

CHAPLAINCY

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POLICY?

The aim of Chaplaincy in Notre Dame Catholic College is to encourage a sense of the uniqueness and dignity of each person, in the belief that true spirituality involves care of, and interest in, the whole person. Chaplaincy exists to foster the Catholic Ethos of the School and strives to build up a faith community. The Chaplaincy team through a variety of liturgical and spiritual opportunities will strive to support and encourage all pupils and staff who are looking for pastoral support and encouragement in their faith journey.

Chaplaincy plays a key role in helping Notre Dame Catholic College realise and develop its distinctive nature and purpose. The school Mission Statement has been developed and used through the motto “to do small things with great love”.

PURPOSES

- ❖ Through a collaborative ministry the Chaplaincy Team aims to work with all members of our school community to help realise our Mission and Vision Statement inspired by St Julie Billiart;
- ❖ The Chaplaincy Team strives to be approachable, available to, and supportive of, all members of the school community and to encourage and develop the relationship between home, school, parish and the wider local and Notre Dame Community;
- ❖ To encourage the active support of all staff, pupils and where appropriate parents/carers, local clergy and Governors in the liturgical life of the school and in chaplaincy opportunities;
- ❖ To nurture the prayer life and faith journey of all members of our school community including our staff through the use of retreat days and Mission Week;
- ❖ To offer a place for socialising, support, prayer and reflection within the heart of our school community and available to all members of our school community;
- ❖ To encourage staff and pupils to live their faith in their daily lives inspired by the charism of Notre Dame.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL RESPOND?

The Chaplaincy Team works in collaboration with:

The Headteacher
Sisters of Notre Dame

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Senior Leadership Team
 Local Clergy
 Pastoral Leaders and Form Tutors
 Head of RE and RE Department
 Departments, Pupil Support and Senior Learning Support Officers.
 Pastoral Working Groups in St John's Parish
 Lourdes/Pilgrimage: Spiritual Journey

Among the responsibilities of the Chaplaincy Team are:

- ❖ creating varied opportunities for prayerful and appropriate worship including retreats and liturgical and sacramental celebrations;
- ❖ providing support and resources for collective worship and themed days/weeks;
- ❖ working in partnership with subject departments, particularly RE and music;
- ❖ to encourage staff and pupils to become involved in Eucharistic Ministry;
- ❖ care for and monitoring of the condition of the Chapel;
- ❖ informal contact and pastoral care through listening, giving support and comfort in times of bereavement and trouble;
- ❖ networking with parishes, other Notre Dame schools and the Archdiocese;
- ❖ to liaise with and encourage involvement with Christian social groups such as St Vincent de Paul Society, CAFOD, Justice and Peace and The Legion of Mary and Nugent Care.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The role of the Chaplaincy Team will continue to be monitored as the needs of the school within the wider Christian Community evolve:

- ❖ Questionnaires to staff, pupils and other stake holders;
- ❖ Regular meetings of Chaplaincy Team and pupil Chaplaincy Team;
- ❖ Regular Chaplaincy reports to Governors.

The recent monitoring of the provision of Chaplaincy in the Section 48 Inspection was found to be outstanding.

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