



St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School

Live the Gospel and when necessary use words

Our mission as a Roman Catholic primary school is to provide a catholic education that puts the word of God at the centre of our school. Our purpose is the happiness of all of our community through the pursuit of school-wide excellence; with success measured on our ability to sustain and enhance our position as a thriving example of Christ-centred education.

Catholic Life Questionnaire 2019

Governor responses

1. The school's vision statement 'Live the Gospel and when necessary use words' is central to the life of the school. **100% agree**

- *The vision statement is proudly on show as you enter the school. I have heard children quote the vision statement.*
- *The children are able to link scripture to how they behave in school, to the values that school promotes and to the projects that they help to develop.*
- *The standard of behaviour is consistently high, children want to promote a happy and healthy learning environment and are proud of their school. Children are supportive and empathic towards each other and are respectful towards staff.*
- *Children enthusiastically support charitable causes (Lourdes pilgrimages, Shoe Box Appeal) and have a strategic role via Junior Leadership Team in many other initiatives throughout the school year. There are many examples in the school newsletter of individual children who undertake their own acts of Christian charity with their families outside of the school environment.*
- *All members of the school community were involved in formulating our school vision statement. We were determined that the visioning process we engaged in would lead to a vision statement that was truly reflective of our school ethos and of what we wanted to*

achieve for our children, and something that would become our 'Golden thread'. Staff have worked hard to ensure that it has become embedded throughout the school. Children know and understand the vision statement. It is integral to their whole experience at St Bernadette's and is reflected all aspects of the school's work on a daily basis.

2. School leaders and Governors put the Catholic Life of the school at the forefront of school development and are relentless in their pursuits to bring school, community and Catholic life together. **100% agree**

- *Through activities that include the whole school, such as the Prayer Pods that children made and took out into the community to give to others.*
- *The sense of belonging to the Catholic community is promoted via assemblies, liturgies and displays around school. There is a high level of family participation and Governors are always invited to participate. The school newsletter "Bernadette's Blog" carries the termly "Mission Value" message to families and the wider community.*
- *Catholic Life is at the heart of our school development plan. Much work goes on to ensure that the Catholic life of the school is constantly growing. It is viewed by all not as something that can be 'ticked off' as 'done', but something which is almost an organic being which needs constant nurturing in itself. As a result, the spiritual life of the school is almost tangible. Innovative and inspirational activities are carefully planned and implemented, from small daily class liturgy and regular whole school liturgy to whole school projects such as the Hope bracelets which reached into the community far and wide and impacted significantly on our children's understanding of gospel in action.*

3. Leaders and governors are committed to the Catholic Life and character of the school.

100% agree

- *Everyone is given the opportunity to contribute their ideas about how the school will take forward the meaning of what it is to be Catholic and all opinions are valued equally. Children comment in 'Pupil Voice' that they are 'listened to', staff comment that they feel as though their contributions are valued. There is investment in new and innovative ways to engage children in learning via the 'Open Book' project.*
- *Absolutely - it is what makes our school distinctive. We are fortunate to have an inspirational and innovative head teacher who has transformed the school since her arrival, well supported by dedicated and extremely capable senior leaders and teaching staff. Governors are actively involved as far as possible in the life of the school and attend a range of liturgical events. We carry out evaluation activities and are provided with regular updates from the head teacher through governing body meetings.*

4. Leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the quality and range of opportunities for pupils' spiritual and moral development. **100% agree**

- *The Chair of Governors regularly meets the Junior Leadership Team to obtain their views about the strengths of the school and what can be done to improve. Governors receive regular reports at FGB via Headteacher report. More detailed information is reported to Governors and challenged at Sub-committee meetings (Standards & Curriculum and Children, Families & Community). The Link Governor for RE meets with the RE Co-ordinator, supports with the school's self-evaluation and reports back to governors. Governors support the school's CPD programme including the ongoing CCRS programme. Governors have the opportunity to participate in the annual retreat at the Emmaus Village alongside school leaders.*
- *School leaders give this high priority and report to GB. Catholic Life is the main driver in the school development plan. The link Governor is an experienced*

teacher in a neighbouring Catholic school and supports the school's RE Coordinator with monitoring and evaluation activities. As Chair I meet with the junior leadership team for 'lunch and a chat' to explore their views on school, of which Catholic Life is a focus. They are consistently extremely positive and enthusiastic in their responses. All Governors participate in liturgical events whenever possible.

