



# Our Faith Life In Saint Ninian's High School 2020-2021





Saint Ninian's is first and foremost a Catholic Secondary school . 'Floreat Iuuentus' or Let Youth Flourish sums up our vision that our success and unity as a school is a result of our determination to overcome the barriers to learning our young people face, living as a community based on Gospel values. We believe that we are a school that treats each individual as unique as they were created in the eyes of God. We exist to provide our pupils with a high-quality educational experience which draws its distinctive character from the life and teaching of Jesus, the principles of the Gospel and the Catholic tradition. We are committed to the learning and faith development of our pupils and are driven by a core set of values that states, 'We are called to serve with love, inspiration, empowerment and joy.' Our intention is to create a supportive learning environment within which we shall provide for all our pupils' intellectual, spiritual, moral, personal, social, and cultural development.

We are committed to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning and to raising standards of achievement. Furthermore, we are committed to the development of effective partnerships with parents, the local parishes and schools, the business community, the Local Education Authority, and the Archdiocesan Trustees.

We believe that parents send their children to a Catholic school because they want them to receive an excellent education in a community and setting governed by Christian values. The values which perhaps have most relevance to life in our school include respect, generosity, fairness, forgiveness, compassion, sensitivity, and tolerance.

### **The Impact of COVID 19 on the Faith Life of our School**

Over the last two years COVID-19 has brought it challenges. One being young people being able to celebrate or develop their faith as local Parishes have been closed or more recently re-opened but with limited numbers allowed to attend. As a school we have followed the Scottish Government guidelines and advice and have worked hard to take on the responsibility of continuing to develop and support our pupils with their faith.

Saint Ninian's Catholic School Vision	How we achieve our vision for this Catholic school	What we continue to do as a Catholic school
<p><b>The Vision of the school is shared with and by all in the community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction for new staff</li> <li>• School handbook as well as other faith documents available and visible on school websites for parents.</li> <li>• Classes/assemblies/staff meeting begins with prayers.</li> <li>• All pupils and staff issued with school prayer card.</li> <li>• Maintain strong Parish/School/Home links.</li> <li>• Continue to put Christ's Gospel Values at the heart of everything we do, promoting St Ninian's as a community of Faith where staff, parents and pupils work together .</li> <li>• Encourage our young people to see the face of God in all things, building trusting relationships with each other and the adults in the school community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further promote and develop the mission of the school out with classroom.</li> <li>• Encourage more parents to become more involved in the vision of the school by participating more.</li> <li>• Continue to develop a climate throughout the school of collegiality, listening, trust, collaboration, healing, and peace.</li> <li>• Continuing to promote the message of Christ, and the vision and values of the Gospels in all we do, ensuring that Saint Ninian's is a community of Faith where staff, parents and pupils work together.</li> <li>• Continuing to build an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity, and voice of each person, made in the image of God.</li> <li>• To be able to collaborate to learn from and contribute to the learning of others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The headteacher and other staff are witness to their faith and/or to the Catholic values of the school</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership at every level models Gospel values and is committed to the promotion and celebration of the Catholic Ethos.</li> <li>• The 'Catholic Leadership Group' for all pupils S1 – S6 involved in the spiritual life of the school, meeting 3 times a year together to pray, reflect and support young leaders in faith.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer staff CPD to help develop faith formation as well as further involvement in school life.</li> <li>• Involve staff in supporting and leading Faith events in school.</li> <li>• Encourage collaboration to learn from and contribute to the learning of others</li> </ul>
<p><b>Liturgy and prayer are an integral part of the school's life</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School community is offered Mass three mornings a week in the school Oratory and every morning during Advent: on In-service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the disruption of COVID-19 offer all alpha classes from S1-S6 an opportunity to attend a class Mass.</li> </ul>

