



  
**St Cuthbert's**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

# Responses to the Synod 2022



# KEY STAGE 2

## What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Place where we gather to praise Jesus
- Spreading God's word
- Spreading God's word and everyone coming together.
- Go and pray with others with Jesus.
- The people not the place
- To gather together to pray and celebrate Jesus.
- Community and family.
- I think of spreading God's word and lots of people coming together.

## What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- To go to church and gather with Jesus and God.
- Group of people led by a leader.
- Lots of people coming together and caring for each other.
- Our community as a community in Christ.
- Family
- Class- Year 3
- School – STA
- Parish- St Anthony's
- People come together to help and support each other.
- Loads of people being together and caring for each other. The Church and our faith is a community in Christ.

## Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Priest
- Deacons
- Bishop
- Help everyone even if you have lost her faith.
- Pope Francis
- Mrs Ryan
- Jesus/God
- All of us
- Teacher
- Teacher Assistants
- Mums and Dads
- Sailors
- For us to learn about God and Jesus. To church community is there to help everyone if they have lost faith (just like the prodigal son & the lost sheep)

## What do you think is the job of the Church?

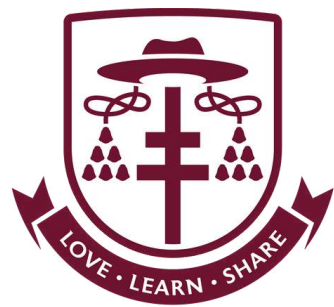
- To gather people together
- To live a Christian Life
- Give clarity to the needy
- Help people no matter what
- Not to discriminate
- To spread the love of God and Jesus
- To gather people to pray together to get rid of the sins
- To teach the people and God so we follow in his footsteps.
- It is the church's mission to help people in need.
- Help people in need.
- To teach people about God and Jesus and how we can follow in their footsteps. It is ours and the Church's mission to help everyone who is in need of help.

## Could the church do anything better?

- Add online service app
- More decorations to make it fun.
- Keep on-going with Mission spreading God's word.
- Show more love and kindness
- Treat us all equally
- Woman priests







# KEY STAGE 2

## What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Priest
- Preacher
- Place to come together and rejoice
- Place for people to come together
- God
- Disciples
- Place of holiness
- Prayer to God and Jesus
- Someone to express to and somewhere to get rid of sins
- Place of peace

## What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Bunch of people
- Same kind together and in one unison
- One big happy family together
- One more family and friend
- Big family that stays together
- Together
- Group

## Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Everyone
- If you have not followed God lately
- Everybody in the world
- Priests
- Pope
- God
- Jesus
- All the followers of God
- All the followers of Jesus
- All the animals, mammals, and amphibians

## What do you think is the job of the Church?

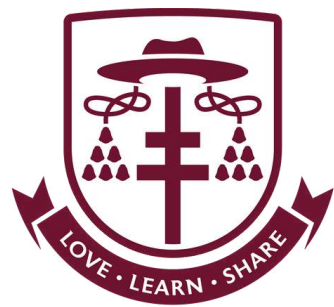
- To unite people
- To help them repent
- People to seek forgiveness
- Hearts are open
- To bring joy to everyone
- To bring peace to everyone
- A place to come to God.
- Spread the message all around
- Be positive
- Get more people to believe in God.
- People feel closer to God

## Could the church do anything better?

- Could also help people to unite
- Help people in desperate need
- Help people to have no sin
- To make their spirit even richer
- Add more activities
- Add more fun
- Get more younger population involved







## What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Christ immediately comes to mind.
- Peace and togetherness
- Church is a community of people (and not a building for worshippers to worship in at a specific time) that have a common faith in God

## What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Unity
- Many people, one voice
- Community is the coming together of people with someone in common. It could be neighbourhood or faith

## Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Everyone who is a member of the church
- Parishioners
- The church community should be the coming together of people with different backgrounds but a common faith or believe.

## What do you think is the job of the Church?

- The Church is the light of the world. It is the duty of the church to spiritually nurture the people and guide them to Christ and heaven.
- To serve the community
- To help everyone develop and grow in all areas of life.

## Could the church do anything better?

- To continue talking about Christ and doing what Christ would have done if he were left on earth.
- Publicly more inclusive and have more clubs.
- Yes, the church can do better by getting involved in all aspects of life so that everyone can find a place in the community.







