


















# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School



## Working in a Catholic School Guidance for school staff

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam comprises the County of South Yorkshire, parts of the High Peak and Chesterfield, districts of Derbyshire and the district of Bassetlaw in Nottinghamshire.

It is under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, whose feast is celebrated as a solemnity in the Diocese on the 27th June.



**Right Rev. Ralph Heskett C.Ss.R.  
3rd Bishop of Hallam**

**Director of Schools': Mr Philip Patterson & Mr Alan Dewhurst**

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## Introduction

We are all part of one Church – parents, pupils, teachers, governors and parishioners. It is within our roles that we support and guide our children on their spiritual journey to wholeness. The pupils within our care here at St Patricks, will always be directed to fully engage in their relationship with God.

The pupils cannot reach their full human potential without exploring the issues of faith that lie at the heart of their being. In a world that seems broken and centred on individual wants, our pupils need more than ever to have grounds for hope that their faith can guide and protect them throughout the coming years.

The aims and purpose of our school are found entirely in our mission statement. The first and foremost important point being that **In Christ we live and learn together** and so all we do, foster and encourage in one another should reflect the values and teachings of Christ.

Put simply this means loving God and loving your neighbour.

We are a diverse community of faith, culture and experience and no matter whether you are Catholic or not, practising or lapsed, have a faith or not, we are journeying together and must support one another on our way.

Every member of staff has a responsibility to uphold, support and take a proactive approach to the Catholic Ethos of our school. Ethos covers all aspects of school life but there are also some very specific responsibilities that it brings.

As members of staff, we have a responsibility to provide the opportunity for our pupils to express their faith and worship God.

## St Patrick's Catholic Primary School



At St Patricks we can do anything through Christ who give us strength to grow a school where we respect each other through feeling safe and supported.

In Christ we live and learn together providing inspiring opportunities to be the best we can be. We we will work together to:

- ❖ Provide a welcoming environment based on trust and mutual respect.
- ❖ Be ready to learn at all times.
- ❖ Be inclusive and understanding.
- ❖ Celebrate success
- ❖ Commit to having high expectations.

## Our Mission Statement

### Mission statement

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School offers distinctive education within a caring Christian community where everyone can feel valued, confident and secure. We believe that each person is gifted, unique and loved by God. By working in partnership we create a challenging, stimulating and effective learning environment where Christ is our inspiration.

"We are Gods amazing gifts."



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### Core values

- Faith – nurturing a strong foundation in Catholic teachings to foster a deep sense of spirituality and faith. To grow in God's love and learn together.
- Community – fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where students, staff and parents work in collaboration to embody the spirit of a caring and loving community.
- Excellence – high quality education that encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and a lifelong love of learning with high aspirations for all.
- Respect – mutual respect amongst all members of the school community recognising and celebrating everyone's unique identity.

## St Patricks Day

17<sup>th</sup> of March

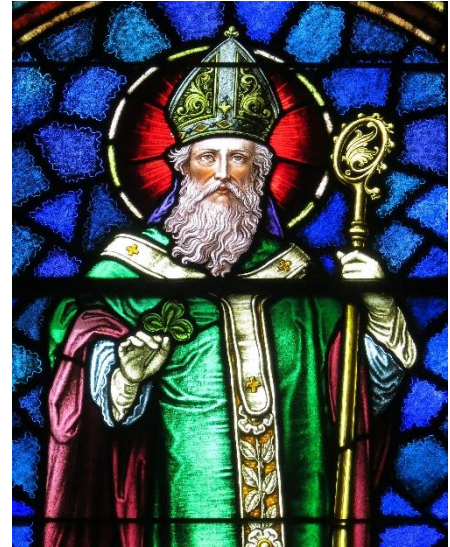
St. Patrick's Day is held on 17th March as a cultural and religious event celebrating the patron saint of Ireland. It's also known as the Feast of Saint Patrick.

But what are the facts about Saint Patrick? When was Saint Patrick born? What's the history of St. Patrick's Day?

When was Saint Patrick born?

Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain in the year 397 CE.

Who was Saint Patrick?



The real name of Saint Patrick was Maewyn Succat. His parents were high-ranking and well-respected Romans. At the age of 16, he was captured on a beach and taken to Ireland to be sold to a farmer. The farmer didn't treat him very well and he spent most of his time with the animals, having to eat the animal feed because he was so hungry. He prayed daily to relieve some of his loneliness.

