



Diocese of Manchester Catholic Schools Statement on Parental Partnership in Education

Parents are the primary educators of their children; this is an essential tenet of the Catholic faith¹. We, the teachers and administrators of the Diocese of Manchester, consider it our privilege to work alongside you in the education and formation of our Catholic school students.

When you choose to partner with our Catholic schools, you commit to a collaboration of effort and good will, opening the door to a world of goodness, truth and beauty. Your child will experience the transformative effect of God's love in his or her life, and you will be amazed at the ways it touches others, both in and outside of school.

Parents as primary educators, ought to be their child's greatest influencers and role models – physically, mentally, and spiritually – and a good example is the strongest teacher. Your personal relationship with God and your involvement in the school community will influence the ways in which your child relates to God and others. Catholic values and Christian behavior demonstrated in the home and reinforced at Catholic school ensures these values take root in your child. The Diocese of Manchester Catholic Schools will provide resources throughout the year, which will seek to strengthen and affirm your responsibility as the first educator² of your child.

In our schools, we gladly welcome students of all faiths, at all stages along the journey to faith, and we need parents to support us according to our mission. Students may not “opt out” of religion class, Mass, rosary, or any other of the Catholic practices that distinguish our Catholic schools from their secular counterparts. It is for the benefit of every child, in a true spirit of evangelization, that devotions are taught and required for all students.

During these formative years, your child needs constant support at home as well as at school to develop his/her moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical endowment. Parents and teachers must trust the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest to nurture and challenge each student to reach his/her potential. We follow the Catholic principle of subsidiarity; that is, concerns should always be brought, first, to the staff member, teacher, or administrator to which the parent has the concern. It is vital that both parents and teachers model respect and see the dignity in each other, so that they may work in union towards the growth and betterment of the child.

Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. Sometimes, in the process of maturation, new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, we believe appropriate boundaries and limits provide children with much needed guidance and security. It also provides the best learning environment, where everyone can learn free from distraction. As a partner, we will work alongside you, to uplift you in your role as primary educator, while creating an atmosphere where students can best be readied to achieve academic and personal success.

Nothing is more important, or more beautiful, than the task of forming knowledgeable, kind, effective and moral citizens of tomorrow. We are honored to have earned your trust, encouraged by your strong commitment, and we look forward to working alongside you.

¹ *Gravissimum Educationis* 3

² Catechism of the Catholic Church §2223