# ENDSLEIGH HOLY CHILD

VC ACADEMY



## KEY STAGE 2

### What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Community
- Holy Family
- Jesus guiding us
- Priest leading us on the right path.

### What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Family
- Neighbour
- Friend
- My school
- My neighbourhood, city and everyone around them as part of the community
- People gathering together.

### Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Jesus
- Christians
- Community and the Pope
- The priest and the Deacon
- God
- Sacraments

### What do you think is the job of the Church?

- Tell you about Jesus and God
- Tell you about the bread
- Spread the word of Jesus
- Lead us onto the right path and the right direction
- Steer in the right way
- To show us to forgive our sins and that Jesus is always with us.

### Could the church do anything better?

- Maybe like get more people to go to church.
- Encourage more people to do more independent praying at home.
- Put posters that they will make you welcome people to the community of God.
- Speak a bit louder.





# ENDSLEIGH HOLY CHILD

VC ACADEMY

## PARENTS/CARERS



### What do you like about the Church?

- Being part of a community
- Singing
- Quiet time to reflect with God
- Listening to God's word

### What could the Church do to make it better?

- More guitar music
- Fun days out to engage with the community
- Make the Mass/liturgies more child friendly - (Many parents commented about this)
- Children's liturgy to be brought back
- Bring back the sign of peace
- Being able to socialise together again
- Help the people in our community with more outreach
- Shorter Mass times as families have many demands on their time







# ST MARY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

VC ACADEMY



## KEY STAGE 2

### What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Community
- Parish
- Holy Spirit
- Go home
- Home of Jesus
- A dove
- God
- Friendship Peace
- Safety
- Marriage
- Be with God
- Priest reading the bible
- Jesus
- Place to be with God
- Gospel Music

### What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Parish Community
- People doing work together
- Think of a home and everyone in it.
- Walking together in Christ
- Our city, our school and our family.
- A group
- Friends/family
- Church
- Jesus with us
- Entire world
- Gathering
- Relatives

### Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Everybody- the laity
- Us
- Priest
- God's love
- Holy Spirit
- People who believe
- Mary
- God
- Jesus
- Bishop
- Pope
- People
- Jesus and God
- The Parish
- Everyone in the world
- Everybody attending church
- Family of God
- Christians
- Locals
- Us
- Friends and family



### What do you think is the job of the Church?

- To help people communicate with God
- To make people believe
- To have more trust in God
- To create disciples
- To spread the good news
- To share Jesus' love
- To create a better world
- To help people follow in Jesus' footsteps
- For everyone to come together and pray
- Teach people about Jesus
- Sharing the Holy Gospel
- Christianity
- To talk to God
- To share the good news
- Be more like God
- To baptise
- To learn the word of God
- To gather.
- Let people speak with God
- Forgive sins
- Place to be with God
- Extend family of God
- Pray
- Tell the story of Jesus
- Believe in Jesus

### Could the church do anything better?

- Make it brighter for children
- Child friendly
- No change
- Little clubs for kids
- Club after church
- Nothing
- Donations
- Repairs
- The priest saying more inspirational words
- Different music and hymns
- More bright colours
- Different events
- Online meetings
- Child friendly speak
- Club- more fun for children
- Sign language
- Different activities
- Different ways of saying prayers
- Different objects and areas
- New ways to worship God.





# PARENTS/CARERS

## How is this journeying together happening today in your local church?

- Sharing the Gospel together at mass
- Sharing the Good News with others
- Following Jesus' example in the way we live

## What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in your journeying together?

- Support those around us
- Forgive others







## KEY STAGE 2

### What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- God, Peace, Joy, Happiness
- Community kindness
- Church
- Christianity
- Jesus
- Prayer
- Family
- Wine and Bread
- People
- Places where people worship God
- People who praise God
- Listen to the word of God.
- Gather
- Followers of God
- Love
- Be respectful
- A place to worship
- People with bread and wine
- Bible
- Togetherness

### What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Kindness
- Love
- Care
- A group of people
- Friendships
- Happiness
- Togetherness
- Gathering as a crowd
- Working with friends and people
- School
- Friendly people
- The crowd

### Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Kindness, Christians, Family
- Love, Us, Jesus and God
- Care a group of people
- The Church
- The priests
- Friendships
- Happiness
- God
- Everyone
- Jesus
- Priest
- Pope
- People
- Christians
- Cardinals
- STM children.

