

# Our Catholic Ethos



*‘From the first moment that a student sets foot in a Catholic school, he or she ought to have the impression of entering a new environment, one illumined by the light of faith and having its own unique characteristics. Everyone should be aware of the living presence of Jesus, the ‘master’ who today as always is with us in our journey through life as the one genuine ‘teacher’, the perfect man in whom all human values find their fullest perfection.’*

(Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, 1988)

As a Catholic school, faith is the bedrock of St Mary’s Primary and permeates the school’s day-to-day activities and routines, no matter how ordinary or apparently ‘unspiritual’ these may be. We constantly strive to ensure Gospel values inform and underpin everything we do, for only in doing so can Holy Cross successfully fulfil its call to be an authentic Christian community where faith is not only taught and spoken about, but lived and experienced.

We are deeply conscious of the huge responsibility that rests on each of us to be positive Christian role models for our pupils. Jesus was the ultimate teacher and we, as Catholic educators, constantly endeavor to mirror and imitate Him in all we say and do so that our daily words and actions genuinely reflect the character and perfect example of Christ.

Our school believes that, for children to reach their full potential, faith and spirituality must permeate all aspects of school and classroom life. This is certainly not a matter of indoctrination. Rather, it is a commitment by the school to help children recognise God in the ‘ordinary’ and nurture in them a life-long openness to question, discover, learn and grow in their own personal faith. Learning about faith within St Mary’s, therefore, has to do with a great deal more than simply acquiring head-knowledge about the Catholic faith. We seek to make Gospel values – values which have their source in the teaching and example of Christ – the threads which run through all our efforts to educate, nurture and form the young lives entrusted to us. Our ultimate hope, as outlined in our school aims, is that our pupils will respond positively to God’s invitation of friendship and will go out into the wider world with the desire, knowledge, strategies, skills and resilience to follow in the footsteps of Christ, whatever situations and challenges they might face.

# This is Our Faith



THIS IS  
*our faith*

This is Our Faith is the Religious Education syllabus used throughout Catholic schools in Scotland. This is the first Religious Education syllabus to have originated wholly in Scotland and designed to meet the specific needs of young people in our country.

This is Our Faith aims to help parents, teachers, catechists and clergy support young people in:

- Developing their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- Nurturing respect for other Christian traditions and world faiths
- Experiencing opportunities for spiritual growth
- Acquiring the skills of reflection, discernment and moral decision-making
- Committing to beliefs, values and actions in a positive response to God's invitation to faith.

## A Charter for Catholic Schools

All teaching staff, both current and prospective, are required to subscribe to the Catholic Schools' Charter and must be granted approval from the Archdiocese of Glasgow prior to taking up post in St Mary's.



# Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland



The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

**All Catholic schools in Scotland**, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

**All staff appointed to a Catholic school** are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.

*For more information, contact SCES. Tel: 0141 556 4727, email: [mail@sces.uk.com](mailto:mail@sces.uk.com) or visit [www.sces.uk.com](http://www.sces.uk.com)*