



Federation of All Saints and St. Margaret's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Religious Education Policy.

Lord in everything I do let me always follow you;
Let the moments of my days overflow with endless praise;
Every move that I shall make, Lord direct the steps I take.

Celebration for Everyone Hymnal No 381 – Patrick Appleford.

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mission Statement

*We will provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment, in which every child may achieve their full potential, valuing the variety of faith and cultural experiences in our children.
We will help children develop their relationship with God through prayer, worship and liturgy, helping them to live as good Christians.*

“For all children Religious Education is a proper subject in its own right in the school’s curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

For those already engaged in the journey of faith Religious Education will be catechesis, and for some children Religious Education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.”
(RE Curriculum Directory P. 10)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

- (i) To support and develop the primary task of parents, who are the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith (Rite of Baptism).
- (ii) To support children in their journey of faith – in getting to know God and experience His presence in all aspects of life.
- (iii) To provide a balance between knowledge of Catholic doctrine (teaching), response to God (worship) and Christian Living.
- (iv) To provide a syllabus for Religious Education that will give adequate and balanced attention to the
 - (a) Liturgical Year
 - (b) Sacraments
 - (c) Church’s Teaching
- (v) To enable the children to grow into an awareness of the justice and peace issues of our time and to have respect for life at all levels.

CONTENT:

The “Come and See” Religious Education Programme for Primary Schools, as recommended for the Diocese by Bishop McMahon is the agreed core programme to be used as the basis for our policy.

The basic belief for each topic is explored through three themes. Each theme relates to one of the key dimensions of religious and Christian Faith:

Church -	Where do I come from? Life- Creation
Christian Living -	Who am I?

The Sacraments - Dignity - Incarnation
Why am I here?
Purpose – Redemption

EXPLORE- 1 Week
REVEAL- 2 Weeks
RESPOND- 1 Week

The school use the medium term planning exemplars from the diocese. As the school is made up of mixed age classes we have adopted a two year cycle. This ensures every child receives lessons on every topic through their time in school. The teaching of R.E. takes place in the classroom through a selection of differentiated activities, including storytelling, role play, painting, discussion, reading and independent research. R.E. is also taught in a cross curricular way in addition to explicit subject teaching.

ORGANISATION AND METHODOLOGY

10% of Taught time is set aside for Religious Education of all pupils, excluding the daily act of worship. Staff meet to plan for each new topic.

Planning of work by Class Teacher:

Work is planned on a four week basis.

The plan takes into account

- School Policy
- The Church's Calendar
- The Seasonal Calendar
- Scripture
- Prayer and Liturgy
- Doctrine
- Links to other subject areas
- ICT opportunities

Each topic will have

- (i) Its own identified aim within the context of the stated general aim
- (ii) Identified learning intentions and learning outcomes i.e. Key experiences, Key attitudes, Key Skills and key concepts will be identified
- (iii) List of resources required for topic
- (iv) Model of evaluation and pupil's teacher assessment.

Assessment:

Recording of children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, displays, assemblies, etc. All children have a Religious Education Book. Children are assessed on the levels of Attainment in R.E. each term. In addition the R.E. co-ordinator keeps examples of children's work and copies of teacher assessments.

Staff endeavour to ensure that all children have equal access to the R.E. curriculum and plan so that the activities are differentiated to meet the needs of the class.

Resources:

Each class has some resources appropriate to their age and each teacher has their own 'Come and See' handbook. Most resources are stored centrally where all staff have access. We review and update our resources regularly. We recognise that people are our greatest resource and that teachers 'take the place of Christ' in relation to the childrens' education in the Catholic faith. Therefore we work to promote respect, love, understanding, compassion, kindness, dedication and personal growth.

Staff Training and Development:

Staff meetings are held to discuss the teaching of Religion and Spiritual Development in school. The R.E. co-ordinator attends meetings at the Diocesan Centre whenever possible. Each year, one inset day takes place with the other schools in our Catholic cluster and our feeder secondary school.

Prayer and Worship:

In school we see prayer as an intrinsic part of our school life. Pupils are guided to reflect on the word of God in formal and informal settings, to listen to music and to pray individually as well as in a group. Each day begins and ends with an appropriate time of prayer. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer which maybe decorated with children's pictures, poems or prayers.

Sacramental Preparation:

Specific preparation for Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist takes place annually at school for pupils from Year 3 and upwards who have reached that stage in their journey of faith. A decision on the latter is made by priests, staff and parents. The Parish Priest and HT meet with parents of children in the Autumn Term to explain to them the vital role they play in this preparation.

A further meeting takes place before reception of Sacrament of Reconciliation which is celebrated during May. Parents and further involved in the immediate preparation for the reception of the Eucharist which is celebrated in the month of June/July.