

# St Bede's Catholic College



## Chaplaincy Statement

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### **Putting Faith into Action**

Chaplaincy at St Bede's is about expressing our faith through both prayer and action. Our aim is to encourage pupils from every year group to respond to Christ's call to "spread the good news." We hope to provide opportunities to meet, grow in faith and to reach out to the wider community.

Our mission is to always put Christ at the centre of everything we do in school life and to recognize that He is present and alive in our school community: in academic studies, pastoral care, religious life, and personal formation. This begins with our College Motto 'In Novitate Vitae' – 'In the newness of life'. A life lived to the fullest is a life that is characterized by being in relationship with Jesus, who is Himself the definition of life (John 10:10).

The Eucharist is at the heart of our worship and weekly Mass is celebrated. The liturgy is prepared each week by a different class from Year 7, 8 and 9 in their Religious Formation lessons and this is led by the Lay Chaplain. All pupils play an active role through readings, bidding prayers and the offertory procession. In addition, whole school Masses take place for Advent, Lent, and Holy Days of Obligation. House Masses for all year groups take place, matching the Feast Day of the House saints, and this is led by the tutor reps who organize the liturgy and readers across all key stages.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide an experience of vibrant Christian community within the context of prayer, worship and spiritual reflection. Through the many opportunities we offer all our pupils to explore experiences of faith and belief, we are reminded of our duty of care for others as members of the Body of Christ in the world today.

We recognize that each member of our school community is at a different stage on their own faith journey and that it is incumbent that we provide opportunities for our pupils to be faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future.

Chaplaincy is evolving within the college; different opportunities are offered that encourage pupils to become actively involved and interested in their faith and passionate about global issues that affect humanity. We aim to provide something throughout the year that reaches all pupils.

### **Chaplaincy Activities**

- Prayer - engaging in prayer in alternative and creative ways as well as for specific occasions such as Remembrance Day and World Peace Day.
- Fundraising projects and sponsored events including Teenage Cancer Trust and Stroke Association.
- Promoting CAFOD campaigns
- Support for primary schools
- Youth SVP
- CAFOD Young Leaders/Volunteers
- Support for Julian Trust
- Flame
- Youth conferences and Diocesan conferences for young people (commissioning of Chaplaincy teams, sixth form conferences).
- Youth Alpha aimed at 6<sup>th</sup> Form Students

## **Whole School Fundraising**

Throughout the academic year, pupils in all year groups are encouraged to raise money to support the work of local and international charities.

Our four Houses, Bell Burnell, Descartes, Pasteur and Seacole support charities as voted for by the pupils annually and are supported by Chaplaincy in whatever way possible.

6<sup>th</sup> Form students have formed a Young Leaders group in collaboration with CAFOD and are looking at working towards the Live Simply Award. They are working in collaboration with younger pupils and a local Catholic primary school.

## **Retreats**

In September Year 7 pupils participate in an in-house retreat day centered around the theme of belonging. The day includes a series of creative workshops and mass preparation, ending with a year group mass during which many pupils are active participants in worship.

Year 7 also have the opportunity to attend a two-day residential retreat at Viney Hill, (Chepstow).

Years 8 and 9 have the opportunity to visit Rome and attend a three-day residential retreat at Kintbury (Berkshire).

Years 10 are offered the opportunity to attend a four-day residential retreat at Kintbury. This is run by Retreat Centre staff. Pupils are accompanied and supported by college staff both from within the RF department and other subject areas.

Year 11 are offered a residential retreat Lee Abbey, Lynton in Devon at the beginning of their Year 11 studies in collaboration with other Diocesan secondary schools. This is led by centre staff and staff from all participating schools.

Sixth form students are invited to participate in diocesan day, Kintbury and weekend residentials.

## **Celebrating the Sacraments**

### **Voluntary Mass**

Mass is celebrated every week and a different class is chosen to help prepare the liturgy. We follow the weekly Sunday mass readings and pupils prepare the bidding prayers and take up the offertory gifts. Pupils in years 11, 12 and 13 are commissioned as Eucharistic ministers within the school. They minister for the voluntary mass and for masses on Holy Days of Obligation. Their training and ongoing support is provided by our Lay Chaplain.

### **Class Mass**

Each RF class in year 7, 8 and 9 is invited to share in a class mass. Classes prepare the liturgy with their RF teacher during the lesson before the mass. These masses are held in the College Chapel which creates a more intimate atmosphere. Priests from neighbouring parishes are invited in to celebrate mass with classes.

### **Obligatory Mass**

The Lay Chaplain organises the liturgy for Holy Days of Obligation alongside the Head of RF. This involves coordinating pupils from all year groups as well as liaising with the music department.

The Lay Chaplain also liaises with Heads of House for the house Masses which take place once a year. These Masses fall close to the Feast Day of the individual House Saints. This involves working with House captains and representatives to determine a theme, appropriate hymns and to prepare bidding prayers and post-communion reflections as well as ensuring that the pupil representatives are then able to organise tutor groups within their house to provide the different parts of worship.

### **Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to all pupils during Lent. The whole college attends a reconciliation service and individual are invited to sign up for individual confession if they wish. Priests from neighbouring parishes within our college catchment are invited in to hear confession and they give generously of their time.

6<sup>th</sup> Form Students have their own Reconciliation Service which is prepared for with explanation assemblies leading to Reconciliation with a local priest, who has designed the service and offered his support in implementing it.

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