5. St Bernadette's has good links with the parish and the wider community. **100% agree**

- *There are many opportunities for school and community to come together - invitations are extended to families to participate in Mass, celebrations are held in Church and there is a team from the parish who support children in preparation for Holy Communion. There is a consistently high number of Y4 pupils who participate in the preparation programme for First Holy Communion. The school newsletter is available in Church and can be distributed electronically if requested. The school newsletter promotes events within the parish and encourages participation in Sunday worship. The children support local charities e.g. 'Walking With.' Fr John is well known in school and is a member of the Children, Families & Community Sub-Committee.*
- *Our links with the wider community are strengthening continuously. The school is constantly seeking ways of supporting groups and individuals in the wider community, locally, nationally and internationally. Children themselves are more aware of their responsibility in the wider community and regularly approach leaders with ideas for service or fundraising. Through the Jelly Bean award, children now independently reach out to people in the wider community by regularly nominating individuals for something they have done that they feel reflects gospel values.*

6. Leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate pupils' awareness and understanding of the Catholic Life of the school. **100% agree**

7. Governors play an effective role in developing the Catholic Life of the school. **100% agree**

8. What is good about Catholic Life at St. Bernadette's?

- *As a new governor at St Bernadette's school I noted from my first visit that the Catholic ethos of the school was unmistakably present, initially from conversations with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Parish Priest, and subsequently from the evidence of displays of the pupils' work around the school. The engagement of the children and their understanding of gospel values was obvious to me when I attended a full school assembly at which pupils nominated their peers for a 'Jelly Bean Award' in recognition of living the Gospel message that week. On attending the full school end of term mass in the local parish church the engagement of pupils was clearly evident, particularly in their full and joyful participation in praise and worship. Also, as a new governor, I noted that the importance of the school's Catholic ethos was very evident during governors' meetings. In fact, I was surprised at how important these core values were to the staff and governing body, which is confirmed in the School Development Plan. Although my experience and knowledge of monitoring and evaluation of Catholic Life in the school is limited, it is obvious from discussions at the meetings I have attended that the senior management team are working tirelessly towards excellence in this area. In summary, having been involved in Catholic schools for many years, I am delighted to have taken up a role as a governor in St Bernadette's where the Catholic ethos in the life of the school is so palpable.*
- *It is an extended family where everyone cares and supports each other whatever their ability*
- *Children have an incredible ability to link Gospel values to their day to day lives in school. They treat one another with respect and dignity and are incredibly warm and welcoming towards visitors. Children are given the opportunity to be actively involved in how they 'live the Gospel' via the Junior Leadership Team and the creative and innovative projects they have carried out (Jelly Bean Awards, Hope*

beads etc) and have taken Christian values to the whole school community, the wider local community and in some cases internationally. It is clear from the recent Pupil Voice exercise that children are fully committed to their Catholic values and take pride in sharing their faith with others.

- *There is an extremely strong sense of 'family' which all are warmly invited to be part of. The emphasis that has been placed on spiritual and moral development for all, that is encapsulated in our vision statement which is very simple but says so much, manifests on a daily basis in the behaviour and actions of children and adults alike.*

9. How could the Catholic Life of our school be further improved?

- *The children's comments (Pupil Voice) are a good indication that the school are on the right track in developing and promoting Catholic life. The children are supported and led by highly committed and creative teaching staff who strive to teach a challenging curriculum in ways which bring it to life and therefore engage and excite the children. So long as there are resources to support staff with their current approach I feel confident that the Catholic life of school will continue to grow.*
- *To continue with the journey we are on modelling Christ's teachings, touching hearts and changing lives.*