



St Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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

Religious Education Policy

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.*

Lord in everything I do let me always follow you;
Let the moment 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.

Approved by: Grainne Beaumont

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Last reviewed on: 22/10/20

**Next review due
by:** 22/10/2023

“For all children Religious Education is a 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 P10)

Aims and Objectives

- To support and develop the primary task of parents, who are the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith (Rites of Baptism).
- To support children in their journey of faith – in getting to know God and experience His presence in all aspects of life.
- To provide a balance between knowledge of Catholic doctrine (teaching), response to God (Worship) and Christian living.
- To provide a syllabus for Religious Education that will give adequate and balanced attention to the:
 - Liturgical Year
 - Sacraments
 - Church’s teaching
- 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 by Bishop Patrick 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 we come from?
Life – Creation.
- Christian living – Who am I?
Dignity – Incarnation
- The Sacraments – Why am I here?
Purpose – Redemption

EXPLORE – 1 week
REVEAL – 2 weeks
RESPOND – 1 week

The school uses 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 put aside for Religious Education for 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 4 week basis. The plans take 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:

- It's own identified aim within the context of the stated general aim
- Identified learning intentions and learning outcomes i.e. Key experiences, key attitudes, key skills and key concepts will be identified.
- List of resources required for the topic.
- 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. coordinator keeps examples of children's work and copies of teacher assessments.

Staff ensure that all children have equal access to the R.E. curriculum and plan so that all the activities are differentiated to meet the needs of all 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 children's 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 Religious and Spiritual development in school. The R.E. coordinator attends meetings at the Diocesan Centre whenever possible. Each year, one inset day takes place with other schools within our CMAT.

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 may be decorated with children's pictures, prayers or poems.

Sacramental Preparation:

Specific preparation for Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist take 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 Head Teacher meet with the parents in the Advent 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 are further involved in the immediate preparation of the Eucharist which is celebrated in the month June/July.