### What do you think is the job of the Church?

- People closer together in God's footsteps
- Closer to God. Be kind and caring
- Love your enemies
- Worship God
- Teach people the gospels
- To spread the good news
- Teach everybody Gods words
- To get closer to God
- To bless people
- To pray for one another and especially for the people less fortunate than us.
- To tell people the good news
- To get people to follow in God's footsteps.
- To help people. Help the poor.
- Pray to God
- To hear Gods story
- Care for the sick
- Love our neighbour
- Follow God's footsteps

### Could the church do anything better?

- No.
- Give poor people more food
- Finding ways to learn
- Get more people to join in
- Let the people read the scriptures not just the priest.
- I don't think it could do any better.
- More community activities.
- They should let people go in who are not Christians widen the community.
- Stop us from bullying
- Nothing better
- To pray more for Jesus
- Help less fortunate people
- Sing more songs.
- To welcome the people who do not have anywhere to live.
- Stop people from bullying
- The church could make schools better with people together.
- To make the community stronger.





## How is this journeying together happening today in your local church?

- This journeying together is happening today in my local church with the leadership of our parish priest emphasizing the importance of us working as a community, looking after one another and helping others.

## What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in your journeying together?

- The Spirit invite us to have a deeper devotion to God and to strive to follow the work that the risen Lord laid down for us to follow. As a community through discussions, interactions and with the help of the Holy Spirit we will grow in our journeying together.







# ST RICHARD'S

## VC ACADEMY



# KEY STAGE 2

### What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Pray
- Holy Place
- Holy People
- A place to be forgiven
- Jesus
- Family
- Friends meeting up together
- Happiness, it makes me calm and makes me feel less nervous
- It makes me want to pray
- I think of the disciples and I remember the Holy Spirit.

### What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Loads of people together
- Families together
- People interested in the same thing
- Service to the world
- People who work together and do something they like
- Everybody friends together and gathered around
- Team
- Memories
- Service
- Business
- Working together

### Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Organist
- Priest
- Anybody who want to be included
- Pope
- Community around
- Everyone who wants to come in there
- Bishop
- Priest
- Families
- Everyone and everybody in the world
- Dove
- Christians

### What do you think is the job of the Church?

- Make it more holy for the world
- Make the world more peaceful
- Forgive people who they know have done wrong
- Help people around us
- Teach us how to act
- Tell them what is right and wrong
- Help to learn about Jesus and his stories
- Help people to pray more
- Celebrate
- Set a good example
- Make people believe
- Make the world a better place
- Baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Communion
- A place to give people peace

### Could the church do anything better?

- Make it more welcoming
- Child go out with the church for a day
- Put activities into the Mass
- Encourage more people to join church
- Go to school, and then go to Mass
- Make it more fun
- Party to make people happy
- Create new hymns
- More fun ways to pray







# ST VINCENT'S

## VC ACADEMY



# KEY STAGE 2

### What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Journey of God
- Follow Jesus' footsteps, prayers and bible stories.
- Holy Spirit
- Kindness of Christ
- Think about Jesus and families and how he sacrificed his life for us.

### What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- Parish Community
- People doing work together
- Think of a home and everyone in it.
- Walking together in Christ
- Our city, our school and our family.

### Who do you think is included in the church community?

- Priest
- Father Jim
- Every Christian
- Any religion
- Different community
- Jesus
- Nuns
- Vicar

### What do you think is the job of the Church?

- To spread the good news
- Bring together and help them
- Welcome people
- Teach
- Follow Jesus' footsteps
- Love everyone
- Be the house of the Lord.

