, but this responsibility is shared with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. We believe the role of chaplaincy fulfills a number of purposes.

For the future we see a chaplain as a team, who are available to staff and pupils to offer help and support. The specific role of the chaplains will be to work with others to offer spiritual and personal support in a manner that demonstrates the care and compassion of Christ.

We believe the role of chaplaincy should fulfill a number of purposes:

- The school and staff have spiritual and emotional support in times of need,
- To act as a listener and give support to those who might seek their help,
- To develop talents and ministries among staff and pupils,
- Join with pupils and staff in celebrations, prayer and liturgy
- Invite local clergy to visit the school and meet with the staff and children as often as they are able

- To involve those missionary visitors linked to the Diocese in school life in order to develop an understanding and awareness of the wider Church.

## **Strategies**

- We use the celebration opportunities within the liturgical calendar to involve the local clergy in the children's celebrations,
- The staff will plan and prepare Celebration of the Word, Liturgy and Mass with the children with appropriate styles of prayer and worship,
- The chaplaincy team will work collaboratively with others to explore and develop the mission and ministry of the chaplaincy role by attending relevant meetings and identifying appropriate training to broaden the chaplaincy team within the school.

## **The Current Position:**

The governors and staff are committed to providing the best chaplaincy provision they can. Our Parish Priest, Fr Martin Onuoha, also has responsibility for St Ambrose and St Vincent's parishes.

We liaise with the parish to support Liturgical feasts and the children are invited to take part in important Church celebrations e.g. Christmas Celebrations, Good Friday, Easter Celebrations and Children's Masses. Children attend weekday Mass at Our Lady's Church on a rota basis. The children of Our Lady's School were involved in the Parish Mission in April 2023, which was led by the Sion Community. The children were invited to compose a mission prayer which was shared among the three parishes in our Stockport 3 Parishes Family – Our Lady's, St Ambrose and St Vincent's. The prayer was recited at the mission services and activities and was appreciated by all the communities.

## **Responsibilities and Organisation**

The RE Subject Leader and Headteacher will continue to oversee Chaplaincy.

The RE Subject Leader will work collaboratively with others to explore and develop the mission and ministry of the school by attending relevant meetings and identifying appropriate training. The RE Subject Leader will prepare the worship programme as outlined in our policy on Prayer and Liturgy. Staff will prepare for Celebration of the Word and Mass with the children and parents will be given opportunities to attend these celebrations.

## **Resources**

The school hall, classrooms and our Prayer Space are made available for Celebration of the Word and liturgies. Throughout the year, each class attends a number of Tuesday Mass celebrations as part of the daily Parish Mass, which parents are also invited to attend. This is helping to build up a closer community link with the school. Whole school Masses for Holy Days and selected Feast Days are held in church.

## **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school Religious Education Policies. The committee of the governing body for curriculum issues does this together with the Headteacher and RE Subject Leader. The RE Subject Leader will report to the Governors in the termly report on issues relating to this policy.

## **Further Action**

- To develop child chaplaincy representatives.
- To identify appropriate training within the continuing professional development programme to enable staff to develop understanding of the chaplaincy role within the school and plan future provision.
- To develop the outdoor space in the quadrangle as a 'Prayer Oasis'.