

**Bishop Milner Catholic College**  
**Catholic Life Policy**



**Bishop Milner**

**CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

Approved by Governors—

Review Date—

Bishop Milner Catholic College is a Catholic college which is inspired by the Catholic tradition and holds at the centre of our ethos and academic philosophy, the dignity and uniqueness of each person. We are a community which is built on faith, hope and love and as such we embrace and celebrate Gospel values and live them out through all areas of our academic and pastoral curriculum, thus ensuring that the Catholic Life of the school is a reflection of our faith and values. We actively celebrate diversity amongst all our students and staff, and through high quality teaching and learning, which is shaped by the catholic ethos of our school, we seek to nurture the gifts of each individual and enable each student to achieve their full potential.

Bishop Milner Catholic College through its provision for prayer and liturgy, curriculum offer, charitable endeavours and extensive enrichment programme, lives out our mission statement to the full and all students and staff are called to be committed to:

“...offering Christian love and care to each person within it. Everyone is valued as a gift from God and treated with respect. In our college we learn together and we aim to help all students achieve their very best.”

As a Catholic school we aim to provide an environment where background, personal growth and faith are brought into harmony.

We seek this through the subjects we study, in the light of the Gospel and by providing an experience of being served, accepted and valued in a way that reflects the example and attitude of Jesus.

### **At Bishop Milner Catholic College we are a faith community which:**

Places prayer, liturgy and worship at the heart of school life; both celebrating and fostering the development of faith in each individual within the school community.

Recognises the importance of a purposeful link between home, parish, school and community as a preparation for the student's role as a Christian in the modern world.

Strives to make our student's experiences of relationships within the school productive and positive and seeks to cherish and develop what is good through mutual respect and understanding.

Promotes the growth and development of the whole person to their full potential by ensuring that their curriculum experience is within a Catholic context and where the student can be supported in acquiring skills, knowledge, positive attitudes and moral values.

Provides a Christ centered setting whereby all can live, experience and celebrate the love of Jesus.

As well as building knowledge and skills, Bishop Milner Catholic College intentionally develops the Pupil Profile whereby students are enabled to develop their character, becoming all that God has planned for them to be and embody the values by becoming:

**Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

**Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

**Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.

**Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

**Eloquent and truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

**Learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

**Curious** about everything; and active in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

**Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

### **The Catholic Life of Our College aims:**

To enable all staff and students to grow in faith, love for your neighbour and generosity

To give our staff and students the confidence to speak in the language of Gospel Values.

To develop a sense of awe and wonder with the beauty of God's creation and our place in the world

To instil in students a sense of responsibility for their neighbour (from local to global)

To raise awareness for good causes and the charitable works of others

To raise money for a variety of local, national and international charities.

To support charities in other ways other than only donating money.

To inspire students to plan and carry out projects which place others' needs before their own

To create opportunities for students to demonstrate their initiative

To encourage students to become involved in local, national and international communities through charitable works

To develop the 'habit' of giving and thinking of others through regular charitable projects and events

To encourage students to work together and independently to support those less fortunate

## **How Bishop Milner Catholic College Puts Faith in Action... "Faith Without Action is dead."**

The Chaplaincy team and school council lead on charitable events and consult the student community on planned events.

Each year group is encouraged to take responsibility for a charitable initiative in the school year Christmas Food Bank Appeal– each year the school collects large amounts of food which is then delivered to the most vulnerable in our community

Staff lead and participate in charitable pursuits – modelling faith in action

To mark Black History Month the school provides the opportunity for the whole community to develop their sense of community and celebrate the diversity of our community.

Key points in the year are recognised and fund raising is promoted to support others particularly during Advent and Lent.

The student council in liaison with the Chaplaincy team lead on delivering activities for our whole school events e.g. Black History Month, Mental Health Week

The annual Macmillan Coffee Morning is well supported across the school.

### **Our Chaplaincy and Catholic Life Team**

Our Chaplaincy and Catholic Life team comprises of the PICCL, Head of RE, Priest Chaplain, Lay Chaplain, students from across the school community and is further supported by Drama and Music departments when preparing for whole school masses

We have an active team which support the planning and delivery of all liturgical and charitable events

Our Chaplaincy Team participate in the monitoring and evaluation of Catholic Life e.g. Collective Worship feedback, Environment audits and feedback to the Headteacher on a regular basis

### **Signs and Symbols of Our Faith**

Each classroom has a prayer table as focal point

A Cross is in each classroom and is placed in a highly visible and central position

The school environment reflects key symbols of faith

The Mission Statement of our school is displayed prominently in all classrooms and students are supported in understanding its practical application in their lives

### **Opportunities and Provision for Prayer and Liturgy..."Prayer is the raising up of the heart and mind to God."**

Whole school masses are held at the beginning and end of the school year – these are student led and reflect the creativity and talents of our community

A Catholic Life calendar is shared with all staff to aid planning and delivery

All staff participate in a bespoke Catholic Life Induction programme upon joining the school

All INSET days begin with a formal liturgy which is led by SLT

Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated across the entire school community

Key events in the Liturgical Calendar are celebrated across the whole community and are actively led by students e.g. Advent Services, Ash Wednesday, Month of the Holy Souls, Month of Our Lady, Month of the Holy Rosary

Memorial masses are held to support those who are grieving

Masses are said weekly and are led by a different form group each week ensuring that the celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our community.

Each year group participates in Collective Worship programme each week – students plan, lead and deliver these at different points throughout the calendar.

All lessons begin with a department prayer, uniting our community in faith and intention

Key members of staff support students of all faiths to engage in daily prayer

Awards Ceremonies for each year group celebrate the achievements of our students

### **Our Chapel**

The Chapel is clearly identifiable in the heart of our community. It is an awe inspiring space that promotes reflection and thinking. This Chapel belongs to everybody.

In our Chapel students are welcomed and able to engage in prayer on a daily basis

Weekly masses (form groups on a rota) ensure that the Eucharist is part of our daily school life and we are fortunate to have the Blessed Sacrament present in our chapel.

The outer chapel area hosts our weekly Chaplaincy Team Meetings and provides a conducive and inspirational area