

St Josephs Catholic Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale

We at St Joseph's seek to assist all our pupils in their journey towards Christ.

Aim

We aim to provide opportunity for prayer, celebration and reflection.

Achieved through:

- Celebration of Mass 3 times during the school year
- Daily act of collective worship, sometimes led by children
- Encouraging thoughtful prayer; saying daily prayers and grace before meals
- As well as having some knowledge and understanding of the formal prayers, children are encouraged to have experience of forming their own prayers.
- There is also an opportunity for children to use their class Reflection Area for prayer
- Other opportunities for prayer occur during Assemblies, Celebrations, Penitential Services and other Liturgies.

Aim

To promote an understanding and appreciation of Catholic doctrine and practice.

Achieved through:

- Teaching moral, spiritual, doctrinal and scriptural content of the 'God Matters' programme
- Promoting an awareness of the 'Broad Areas of Attainment in religious Education'
- Celebrations of Special Fest days during the Liturgical Year and the traditions of the Church's year

Aim

To promote and encourage among pupils active committed participation in the life of the church, and to support and encourage the growth of religious faith.

Achieved through:

- Encouraging children to visit church and attend masses

- Encouraging children to participate practically in charitable projects.

Aim

To promote moral and spiritual development of pupils in the imitation of Jesus Christ.

Achieved through:

- Celebrating values of co-operation, sharing, truthfulness, forgiveness, honesty, respect for others and their property.

Aim

To build effective partnership with home, school, parish and the wider community.

Achieved through:

- Continuing to invite Clergy to school
- Encouraging children to participate in Children's Liturgy in mass
- Communication with parents regarding the curriculum and the specific teaching for each year group of 'God Matters' through curriculum letters
- Raising money
- Inviting parents and parishioners to school to share in its prayer and worship

Aim

To encourage an appreciation of and understanding of religious questions and sympathetic acquaintance with other religious beliefs.

Achieved through:

- Teaching that everyone is different, unique and has the opportunity to be at one with God
- Teaching scheme includes learning about other faiths

How we plan

'God Matters' and the Attainment target form the basis of planning and teaching. The theological content and principles of this scheme are linked to the National Curriculum Directory, and is supported by a class based approach to teaching and learning.

Classes follow the same topics each year, which are linked to the Liturgical Year. Progression is built into the scheme, which encourages learning through encouragement, exploration and experience.

Assessment, recording and reporting

- Teachers have a class recording sheet showing attainments against the assessment criteria for R.E. Each child is assessed once each half term.
- RE assessment is to be added to Pupil Tracker at the end of each academic year and will be compared with achievement in other curriculum areas
- Teachers are using the levels of attainment in Religious Education as recommended by the diocese
- A statement about achievement and progress in R.E is included in the written end of year reports.

Collective Worship (see separate policy)

Planning

In line with the recommendations of the Catholic Bishops it has been agreed that Religious Education is taught for 10% of the curriculum time.

Displays in each classroom and reflection areas will aim to reflect the Liturgical year.

Moral Development

It is important for us to respect each other and value principles such as integrity and honesty in order to develop the children's moral awareness.

Through our example the children are given models to develop their awareness and to aid them in maintaining positive relationships with each other.

By following the structure of the 'God Matters' programme children are given the opportunity to make informed choices.

Moral development is not taught exclusively in R.E lessons since an awareness of others permeates all aspects of the curriculum. Class rules and our Behaviour Policy reflect our Catholic ethos. There are plenty of opportunities in the classroom and school environment to work together and think of others who are less fortunate.

At all times the children are encouraged to be responsible in the light of Christ's teaching.

Permanent non-Catholic teaching staff attends appropriate diocesan training

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development leads to a familiarity with the life, words and actions of Jesus Christ. The children are encouraged to develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery: to develop awareness that there is often more to things than meets the eye; a book can become not a story but an opportunity to reflect on and be moved by the existence and experience of others. Children are helped to have a sense of self worth and a sense of the worth of others.

They need to be made aware of the joy of life as well as being aware of frustration and loss.

Awareness of the natural world (light, wheat, water etc) is an area of sacrament which lends itself to reflecting on the spiritual. Lighting candles has a profound effect on the sensitivities of children.

R.E Schemes of work

Each class teacher has a 'God Matters' handbook and several age appropriate bibles. Additional resources are stored centrally.

Teaching Methods

This may be whole class, group work or individual work.

We consider a range of activities suitable for the pupil's age, ability and background. This can be done through a variety of approaches including discussion, music, drama, writing and art.

Equal Opportunities

All children are treated equally and in accordance with the spirit and values of Gospel. Education provided will aim to foster respect and consideration for people of all races, cultures, abilities and conditions. Teachers may teach children about other religions and foster in them an understanding of respect of the religious convictions of others, bearing in mind the over-riding emphasis should always be on the Catholic Christian tradition.

Pastoral care and guidance can be found in other policies ie:

Child Protection policy

Equal opportunities policy

Special Educational Needs policy

Behaviour policy

Co-ordination

The post holders liaise with the Head teacher and offers suggestions as to ways in which this area of the curriculum can be developed in the school, bearing in mind the guidance of the Catholic Education Council. Appropriate support and guidance is offered to colleagues in all matters regarding Religious Education.

Review

This policy is a working document and will be reviewed regularly