After he heard a voice from God, he fled to Wales. He often thought about his Irish life and he continued to pray, eventually realising that he wanted to become a priest. After some time in France studying to be a bishop, he returned to Great Britain, knowing the Irish people didn't know about God. At this time, Ireland was a predominantly pagan country

The Shamrock Flower

The shamrock flower became a symbol used by Saint Patrick to teach people about God. Each of the leaves represents an element of faith: God the Father, God the Sun and God the Holy Spirit. The shamrock flower, being green in colour, is thought to be one of the reasons people wear green on St. Patrick's Day.

Facts about Saint Patrick

- Although an Irish patron saint, he was born in Great Britain.
- He was given the name Maewyn Succat at birth but changed it to Patrick when he became a priest.
- Patrick travelled around Ireland for 60 years telling people about Jesus. Throughout this time he consecrated over 350 bishops to help him do his work.

**He died on 17th March, 493 CE. This is the date of St. Patrick's Day. As a school we host a Mass and celebrate this special day.**

## Our Parish Community of St Helen and ST Jude

*Our closest catholic church is St Helens in Oldcotes*



St Helen, Oldcotes (Parish of St Jude)

Address: St Helen's RC Church, Main Street, Oldcotes S81 8JF

Phone: 01909 730315

Email: [stjudesworksopoldcotes@gmail.com](mailto:stjudesworksopoldcotes@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stjudeshallam.co.uk](http://www.stjudeshallam.co.uk)

Clergy:

[Rev Fr Paul O'Hara \(2020\)](#)



## Our Multi-Academy Trust



### **About St Francis CMAT - [St Francis CMAT \(stfcmat.com\)](http://stfcmat.com)**

St Francis CMAT was established in September 2022 as part of the Bishop's vision to create two Multi Academy Trusts in the Hallam Diocese. Along with its sister CMAT, St Clare, they will house 47 schools in the Diocese, with St Francis comprising 20 Primaries and 3 High Schools.



## The G.I.F.T Team



Children are chosen to join the GIFT team from across school from Y1 upwards.

We help lead liturgies in school and represent St Patricks at learning community events.

As members of the GIFT Team, we are called to lead our school by following in the footsteps of Jesus. Every day we live by the gospel values and show others how they can do the same.

## Supporting Catholic Ethos

The word 'ethos' comes from a Greek word (ἦθος) for custom or habit. 'Ethos' is a way of living, behaving and doing things by people who, though diverse, follow common values and are united by a shared vision of life.

Unless a school has Christ at the very heart of all that it is and does, it cannot be a Catholic school.

As teachers, we should uphold and model values and beliefs in the Catholic tradition by constructing a 'just' classroom environment and by implementing Catholic values and beliefs in all areas of the curriculum. We should reinforce the importance of emulating Jesus' life in order to be the best people we can be.

"Fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess. You have been entrusted to look after something precious, guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in you." (2 Timothy 1:6)

## Prayer




There are aspects of being a member of a Catholic school that you will be expected to follow. Prayer life is very important to our school and staff and pupils are expected to fully participate in all prayer time. This is also to be done with the right attitude of reverence and respect. Every day there will be a time of prayer and reflection during assemblies, liturgies and class times.

Staff are responsible for ensuring that prayer takes place at the beginning and end of each day, as well before lunch. There is a prayer booklet in each classroom to help with this. Staff can either lead the prayer or invite students to lead it. Some teachers use a rota so ensure that everyone is given the opportunity.

Another vital aspect of St Parick's School is the belief that faith cannot simply be words and intentions but must be put into action. This means that our pupil's behaviour should mirror their faith commitment. Doing the right thing at the right time for the right reasons is as much about the Christian faith as going to mass or praying.

Prayers do not have to be led by a member of staff. It would be wonderful if all our pupils felt that they have an active contribution to make to the spiritual life of the school.

Prayers are said at the following times daily in all classes.

-  Registration time
-  Before dinner
-  End of the day

## Registration time

Every morning during the registration period, the opportunity for communal prayer **must** be provided. *It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure this happens.* Creating the right environment of respect and reflection is vital if our pupils are to feel comfortable and able to express their faith whatever stage they might be at.

Prayer always begins with the **sign of the cross**.

This is a reminder of our Christian faith and of the Trinity (One God but three persons). In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit expresses the equality of three persons.

Touching your head on “In the name of the Father” recognises Him as the head of the Trinity. Touching your chest when you say, ‘and of the Son’ denotes that the Son came to teach us of the love of the father for us, and love is in the heart. ‘and of the Holy Spirit’ first touch your left shoulder (Holy) and then the right shoulder (Spirit): the Holy Spirit is the strength of God, the Comforter, who help us carry the burdens of life. (We carry heavy things on our shoulders.)

Pupils may have people they wish to pray for. Please encourage them to feel they can share this in class. It helps to encourage support within the class family and is also a way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the lives of our pupils.

Prayers should always end with **‘Amen’** (which means ‘so be it’).

As our Patron Saint, we ask St Patrick that he will intercede to God on our behalf and so the person leading the prayer says, **‘St Patrick** and everyone responds, **‘Pray for us’**. The sign of the cross is made again to finish the prayer.

## Masses and Liturgies

Throughout the year, we come together as a school community to express our faith and to celebrate key events and Holy Days. Masses and liturgies are very different. A liturgy is a spiritual and reflective experience that can take many different forms. It is different from a Mass as there is no consecration (blessing) of the bread and wine or Holy Communion is not distributed.

## Holy Communion

When we celebrate Mass, there is an opportunity for pupils, staff, parents and parishioners to celebrate mass. Holy Communion - Baptised Catholics can receive the Body of Christ (Holy Communion in the form of a wafer of bread (host) but in Catholic belief is the Body of Christ transformed in the act of Transubstantiation). Holy Communion can be received straight onto the tongue or more commonly into the hand. The correct way to do this is to place the left hand on top of the right hand, slightly cupped. Then the right hand takes the Host and it is placed straight into the mouth. As this is the Body of Christ that we are receiving, it must be received with full respect and therefore pupils should not be behaving in any way that shows disrespect or offence. As a teacher, you will be expected to have an idea of who should receive communion and ensure they do so correctly and respectfully.

## A Blessing



As a community of different faiths and none, we want to be united in our common ethos and so anyone who is unable to receive Holy Communion is invited and encouraged to come forward for a blessing. The way to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing is place your arms across your chest. The Priest, or Eucharistic Minister will place hand on the head of the person and say a few words of prayer. Again, when students are coming for a blessing, they are expected to do so respectfully.

*As staff, it is very important that we set the right tone and attitude with the students when in Mass and liturgies. Some occasions are very celebratory, while others are much more solemn.*

## Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for many centuries. The Bishops of England and Wales have reintroduced fasting from meat each Friday. We also give up things for the 40 days of Lent, so perhaps we should see Friday's as a 'little Lent'.

The reason why we fast or abstain from eating meat on Fridays is because that is the day that Jesus died (Good Friday) and it is good to remind ourselves of his sacrifice, while we offer the small sacrifice of not eating meat. By saying 'no' to ourselves, we are stopping and thinking about what we eat and this encourages us to be thankful for what we have. It may also help us to be more aware of those who have so much less than us and perhaps it will encourage us to do more to help others.

Meat was always considered to be an expensive luxury and so by giving it up, it was considered to be a real sacrifice. Many people ate fish as a cheaper option and the money saved went to the poor. Some people may not eat meat or like meat, so what do they do? It is the attitude of giving something up that matters more than anything and so they can give up some other food they like on Fridays. School does not serve meat in the dining hall on Fridays.



## **Fundraising and Charity**

What lies at the heart of being a Christian, is living out the words of Jesus to 'Love God' and to 'Love our neighbour'. Recognising our neighbours is important, but going out of our way to help them is an important part of our Christian mission. Fundraising is an important way of showing our faith in action, fulfilling God's commandment of love and is therefore an integral part of our Catholic ethos. We put the words of Jesus into action by helping those neighbours close at hand and those neighbours further away.

Fundraising is done throughout the year. We raise money for specific causes such as CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) and the Good Shepherd Fund (this supports charities with the Hallam Diocese). We also choose a number of local and national charities to support during the school year. As a Catholic School however, we need to be very mindful about the charities we support and make sure that the work that our chosen charities are doing is in line with Catholic teaching. There is a booklet (Charitable Giving Guidance for Catholic Schools) available in school to support this. Here at St Patrick's, we are never without opportunities to put our faith into action.

## Commonly Used Prayers

### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

### O Sacrament Most Holy

O Sacrament most holy!  
O Sacrament divine!  
All praise and all thanksgiving  
Be every moment thine!

## Gospel Values

The term 'Gospel values' is commonly used in Catholic schools; however, unless the term is unpacked and a common understanding is formed of what true Gospel values are, there is a danger that what should be an objective Christian foundation, will itself become a random list of subjective values.

Whilst not definitive, the Gospel values based on the Beatitudes may be summarized as follows:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven"*

Values: Faithfulness and Integrity

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"*

Values: Dignity and Compassion

*"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"*

Values: Humility and Gentleness

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"*

Values: Truth and Justice

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"*

Values: Forgiveness and Mercy

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"*

Values: Purity and Holiness

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"*

Values: Tolerance and Peace

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way"*

Values: Service and Sacrifice

**Rooted in the teaching of Christ, these Gospel values should constitute the targets and outcome of the educational enterprise in every Catholic school. (Taken from 'Christ at the Centre' document by Mgr Marcus Stock)**

## The Use of Colour in the Catholic Liturgical Year

The sense of sight, including colour, plays an important role in Catholic worship. The colours of a Catholic priest's vestments help us to know that certain celebrations are at hand.

	<p>Green is used during the liturgical season of Ordinary time.</p> <p>Green symbolises hope and new life, just as a hint of green on the trees in spring makes us think about new life.</p>
	<p>Purple signifies penance and humility. It is used during the season of Advent and Lent.</p>
	<p>White is worn to symbolise light, innocence, purity and joy.</p> <p>It is worn at Christmas, Easter and for weddings</p>
	<p>Red symbolise the shedding of blood and is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.</p> <p>Red also symbolised the burning fire of God's love, so it is worn to celebrate the feast of Pentecost and mass of the Holy Spirit.</p>

## Yearly Overview of Liturgical Year



## RE Non – Negotiables for Teaching staff

RE Teaching and Learning	Prayer and Liturgy
<p>10% of the weekly timetable to be devoted to the teaching of RE –not including assemblies or liturgies.</p> <p>4 weeks spent on each topic and the timetable for the year is followed.</p> <p>Plan and adapt teaching based on Come and See in creative and engaging ways – Using the topic Overview planning pages.</p> <p>In RE books, each topic is clearly marked with a knowledge organiser which is used for retrieval practice appropriate to the age of the children.</p> <p>A child led liturgy at the end of each Come and See topic (Reveal Session.)</p> <p>Year group specific driver words are used to formulate learning objectives and to guide assessment.</p> <p>Formative assessment is ongoing and collated on the RE spreadsheet with a summative assessment made termly.</p> <p>Feedback is given within lessons so that children know what they are doing well and how to improve – in line with the feedback policy.</p> <p>The agreed marking policy is being used.</p> <p>The RE display includes the topic title, key vocabulary, driver words, key scripture, relevant hymns, prayers and images, the big question (plus responses and ‘wonderings’). This is used as a working wall and links to the current Come and See topic. Children work displayed to show outcomes of the topic.</p>	<p><b>Evidence of Catholic life and spiritual experiences added to class ‘Journey Books’</b></p> <p>Children are given opportunities to become proficient and confident leaders of liturgy.</p> <p>Class room prayer takes places at least 3 times a day. Morning prayer, dinner time prayer and home time prayer.</p> <p>Children are supported to know the common Catholic prayers appropriate to their age.</p> <p>Children have regular opportunities to experience prayer activities.</p> <p>Class liturgical prayer to take place. Different children are chosen to be Prayer leaders for liturgies using either the child led liturgy materials ‘Let us Pray or the daily ‘TenTen’ Prayers resource.</p> <p>In each act of liturgical prayer each person present is expected to show they are fully present through their body language, words and actions.</p> <p>The scene for prayer is set through lighting, music, silence etc. to show its distinctiveness and promote reverence.</p> <p>Within a four part liturgical prayer, scripture readings should be introduced and responded to correctly.</p> <p><b>Each class has a prayer focus area where children can engage and interact in prayer. It includes correct liturgical colours, 4 parts of a liturgy, Catholic symbols and artefacts (cross, crucifix, icons) and a bible on a bible stand open at relevant scripture. There should be a stimulus for children to interact with for the formulation of their own prayers.</b></p> <p>Each class prayer area has a focus on their class saint e.g. images, prayers, books, statues etc.</p> <p>The school prayer, and other prayers to be prominently displayed</p>
<p>Explicit links are made to Catholic Social Teaching, virtues to live by, the school mission statement and school values in both collective worship, across the curriculum and in personal interactions</p>	