

The Ursuline Prayer

Gracious God,
Let us remain in harmony,
United together all of one heart and one will.
Let us be bound to one another
by the bond of love,
Respecting each other, helping each other,
And bearing with each other in Jesus Christ.
For if we try to be like this, without any doubt,
The Lord God will be in our midst.
Amen

Chaplaincy

overview at

St Angela's Ursuline School



Chaplaincy: Working to offer students moments and experiences of Spiritual reflection and action in community

Chaplaincy - Academic Year 2020-21

Joanna Vassiliou is the School Chaplain and also the Head of Department for Religious Education and an associate SLT member. Joanna has worked at St Angela's for 15 years and she views her role as ensuring that the Catholic life and spirit of *serviam* are at the heart of everything we do in St Angela's.

Traditionally the Chaplain works with selected student liturgy representatives to plan retreats, liturgies, services, Masses and assemblies; as well as coordinating with the student altar servers in order to keep students as active ambassadors of the Catholic faith. However, covid restrictions have limited this somewhat and as a school we have had to adapt to move our spiritual focus to be virtual and remote with live weekly Mass in place.

St Angela's has not allowed Covid 19 to restrict opportunities for spiritual experiences. Services such as Remembrance Day, end of term liturgies, assemblies and school masses have been delivered by students and to students in a covid safe manner. The use of technology has been used to record and stream events to students as well as staff, parents and governors of the school and the wider community.

Our Chapel is physically and spiritually the centre of St Angela's. It is a place of prayer, used by all to gather their thoughts and give thanks to the Lord. The Chapel, with the Blessed Sacrament reserved is used weekly to celebrate class Masses with the students of the school. The school has excellent links with the Priests at the local parish of St Antony's Church who come every Friday to celebrate Mass, as well as whole school Masses, services and liturgies.

The Chapel continues to remain open to all who need it. It is a place to pray, or to sit quietly with your own thoughts. A place to shed a tear when news is not so good. A place to celebrate important events in our faith journey. Most recently we installed a votive stand with electric candles. We invite those who might want to light a candle in prayerful giving.

The Chapel is also a very important place for learning about our Catholic faith. Each year, it plays host to a variety of classes – be it for the Year 7 Chapel tour, meditation sessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Advent Services, Lenten Services or small group Masses.

The Ursuline Sisters are a huge influence within the school, and although Covid has limited our interactions with them. They have always been active in attending Masses, as well as being available to deliver talks to students and speak to whole year groups during assemblies or retreats.

The Chaplain is supported by our School Councillors and Heads of Year, to support the vulnerable in our school community. Joanna works closely with the pastoral team in every Key Stage throughout the year, supporting them spiritually and pastorally.

Year group retreats are appropriately themed based on the Church's Cyclical Calendar as well as where appropriate inline with the SRE programme. Retreats are also linked directly to the Ursuline student profile.

St Angela's school are lead ambassadors of the Ursuline Student Profile. It is a worldwide Ursuline initiative which encourages schools and students to embrace the heritage of Ursuline life as well ensuring the younger generations learn the values and teaching of St Angela's. Some key themes explored are leading for Justice, listening and attentive and loving and compassion. All these phrases come directly from the teaching of St Angela. This layer of spiritual exploration allows for student growth and development as they move through the school and their faith journey.

