

Parent Catholic Life, RE and Collective Worship Survey 2018

We had a great response to the pupil surveys – 89 responses so far. Thank you for your input and feedback. We really appreciate both your commendations and your suggestions for improvement and we will endeavour to ensure your children continue to be taught in the full Catholic ethos of our school and Church.

The Catholic Life of the School:

- 100% of parents felt the missions statement is shared with all of the community
- 100% of parents felt the mission statement is clearly rooted in the teachings of Christ and the Church.
- 100% of parents feel the Head Teacher and other staff are witnesses to their faith and to Catholic Values.
- 100% of parents feel the Catholic ethos of the school is very obvious in all of the school's work.
- 100% of parents feel the school teaches children to follow Jesus' example.
- 99% of parents feel the school effectively promotes Gospel and British Values.
- 99% of parents believe all children within school are encouraged to fulfil their potential
- 100% of parents feel the school tries hard to be an excellent Catholic school
- 100% of parents feel there are many opportunities for children and parents to be involved in the Catholic life of the school.

Catholic Worship within the School:

- 100% of parents feel there is high quality provision for Catholic collective worship within the school
- 100% of parents feel Liturgy and prayer are an integral part of the school's life.
- 100% of parents feel the school does everything it can to encourage Mass attendance.
- 100% of parents feel children are able to lead and participate in prayer services, circle time and during Mass.

Religious Education throughout the School:

- 99% of parents feel there are many opportunities for other faiths and religious education
- 99% of parents feel their children enjoy their R.E lessons
- 100% of parents feel the quality of R.E teaching is high within the school.

Parental Comments:

What you feel we do well within school:

- We create a good family environment
- Good community spirit
- Great teachers and focus on Catholic Values
- Regular assemblies
- Experience of holy Communion very special
- High standards in respecting on another
- Very inclusive
- As a Catholic school we provide an excellent focus of faith to children
- The balance of Catholic teaching with the educational needs of the children
- Encouragement and respect of others. Teaching the children how to become better human beings.
- Instilling in the children making the right choices and doing the right things
- Staff carry themselves professional
- All staff at St Francis are very approachable and kind, ready to help and answer any questions.
- Encouraging children to practise their faith
- Involve children with Mass, multi-faith weeks and R.E lessons
- Encourage manners and politeness from a young age.
- Celebrating important dates on the religious calendar
- The school teaches children to follow Jesus' example and catholic values
- The Catholic spirit which is present in the school at all times
- Teaching the children wat being Catholic is all about
- Prayer and faith are central to all aspects of school life

What you feel we could do better:

There were lots of positive comment made about we do well as a catholic school as well as some suggestions about what you feel that we could do better. In this response we are focussing on the responses linked to us being a better Catholic school:

- More teaching about other faiths

School's response:

As a Catholic school our mission to help teach and nurture the formation of our pupils in the Catholic faith. We do so whilst always being inclusive, respectful and supportive of the beliefs of our non-Catholic families. Every year in the summer term we hold a special 'Other Faiths' celebration week which includes learning about other faiths and visiting their places of worship. Throughout the year we also teach about key festivals and celebrations in other religions, for example Diwali. Our curriculum RE time is provided to teach about the Catholic faith and we cannot use this time to teach about other faiths, however if you have any ideas about how you feel we could enhance our teaching about other faiths please come into school and discuss these with us.

- Timings of parish-led Sacramental parent workshops to be at the end of the school day, not later in the evening

School's response:

It is always difficult to time meetings for parents as some parents prefer evening meetings that they can attend after work whilst other parents prefer meetings straight after school. Parish meetings are not scheduled by school and are at times when the parish catechists and Fr Joseph can attend. The timings of the meetings do suit many parents.

We do hold a lot of our school meetings straight after school to save parents having to come back to school later in the evening (though this does not suit all parents.) I will speak with Fr Joseph and see if there is a possibility of holding some of his future meetings straight after school and some later in the evening so that it is not the same parents being inconvenienced every time.

- St Francis Xavier Church to make Masses hold children's interest more

School's response:

Sunday Masses are organised by the parish and not by school. We do try and encourage attendance at Sunday Mass and hold school-parish Masses that are led by the school and are child-friendly. It is also wonderful to see so many of our school children now serving during Masses at St Francis Xavier and English Martyrs churches.

My understanding is that Sunday morning Masses have a children's liturgy group which teaches them about the Gospel in a child-friendly way; other weekend Masses do not make special provision for the children. Depending on which Mass your child attends it might be worth considering attending the 11am Sunday Mass so that your child can participate in the children's liturgy group. I also know that many of the hymns that we sing in school are now being used in church more, as are some of our sung Mass responses so children should be able to join in with these more and more.

I know that Fr Joseph is constantly looking for ways to involve the school children more in his Masses and so if you have any practical ideas about how he could do this more then please let us (or Fr Joseph directly) know.

Lastly, the school couldn't run as successfully as it does without the help from yourselves and our parish. Thank you for the wonderful comments and feedback, we will endeavour to maintain the high standards at all times. If there are any others comments, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher