

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Aims, Values and Beliefs

We believe our school should be a happy and caring place where children want to come and where they will feel secure. As teachers we aim to create an environment in which children can experience the joy of learning, be valued as important members of the school and belong in a community that celebrates their differences. Inspired by our vision to Value, Inspire and Challenge, we seek to achieve our mission of making the world a better place by creating a learning environment rooted in Gospel values, where all children and adults grow together as better people.

We recognise that each child is of equal value and that it is our privilege and responsibility to accept each child into our community. Beginning from their first day, and throughout their stay with us, we should have high expectations of all children in order to encourage them to thrive. We are committed to helping every child build Strong Foundations through their learning characteristics, Catholic social values, and Catholic virtues, thereby equipping them with the concentration, resilience, self-confidence and motivation to flourish in all they do.

We believe that every individual in the school should be accorded the respect and dignity that is the right of every person. In the spirit of our Catholic Social Teaching, we uphold the Dignity of the Human Person, knowing that all people are valuable and therefore everyone should be treated with respect.

In all our relationships, we should try to be fair, consistent, encouraging, understanding and compassionate. As a Catholic school, we believe religious education should permeate and indeed, inspire the whole life and work of the school. We believe it is our responsibility to instil respect for religious and moral values and appreciation of diverse ethnic origins, all religions and other ways of life. We nurture our Catholic Virtues, growing to be more respectful, faithful, courageous, forgiving, loving, trusting and helpful. Children and adults alike live out the call to be good friends and positive citizens. We are all called to build a better self and a stronger community which in turn builds God's Kingdom.

We aim for genuine excellence for each individual in every sphere of activity: academic, pastoral, social, physical, moral and spiritual. We do not see knowledge as a means of material prosperity and success, but as a call to serve and be responsible for others. Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, we encourage children to act with solidarity and subsidiarity, working as part of a team, hearing and valuing every voice, and thinking first of those most in need.

We believe that education is the shared responsibility of parents, teachers, children, Church and the community. Parents have a right to expect that what a child is taught is what a child needs to know and that education should develop a sense of self-respect and the capacity to live as independent, self-motivated people with the ability to function as contributing members of co-operative groups. Through our Strong Foundations, we help every child develop independence and initiative, to think for themselves, getting started with confidence, and taking responsibility for their own next steps.

We believe that each child has a right to be taught all areas of the curriculum and that we should always aim to cater for the needs of all children, enabling them to develop concepts, attitudes, values and skills through stimulating and relevant experiences. We should help children to develop lively, inquiring minds, the ability to question and argue rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills. Our Learning Team characteristics: concentration, hope, independence, initiative,

motivation, optimism, perseverance, positive thinking, resilience, and self-confidence, underpin how we approach all learning together.

We believe that children enjoy success, and become more effective learners once their image of themselves is positive and good. We celebrate each child's unique, God-given talents and abilities, encouraging them to face challenges head-on with self-confidence and to see themselves as capable, resilient, and loved.

We believe this can be achieved by our working through open and participative structures. We embrace our responsibility as stewards of God's creation, caring for and protecting the world around us, and working together as part of the Common Good, making the world a better place for all.

We would like to emphasise the words of Pope Leo XIV, from his apostolic letter Drawing New Maps of Hope (2025),

“Having a great deal of knowledge is not enough if we do not know who we are or what the meaning of life is. Catholic schools and universities must form people - mind, heart, body, and spirit - for the common good.”

The Headteacher and Staff
March 2026