



St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School
& Early Years Centre

Ethos and Values Statement

2026 - 2027

Our Mission Statement

In God's love we learn and grow together

Founded upon Catholic principles of; dignity, solidarity, the common good and peace, we aim to inspire and celebrate each child's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and creative growth.

In our safe and caring environment, we share strong, positive relationships with each other as well as the local community. Learning about each other's lives locally and the wider world teaches us the value and unique talents of everyone.

We will achieve our goals by enhancing pupils' self-esteem, their self-respect, respect for others and for all of God's creation.



We will learn and grow together



In God's love we learn and grow together

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Change Log

Date	Page	Change	Initials

1. Our Mission

At St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School, our mission expresses our belief that every child is uniquely created and loved by God. Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by our Catholic faith, we strive to be a community where children, families and staff learn, grow and flourish together; academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally.

Our ethos is lived, not just written. Through God's love, strong relationships and shared commitment, we enable every child — regardless of circumstance — to **learn, grow and flourish together**, becoming confident learners, compassionate individuals and hopeful citizens of the future.

We serve a richly diverse community in Liverpool, shaped by high levels of social deprivation, cultural and linguistic diversity, additional learning needs, pupil mobility and vulnerability. Our ethos is one of hope, compassion, justice and dignity, where barriers are recognised and actively addressed so that every child can succeed.

2. Our Catholic Ethos

As a Catholic school, our ethos is firmly grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles of **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)**. These principles shape every aspect of school life — our curriculum, relationships, behaviour expectations, pastoral care and engagement with families.

We are committed to:

- Human Dignity**

Recognising that every person is made in the image of God and worthy of love, respect and opportunity, regardless of background, ability or circumstance.

- The Common Good**

Creating a safe, nurturing and inclusive community where everyone is supported to contribute and flourish together.

- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

Placing the needs of our most disadvantaged pupils and families at the heart of decision-making, ensuring equity, compassion and practical support.

- Solidarity**

Standing alongside our families and community, building strong relationships based on trust, understanding and shared responsibility.

- Subsidiarity**

Empowering children, families and staff to have a voice and to play an active role in shaping school life.

- Stewardship of Creation**

Encouraging care for God's world and responsible use of resources, fostering gratitude and sustainability.

3. Inclusion and Social Justice

Inclusion is central to our Catholic identity and to our mission:

We recognise that many of our pupils and families experience significant barriers to learning and wellbeing, including poverty, housing instability, language barriers, special educational needs and disabilities, trauma, frequent mobility and challenges with attendance. In response, inclusion at our school is proactive, relational and rooted in compassion rather than compliance.

Our Inclusive Practice

We demonstrate our commitment to inclusion by:

- Creating a safe, nurturing and predictable environment where children feel valued, understood and secure.
- Providing high-quality, adaptive teaching that meets the needs of pupils with SEND, EAL, and additional vulnerabilities.
- Working closely with families to understand individual circumstances and remove barriers to learning and attendance.
- Taking a trauma-informed approach, recognising that behaviour and absence are often communication and responding with care, patience and consistency.
- Ensuring pupils with additional needs are fully included in the life of the school, including worship, trips, leadership roles and enrichment opportunities.
- Collaborating with external professionals and services to secure timely support for children and families.

Attendance and Belonging

We understand that persistent absence is often linked to complex social and emotional factors. Our approach prioritises relationship-building, trust and early intervention, working alongside families to support regular attendance while recognising and addressing the challenges they face. Every child is welcomed back with dignity, encouragement and hope.

Language, Culture and Identity

We celebrate the linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of our community. Pupils with English as an Additional Language are supported to develop confidence in communication while being encouraged to value their home language, culture and identity. Diversity is recognised as a strength that enriches our school community.

4. Our School Values

Our daily life is guided by seven core values, which are taught explicitly, modelled consistently and celebrated across the school - F.I.N.B.A.R.S. -

Friendship

We nurture kind, trusting relationships where children feel safe, valued and connected. We promote empathy, cooperation and reconciliation, especially in a community where stability and belonging are vital.

Independence

We encourage children to become confident learners who can make choices, solve problems and take responsibility for their actions, while knowing when to seek help.

Nobility

We strive for integrity, honesty and moral courage. Children are taught to act with dignity, fairness and truth, reflecting Christ's example.

Bravery

We support children to face challenges, overcome barriers and persevere — whether in learning, relationships or personal circumstances.

Aspiration

We believe every child can succeed. High expectations, strong teaching and pastoral care help pupils raise their ambitions and see themselves as capable and worthy of success.

Respect

We value diversity of culture, language, faith and need. Mutual respect underpins our behaviour, relationships and approach to inclusion.

Service

We encourage children to serve others — within school, the parish and the wider community — developing compassion, generosity and a sense of social responsibility.

5. Fundamental British Values

In line with our Catholic ethos, we actively promote Fundamental British Values, recognising their strong alignment with Gospel values and CST:

- **Democracy** – Pupils are encouraged to share their views, participate in school councils and understand that every voice matters.
- **The Rule of Law** – Clear expectations help children understand fairness, responsibility and the importance of justice.
- **Individual Liberty** – Children are supported to make choices, express themselves and develop confidence within safe boundaries.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance** – We celebrate diversity and teach children to respect different faiths, cultures and beliefs.

These values prepare our pupils to be active, responsible and compassionate citizens in modern Britain.

6. Parish and Wider Community Links

Our school is an integral part of the parish and the wider Liverpool community.

- We work closely with the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel participating in Masses, sacramental preparation, liturgies and parish celebrations.
- Clergy and parish representatives support the spiritual life of the school.
- We collaborate with local services, charities, schools and organisations to provide support for families and enrich pupils' experiences.
- We encourage pupils to engage in acts of service and outreach, strengthening their sense of belonging and social responsibility.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- Upholds the Catholic character and ethos of the school.
- Ensures policies and practice reflect CST, inclusion and social justice.
- Holds leaders to account for the wellbeing and progress of all pupils.

Headteacher and Senior Leaders

- Provide strong, compassionate leadership rooted in the school's mission.
- Ensure high expectations for teaching, learning, behaviour and inclusion.
- Foster a culture of care, aspiration and continuous improvement.

Staff

- Model Gospel values and school values in all interactions.
- Provide high-quality teaching and pastoral care tailored to pupils' needs.
- Build trusting relationships with pupils and families.

Parents and Carers

- Work in partnership with the school to support children's learning, attendance and wellbeing.
- Uphold the values and ethos of the school.
- Engage positively with school support and communication.

Pupils

- Live out the school values in their words and actions.
- Take pride in their learning and behaviour.
- Show kindness, respect and responsibility within school and beyond.

8. Policy monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and Full Governing Body on an annual basis. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other relevant parties.

Reviewed and ratified by: Full Governing Body

Date of review: March, 2025

Date of next review: March 2026

Policy Status: Statutory

Policy cycle: Annual