



(Draft) Extra-Curricular Activities Mission Statement

2021 – 2022

At St. Columba's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing pupils with opportunities to advance their skills and experiences. Where possible, we aim to provide access to events and activities, outside of classroom lessons and learning, which enhance our curriculum offer.

Extra-curricular activities may include, but are not limited to, those based around:

- * music
- * performing arts
- * reading
- * cooking
- * computing
- * art
- * academic clubs
- * community service (e.g. Mini Vinnies)
- * expressing faith in action
- * sporting festivals or competitions

Activities such as these offer opportunities for our pupils to learn:

- the values of teamwork;
- individual and group responsibility;
- physical strength and endurance;
- healthy competition;
- to explore diversity and a sense of culture;
- to contribute to their wider community.

Extra-curricular activities provide a channel for reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom, offering students the opportunity to apply skills in a real-world context, and, therefore, are considered part of a well-rounded education.

This mission statement outlines our ethos, aims and commitment to pupils who attend extra-curricular activities. We want every child to enjoy their time at school and, as part of this, we have outlined our commitment for our pupils and parents.

We have a set of values that underpins our extra-curricular activities mission statement. Our values ensure pupils:

- Have healthy lifestyles
- Are provided with a safe and happy environment
- Enjoy school and feel a sense of achievement in everything they do
- Make a positive contribution to their school and the community
- Establish skills which will be essential for adult life

At St. Columba's, we aim to:

- Provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment for all children to play, learn and develop
- Provide the opportunity for all children to participate but also for them to rest and have quiet time as and when they need it
- Give all pupils the chance to learn through exciting activities based on the school's broad and balanced curriculum

- Provide a high standard of teaching and learning so that pupils feel challenged to reach their potential
- Help pupils to develop responsibility for themselves and their actions, and to become confident, independent and cooperative individuals
- Encourage pupils to have a positive attitude and respect for both themselves and other people
- Promote a positive relationship with parents and we work in partnership with them to provide high-quality education, play and care for their children
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation of these extra-curricular opportunities to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our pupils and parents

The school is committed to the following:

- During the course of a child's time at St. Columba's, we strive to provide varied opportunities that cater for a range of interests and abilities
- Ensuring any planned activities within the extra-curricular offer are inclusive, not discriminatory and accessible for all
- Ensuring activities promote the social, emotional and mental health of all pupils
- Providing pupils with access to a variety of facilities and equipment that is safe to use, and ensuring pupils are supervised at all times
- Ensuring staff leading extra-curricular activities put the needs and safety of pupils first at all times
- Adhering to relevant legislation that keeps pupils safe and free from harm at all times
- Facilitating inclusion and equal access to educational provision for all pupils as legally required, and making reasonable adjustments to ensure such provision is extended to pupils with additional support needs
- Ensuring staff adhere to their safeguarding duties at all times and report any concerns they may have to the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Ensuring staff are qualified, and that any volunteers and staff on duty during the extra-curricular activities have undertaken the relevant security checks and these are listed in the school's recording system
- Promoting a positive and inclusive environment for pupils and tackling any incidents of bullying immediately
- Listening and responding to pupils' and parents' views and concerns
- Sharing relevant information with parents and pupils where possible. For example, the annual timetable of events for specific activities throughout the year in order for pupils to make informed choices, in so far as it is reasonable to manage
- Keeping parents informed in a timely manner, via email, text message or telephone call, of arrangements for extra-curricular activity events. This is especially important where the start or finish times are outside of the normal school day, or there is a cost involved. Parents will be informed as soon as school are able to confirm definite plans and arrangements
- Keeping children informed in school, in an age appropriate way, of arrangements for extra-curricular activity events
- Sharing all relevant information with parents to ensure effective communication
- Sharing and discussing pupils' achievements, experiences and progress
- Where it is reasonable and achievable, school will try to offer a wide ranging group of pupils the opportunities to participate in planned events such as sports festivals, unless competition rules stipulate the need for a particular focus group (e.g. gender / SEND)

We ask that both pupils and parents commit to the following:

Pupils

- Act in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Treat everyone with respect and kindness
- Stay where a member of staff can see and hear you
- Participate where possible
- Talk to a member of staff if you have been bullied or witnessed any bullying take place

Parents:

- Read all the relevant school information which has been sent to you and sign any paperwork required in a timely manner
- Pay for charges requested by the school where possible
- Demonstrate understanding if arrangements are beyond the school's control e.g. activities organised by an external agency or last minute changes dictated by the organisers of a planned event
- Provide the school with up-to-date information about your child, e.g. emergency contacts
- Be available, or arrange for someone trustworthy to be available, to collect your child at the end of the day, and inform the school office who will be collecting your child should situations change
- Reiterate to your child the provisions of the Behaviour Policy and the potential for harm should your child break the rules
- Work with us to achieve the best for your child

When selecting pupils to attend or take part in any extra-curricular activities, the school will consider the following, in so far as is reasonably possible:

- The child's voice – do they wish to participate in the activity on offer?
- The child's interests, enthusiasm and experiences both in and out of school
- The child's skill, aptitude or ability – this is not a limiting factor but may be a consideration in competitive competitions
- The child's participation in previous events
- Where possible, the annual timetable of events for specific activities throughout the year in order for participation to be monitored across cohorts and groups of pupils
- The child's conduct in line with the school's Behaviour Policy – this is not a limiting factor but reasonable adjustments or additional support may need to be considered in some circumstances
- The opportunity to provide experiences for a wide range of pupils of all ages
- Permission from parents and signed paperwork – parents must communicate directly with school if they wish to express an opinion or discuss a concern

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to statutory and good practice guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act and schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after children'
- DfE (2018) 'Equality Act 2010: advice for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Admissions Policy
- LAC Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy: Pupils including Peer on Peer Abuse Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

Monitoring

Subject Leaders, class teachers and staff responsible for extra-curricular activities will track pupil and cohort groupings annually to ensure equality and fairness for all. Certain data is submitted for approval and monitoring.

Our school aim is to keep an accurate register / record from Reception to Year 6 of all pupils' involvement in extra-curricular activities in order to celebrate their successes and achievements.

[This Mission Statement will be reviewed at regular intervals.](#)