	<p>days for St Ninian's staff and at the start of the new session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposition of the Blessed Sacraments to pupils, staff on a Friday at lunch time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Local Clergy offer young people the opportunity to attend confession.</li> <li>To encourage our young people to be more involved in sharing their faith in the local community.</li> <li>Continue to have exposition of the Blessed Sacraments to pupils, staff, and parents on numerous occasions such as Parents' Information evenings but weekly on a Friday at lunch time.</li> </ul>
<b>All pupils irrespective of age, ethnicity, ability, gender, faith background are encouraged to fulfil their potential (vocation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A culture of mutual respect and understanding in which people of all faiths, traditions and personal circumstances are welcomed and respected.</li> <li>Our young people are encouraged to see the face of God in all things, building trusting relationships with each other and the adults in the school community.</li> <li>Staff take on the responsibility of the holistic enrichment of every pupil – intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral, social and emotional. The promotion of a spirit of charity, social justice, global awareness, and concern for the marginalised and vulnerable, leading to practical outreach and partnership.</li> <li>Offer students a quality Catholic education that forms the total person and prepares them for post-secondary education and their vocation in life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be able to collaborate to learn from and contribute to the learning of others.</li> <li>Further encourage our young people to be able to respond to daily life as a good pupil true friend, a loving son or daughter and a responsible citizen.</li> <li>Try to ensure our pupils are gospel inspired. This gives living witness to the Gospel values of love, respect, truth, and justice in every aspect of school life.</li> <li>It promotes the dignity, self-esteem, and full development of all, as persons made in the image and likeness of God.</li> </ul>

<p><b>All staff see and are encouraged to see their role as a vocation &amp; that all have different gifts to contribute</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held a service of welcome for our NQT teachers and supporters where Canon Stephen reminded our staff of their importance in developing the whole pupil as a gift from God.</li> <li>Catholic Education is person-centred. It promotes the dignity, self-esteem and full development of each person who is made in God's image and uniquely loved by God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to encourage staff that the work that takes place in communities inspired by the Spirit of Christ. Christ's commandment to love God and neighbour inspires a caring ethos which is expressed in relationships within and beyond Catholic schools.</li> <li>Catholic Education is inclusive. It is respectful of and engages with people of all beliefs; it encourages the religious development of all in their own faith.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pupils, Parents and Staff work in a spirit of communion in which there is close partnership and collaboration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and communicate with parents in their role as their children's primary educator.</li> <li>Involve parents in supporting higher academic standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain strong Parish/School/Home links.</li> <li>Invite school community to become active members of our extended Chaplaincy Team.</li> <li>Continue to raise awareness of and advertise the spiritual activities being offered in the school in local Parishes, the school web and via Twitter.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff and pupils experience school life as a community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In November Catholic Education Week was celebrated through prayers; targeted RE lessons; the production of a booklet containing articles written by staff, pupils and parents; pupils and staff doing talks in our local Parishes.</li> <li>A climate throughout the school of collegiality, listening, trust, collaboration, healing and peace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work on the promotion of a positive, joyful, and caring attitude to life and others, reflected in a respect for the sacredness of every human life at all its stages.</li> <li>To continue to work with the Salesian Sisters building on the strong attendance at the weekly prayer breakfast.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Displays convey the Catholic faith of the community and the way that faith is realised in action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to use banners and displays to highlight the liturgical year and its seasons, also Vocation's week, November, Our Lady (October).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are specially prepared October Services to Our Lady, November Services (Holy Souls), Advent services, a Christmas service, lessons for all classes to celebrate</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioned a new altar where relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Saint Rosalia</li> </ul>	Catholic Education Week, Lenten Services making use of the Oratory for these services.
<b>All in the community act out of a sense of service to God, each other and the common good, but especially to the pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultivate the habit of prayer, the practice of the faith, and participation in liturgical life.</li> <li>Catholic education in Saint Ninian's has as its specific duty the total formation of the human person, not merely the transmission of academic content. Curriculum and instruction are the vehicles with which teachers craft a culture that communicates the purpose and goals of human existence.</li> <li>A climate throughout the school of collegiality, listening, trust, collaboration, healing, and peace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to encourage increasing numbers of our young people to be involved in the Ministries of Reading and Music.</li> <li>Encourage S6 pupils to support S1 – S3 Liturgies, RE classes and PSHE classes.</li> <li>Continue to look for opportunities for our young people to be involved in activities supporting the school, parishes, or local community.</li> </ul>
<b>Provision for prayer, liturgy &amp; the whole curriculum promotes spiritual development &amp; an understanding of the faith.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective teaching in the Catholic school moulds the pupil's intellect and will by touching the soul prepares pupils to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives, becoming responsible citizens, respectful of diversity, who will contribute positively to the Common Good.</li> <li>Our catholic education is rooted in the Gospel values of Respect for Life, Love, Solidarity, Truth and Justice; it aims to harmonise faith and culture, build a better society, and pursue the Common Good.</li> <li>Preparing pupils to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives, becoming responsible citizens, respectful of diversity, who will contribute positively to the Common Good.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to reinforce with all pupils, parents and staff our faith welcomes and is respectful of people of all faith traditions, personal circumstances and community backgrounds, contributing actively to the work of peace, reconciliation and sharing.</li> <li>Continue to encourage an open and inquiring approach to faith and learning, promoting opportunities for reflection, prayer, and celebration of the sacraments.</li> <li>Continue to build on the holistic enrichment of every pupil – intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral, social and emotional.</li> </ul>

<b>The community acknowledges its responsibility to those less fortunate in and beyond the school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue our strong support for helping those less fortunate than ourselves through e.g. participation in the Lasallian projects, Helping Hands, Life Group, and a variety of charitable activities.</li> <li>The promotion of a spirit of charity, social justice, global awareness, and concern for the marginalised and vulnerable, leading to practical outreach and partnership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to build and support our links with a number of different outside agencies. In doing so increasing our young people's awareness of the role they contribute to society.</li> <li>Encourage wider participation among pupils in the Worship Group, Helping Hands, Life Group and Catholic Leadership meetings.</li> <li>Continue to involve pupils in all year groups in activities in RE to raise money for charities such as Mary's Meals and SCIAF.</li> </ul>
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## Faith Reflections

*"One of the nicest ways to set your day into motion is to begin with a prayer. The prayer group at Saint Ninian's High School run by the Salesian Sisters offers a refreshing way to start your day with reflective prayer and discussion with both pupils and staff in the school. Running on a Wednesday morning starting at 8am the prayer group focusses on a different Saint or faith topic every week. We have learned about the Saint's Life and legacy. The gatherings are very informal, relaxed and everyone is made to feel very welcome. At our weekly gatherings, we like to reflect on the week ahead and the things we are looking forward to. We use this time to ask God to guide us through our week and offer any special intentions. It is always good to see a mix of all the different year groups and to see my friends there too. There are many teachers who attend as well as our parish priest, Canon Stephen. Once the prayer group has concluded, we all adjourn to the R.E. Department where we are treated to breakfast. This can include Muffins, pancake, or doughnuts! What a better way to start the day."*

Sam 3<sup>rd</sup> Year





*"I was delighted to be asked to be involved with the mass celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Joseph's Church. Such an occasion gave me the opportunity to feel further integrated into my local parish and school community. I believe I speak for all involved when I say we truly felt the benefit of joining in faith with friends and family after an undoubtedly difficult year for this parish and others, in the wake of the pandemic. The unwavering community spirit in St Joseph's remains evident from the time I spent with other parishioners following the mass. The prevalence of young people at Friday's Mass reflects the close link between the parish and school community, which is a vital aspect of my school experience and one that I value highly especially going into my final year at St Ninian's. Other pupils and I greatly enjoyed the celebration of the prosperity of the Parish."*

Alice 6<sup>th</sup> Year

*"To be invited along to the commissioning mass of the new altar was a great honour. To join with pupils, teachers and fellow parents to see the holy relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Saint Rosalia be placed in the altar chamber was a very special moment. I have now been a parent of the school for four years and have come to appreciate as well as realise the importance the school plays in the faith development of our children. All the opportunities our young people have to learn about as well as develop their faith is exceptional. As a parent I have come to realise the importance of supporting the school and ensuring I take on my role as the first teacher to my child."*



Parent S4