### Could the church do anything better?

- Could add more reading and singing.
- Should be a little bit of fun
- Involve children more
- Welcome more people





## What was your experience during the pandemic?

- Boring – no routine, staying in the house all day, doing the same thing every day, nothing to do
- Didn't go to school so could spend time with family
- Scared about getting seriously ill
- Couldn't see family and friends, especially grandparents
- Didn't go to Church for a very long time.
- People suffered – illness and experience loss

## What are your anxieties?

- Worried about the elderly dying from Covid19
- Taking too long to get back to normal
- Climate change
- War
- Not being successful or achieving ambitions or having a good job
- Being poor
- Covid19 caused anxiety – not seeing family and friends

## What is life like for you as a young person?

- Difficult – boring, confusing, annoying
- Interesting – being educated, exciting
- Have lots of worries and anxieties

## What is your experience of Church and faith?

- Long service
- Interesting
- Inspiring priests gives a Homily that teaches us.
- Peaceful

## What do you think of when you hear the word Church?

- Priests / Clergy / The Pope
- Religion
- Family / Community / Friends
- Gathering of People
- Jesus / God / Holy Trinity / Holy / Mary
- Catholic
- The Cross
- Faith / Prayers
- Powerful
- Bible / Holy Water
- Marriage / Confirmation / Holy Communion / Seven Sacraments
- Old
- Big Building

## What do you think of when you hear the word community?

- The community is a group of people.
- People
- Collaborative
- Socialising
- Family
- Friends
- Service
- Togetherness
- Safety
- Strong relationship



## Who do you think is included in the church community?

- The Pope
- Archbishops, Cardinals, Bishops
- Priests
- Eucharistic Ministers
- People
- Everybody, Christians
- Anyone who believes in Christ

## What do you think is the job of the Church?

- Teaching people about God and Jesus
- Bringing people together
- To welcome people to the Christian faith
- To help people feel more religious
- To inform people about creation
- To spread the Gospel
- To bring us all together
- To pray and worship

## Could the church do anything better?

- More fun for smaller children
- More hymns
- Make women a bigger part of the Church
- Allow women priests
- Be more LGBTQ friendly
- More kindness
- Shorter Mass (boring)
- Make services more fun
- Add colours
- Services more inclusive







**ST MARY'S  
COLLEGE**

# KEY STAGE 5 - SIXTH FORM



## Who do you think is included in the church community?

- The Pope
- Archbishops, Cardinals, Bishops
- Priests
- Eucharistic Ministers
- People
- Everybody, Christians
- Anyone who believes in Christ

## What do you think is the job of the Church?

- Teaching people about God and Jesus
- Bringing people together
- To welcome people to the Christian faith
- To help people feel more religious
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## Could the church do anything better?

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- Make services more fun
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- Services more inclusive



## What was your experience during the pandemic?

- The pandemic unsettled me and I felt and still feel anxious about the future.
- There were challenges such as home-schooling and not seeing family but good came out of it too- a chance to step back and re-evaluate what is important in life.

## When you think of the future what are your hopes?

- I am hopeful for peace in our world and people being united by common interest rather than divided by differences.

## What are your anxieties about the future?

- I am anxious about the political situation in our world at the moment.

## Do you see yourself as part of the Church?

- Maybe – 0
- No – 0
- Yes – 100%
- If yes how do you think we could encourage others to become/stay part of the Church? n/a
- If no – is there anything that would make you consider becoming part of the Church? n/a
- If maybe – what could we do to help you consider being a part of the Church? n/a





## What was your experience during the pandemic?

- It was a very fast learning curve to adjust to new ways of socialising, living, working and communicating a worrying but also exciting time
- Very scared, nursing mum through end of life cancer treatment alone
- Some very positive demonstration of care and kindness in the community. Lots of anxiety though about older and vulnerable family and friends. Did experience some bereavement
- It was good, spent more time with family. Work was easier.
- I live on my own so quite lonely.
- I enjoyed being able to spend stress-free time with my children. My brother also moved in with us to protect our parents and it was really nice to spend time with him as he lives in France. I still worked in the pandemic so I had the best of both worlds.
- I felt sad that my own children and children I taught had such a dramatic change to their lives

## When you think of the future what are your hopes?

- That we don't forget what the pandemic has taught us about the importance of people
- Normality
- For a kinder more compassionate, war free, more equal society
- Retirement. Winding down and doing more with the family.
- Happiness
- I am healthy, my family are well and happy. That I have visited more countries.
- That we return to normality and that generations of young people are not adversely affected by the pandemic.



