



St John Fisher  
Catholic High School

# Catholic Life



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## Mission and Vision

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

St John Fisher School is a learning community striving to live the gift of life that God gave us:

- we know through our spirituality that everyone is a loved creation of God and that every person has a lesson they can teach someone else.
- we will take every opportunity to help each other and those less fortunate than ourselves.
- we will do our best to reach our aspirations, and celebrate our successes.

At St John Fisher Catholic High School we pride ourselves on being an inclusive, safe environment for all our students promoting aspirational excellence. We believe that all students should be able to partake in a full range of activities from Duke of Edinburgh to trips to regular sports clubs. We believe that having these experiences will enhance their opportunities and elevate their prospects when they leave us at the end of Year 11 or 13. Raising aspirations is fundamental to our success and careers information starts in Year 7. There are opportunities for work experience in Years 10, 12 and 13 as well as university visits in KS3.

We are proud that the majority of our Sixth Formers decide to continue with their education post-18 whether through an Apprenticeship or University. At both post-16 and post-18, we consistently do not have any NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).

## Collective Worship

There are a variety of opportunities for staff and students to take part in collective worship.

Daily: Each day we have a ‘Thought and Prayer Reflection’ in Tutor Time. These ‘Thoughts’ follow the liturgical year and often include contemporary issues that may be relevant for that week. The ‘Thoughts’ embed scripture, discussion and awareness of our impact on the world e.g. Global Learning. These also include our Word of the Week, which helps with Oracy, and there is a BSL signed version. In addition, we have a Careers of the Fortnight ‘Thought’, exploring future career options. Catholic Social Teaching principles are at the core of our school, supporting human dignity and social justice. These principles are linked to each reflection.

Weekly: Every week, each House comes together during Tutor Time for an assembly which could be led by their Head of House, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or a Tutor group. Again, the themes for the assembly are scheduled and follow the liturgical year and the Annual Plan of Provision. The assemblies embed scripture and are time for reflection and prayer. At the beginning of each half term our Student Leadership Team lead an assembly around each of the six Catholic Social Teaching principles. These are also displayed around the school on our large screens and part of our weekly newsletter.

Every Tuesday morning, we have voluntary Mass in our Chapel led by a Deanery Priest. Staff and students are welcome to attend. As part of formation, our Chaplaincy Ambassadors meet the day before to discuss and understand the reading.

Using the Chapel: Every Tutor Group attends reflection and prayer on a rota basis. The themes follow a programme including prayer, scripture and activities. This is led by our Lay Chaplain and involves Form Tutors and students. Our Student Leadership Team prepared and deliver a Year 7 Prayer Group around the theme of Belonging. Students from each form attend the chapel as per their published schedule.

House Mass: Each House celebrates Mass led by a Deanery Priest at least once during the academic year. Students are actively involved through the choir and music, readings and offertory.

Year 7: We always welcome our new Year 7 students with a short retreat around the theme of light followed by Celebration of the Word. In addition, they are presented with a Bible, a gift from Good

News For Everyone, during their RE lessons by the Lay Chaplain. Similarly, we bless our year 11 leavers at the Leavers Liturgy and present them with a special badge of a dove to bestow them with peace as they leave our school family and a candle for our Year 13s to symbolise them taking their light out into the world.

Liturgical: We celebrate Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and special Feast days. The school follows the Church's liturgical calendar and always encourages students to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation particularly during the seasons of Advent and Lent. The school gathers together for Christmas and Easter liturgies.

Special Events: We contribute to the wider community significantly by taking part in special events such as Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, Remembrance Day, Peterborough Schools Mass, Peterborough Catholic School Carol Service and the Diocesan Schools Mass. Our Student Leadership teams, Drama Groups and Choirs have contributed significantly to these.

## Chaplaincy

Our Chaplaincy Team consists of staff, governors and students from Year 7 - 13 who frequently meet to discuss Catholic Life at St John Fisher Catholic School.

- Daily Thoughts are organised by our Lay Chaplain using the liturgical year to guide the content. All students start the day with this with the message carrying through the day and reinforced throughout the week.
- The Chaplaincy Ambassadors meet at least once a week.
- There is a voluntary Prayer Meeting every Tuesday break in the Chapel for students with our Chaplain.
- Full staff briefings occur three times which open with a prayer led by different members of staff. Similarly at the start of meetings including Governor meetings, a prayer is said. This opportunity for collective prayer reminds us of our purpose and mission at the school.
- Our SJF Champions monitor and evaluate the Catholic Life and mission of our school.

## Stewardship and Social Justice

The Late Pope Francis invited us to reflect and respond to Laudato Si which we have developed through the school.

- With a response to the planet and protecting the world around us we have a thriving Eco-Warriors group who continue to work on our Sensory Garden and encourage our school community to reduce food waste, recycle/reuse, and conserve energy and water.
- We support the Church's mission for social justice by building citizens who are responsible and empathetic to others. Each House has a charity day where they raise money for charity; we support both local and international charities such as CAFOD, Teenage Cancer Trust and Educaid. We also want to contribute towards initiatives to help others for example, supporting our local homeless charity and sustaining different acts of kindness such as filling hampers for the elderly at Friary Court during Advent.
- The RE Department lead sessions on our Focus Day on aspects of Stewardship and Social Justice linking to their RE Curriculum.
- Our Caritas Ambassadors lead on Community and Participation and social justice, link to Catholic Social Teaching.
- We are also fortunate to have links with Zoolab who bring in exotic animals for some of our students to learn about. From frogs to snakes to spiders, students can interact with them, ask questions and learn about them as part of our eco-system.

## **Diocesan Links**

- Our Diocese includes 5 other Secondary Schools and 4 (soon to be 5) Primary Schools reaching Cambridge, Ipswich and Norwich. There are regular meetings between the Heads and Chaplains of these schools so that communication is sustained and the expertise in each school can be utilised to support each other.
- There is an annual Diocesan Schools Mass which we actively take part in. Several staff and students travel to take part in the Mass with the other schools and it is always a wonderful way to celebrate the start of the new academic year.

## **RE Curriculum**

The RE Curriculum follows the Bishop's Conference Curriculum Directory with a focus on Revelation, Church, Celebration, Life of Christ and the Bible. At GCSE Level the school follows the Edexcel Catholic Christianity syllabus and Judaism. At A Level the school follows the Edexcel syllabus teaching Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and New Testament Studies. Schemes of Learning can be found in the Curriculum section of the website.