## What are your anxieties about the future?

- That we forget what the pandemic has taught us about the importance of people
- The way the country is being run
- My children's future, financial worries, worried about elderly parents and friends. Worried that compassion for others is waning across society
- None really, I take each day as it comes.
- The environment, money issues, relationships
- The world becomes more unstable re wars, tensions, pandemics, not the world I want for my children.
- Changes in the world that are simply out of our control. We hold huge responsibility as parents and teachers but sometimes are rendered helpless by the actions of others



## Do you see yourself as part of the Church?

- Maybe – 43%
- No – 14%
- Yes – 43%

## If yes how do you think we could encourage others to become/stay part of the Church?

- To ensure young people, their views and the modern world are represented in the church. That the church welcomes anyone with open arms and no judgement who want to be a part.
- Move with the times - ordain women and relax ideas surrounding homosexuality. Times have changed, the teachings need to be adapted to meet this.
- The Church needs to modernise, it does very little to appeal to young adults. It should also allow priests to marry, this would solve the shortage of priests, ensure we had younger priests and a clergy who can relate to young people. Every church I go into now has old parishioners, there is very little to appeal to a 20-something audience.

## If yes how do you think we could encourage others to become/stay part of the Church?

- Not sure, a lot of things don't align with my beliefs. That's not to say they're wrong.

## If maybe – what could we do to help you consider being a part of the Church?

- Become more progressive on gender and equality.
- More inclusive
- More liberal views
- Be more inclusive and welcoming despite personal circumstances (I am divorced)



## What words would you use to describe your experience of Church and faith?

- Increasingly exasperating. We seem to be continuing to travel down the path where rules are more important than people, most often it is hard to find the joy in our faith and sometimes it is almost impossible to continue to be positive about the Church. it feels like it has lost it's purpose.
- It helps a lot of people feel reassured and part of a community, not my experience but was raised as Methodist
- Heavily involved growing up without question, spent a time away as a young adult in part due to questioning the values of the church, partly not finding the right place to be in a new city. I was not allowed to get married in a church which further alienated me for a short time but when my children were born, I came back and engaged with the church and the local catholic education system.
- Positive - well supported in a work environment.
- Education, work
- I have a strong faith and I feel my faith in the way I treat, interact with and help others. However, my experience of church is that it is old-fashioned and out-dated. Although being in church is pleasant in terms of it being peaceful I do not need to go to church to feel close to God.
- Reassuring and comforting in times of trouble or worry about the birth of my first child, distant and that I no longer 'fitted in' when my personal circumstances changed and I experienced a breakdown in my marriage.

## What would you like the Church to be?

- More engaged, more welcoming, more open to different way of exploring and expressing our faith
- Open to all and accepting of all.
- Approachable, welcoming, progressive.
- Accepting of everyone.
- Kind and inclusive
- A vibrant, more welcoming, more accepting (to people of all backgrounds) more modern place which is less austere and mysterious to many but welcoming and open.
- Inclusive and forward thinking





## If Pope Francis was here today what would you like to tell him about how the Church should be after the pandemic?

- Pope Francis knows what the church should be after the pandemic. He has an openness of spirit that is refreshing and can allow for greater acceptance while staying true to the values of our faith.
- He seems to be making progress but we need to address attitudes in the modern world.
- A refuge for all and any who need support, community and a belief
- An open place, willing to listen to ideas from everyone. This is a great start. I like the job the current Pope is doing.
- Kind and inclusive
- I would tell His Holiness that the church needs to modernise, allow priests to marry, move with modern-day thinking, allow all people to feel welcomed in the church, allow those who have divorced to remarry in the church, organise events and trips that youngsters will engage with.
- Welcoming, modern, inviting, inclusive, non-judgemental

## Is there anything else that you would like the Church to know?

- There has to be something more than Mass. There are many ways in which we can all express our faith and almost all the expertise and experience of this lies in lay people
- Church needs to be outward facing, it has to make the people want to come to the church, it needs to be in the schools, in the colleges, it cannot expect people to just attend. The church now needs to put in the hard work for would-be parishioners.
- I felt isolated from the church when my marriage broke down having married in the church, I was grateful for family and friends who supported me as I don't feel I would have had this support at church, I feel saddened that my change in circumstances has resulted in a diminishing of my personal faith as I cannot find support in scripture for the choice I made, I hope to strengthen my faith and feel accepted within the Catholic church despite the choices I have made in my personal life.







St Cuthbert's

ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST