

# St John's Catholic Primary School



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

*"Christ is the Centre of our School Community where we live, love and learn together"*

### Vision

Religious Education in our school is based on the Gospel values and teachings of the Catholic Church. We aim to develop in our children a strong awareness of the spiritual dimensions of life and to equip them with Christian values to guide them throughout their lives.

Through prayer, celebration and a caring attitude to each other based on the Gospel values of love and reconciliation we aim to lead the children towards a long lasting relationship with Jesus and the Church.

We seek to recognize the unique value of every child and to extend the academic, social, aesthetic, physical and spiritual potential of the children in our care through the delivery of a broad based and stimulating curriculum.

We work to develop, in partnership with parents and the Parish, a school community that is a wise, honest and loving witness to the wonder of God's world.

### Aims

To help pupils develop a personal relationship with Jesus by studying Christianity, engaging in collective worship and prayer.

To explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition.

Through experiencing the Good News of the Gospel enable the children to grow in their awareness of what it means to be a member of the Church and Parish family.

In the light of the Gospel, encourage children to reflect on their lives, their actions and on society, enabling them to see hope and seek peace.

To develop some understanding of the religious beliefs and practices which affect the attitudes and actions of people throughout the world,

To develop a sense of social and moral justice in our children.

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love and learn together”**

We aim to live out our Mission Statement by:

- providing a warm welcome to all
- being kind and loving to each other as Jesus taught us
- helping and supporting one other
- searching for what is good and acting as peacemakers
- bringing the values from the Gospel to life within our school family
- praying, singing and celebrating together
- celebrating the diversity and talents of all members of our community
- providing an exciting, stimulating and inclusive learning environment that both challenges and supports learners
- providing a curriculum using the Come And See programme that encompasses and enhances social, intellectual, emotional, physical, moral and spiritual development
- promoting active, independent skill based learning
- enabling everyone to reach their full potential and develop to the best of their ability
- providing opportunities for everyone to recognise their own gifts and raise self esteem and self confidence
- learning about and respect other faiths and cultures
- working with parents and support them in their role as first educators promoting and encouraging positive links between our school and the parish community
- using our talents to enrich the lives of others and encourage active participation in community and school events
- engaging with the wider community through educational trips and welcome visitors into our school
- recognising the wider community as an extension of our school family, for example by supporting charitable events

### **Curriculum Development and Organisation**

#### **Planning for R.E**

Follows the Come and See Programme

Reflects advice on best practice

Includes other Faith topics

Identifies the specific assessment opportunities to be integrated into our teaching

#### **RSHE**

Follows the Archdiocese recommended resource ‘A Journey in Love’

#### **PSHE**

Units of work are delivered through a range of subjects. Links to R.E are made where appropriate.

#### **Feast Days and Liturgical Celebrations**

Alongside Come and See we aim to extend the children’s knowledge of the following important feast days and occasions for celebration so that they all become familiar with the structure of the Church’s Year.

**Autumn Term:**

*All Saints/ Immaculate Conception/Holy Rosary/Advent/Christmas/ St John the Evangelist*

**Spring Term:** *Epiphany/Candlemas/Ash Wednesday/Lent/St Joseph and St Patrick/Easter*

**Summer Term:** *Ascension/Pentecost/Trinity/Corpus Christi/St Peter and Paul*

**Prayer**

Prayer is a fundamental part of our school life and prayer in school includes both formal prayers and the children's own informal prayers.

Prayers in FS/KS1/KS2 include prayers at the beginning and end of the school day and prayers before meals.

Informal prayer has a very important place in the spiritual life of the children and includes the everyday language of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry. Informal prayer encourages reflection on everyday life.

**Marking**

Marking pupils' work is approached positively and constructively so that it affirms success and encourages future learning. Marking uses the terminology of the standard indicators so children can see what level they are working at and what they need to do to move forward.

**Assessment**

The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in R.E is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress whilst recognising the innate dignity and worth of each individual. There is one formally assessed and moderated Come and See topic per term.

**Monitoring**

This is planned regularly and we implement an annual programme of prioritised monitoring, review and evaluation which includes:

- Scrutiny of planning, assessment and work books
- Lesson Observations
- Conversations with children

**Liturgical Worship**

Through worship we aim to join the work of home and parish in developing the spirituality of the children and to develop the concept of worship as an integral part of school life. We also aim to develop an understanding of different forms of worship and to reflect the multicultural nature of our society.

***Ways in which we provide opportunities for different forms of worship:***

*School Masses led by children across the school, Assemblies, Liturgical Services to celebrate feasts of the Church's year, classroom worship supported by focal areas where the children can reflect and pray, visits to both Cathedrals for a range of services and Masses.*

**Collective Worship**

See Collective Worship policy.

### **Focal Areas**

These are set up in each classroom and are changed regularly to reflect changing topics. The children are involved in the design and content of the focal area and are encouraged to make use of the area at any point during the day. Room is left for the children to bring in items from home to add to the display and they can place questions or captions on the display if they wish.

### **Early years (see also Early Year's policy)**

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the RE Subject leader to:

- Take the lead in policy development.
- Review the implementation of the Come and See programme, ensuring variety, progression and continuity throughout the school.
- Lead RE twilight and INSET day training according to staff needs, as agreed with the Headteacher.
- Monitor progress and planning in RE and Collective Worship through lesson observations, samples of children's work and by checking short term planning of teachers throughout the school.
- Liaise with the Governor responsible for RE.
- To keep up to date with developments in RE and disseminate information as appropriate.
- To make a regular audit of artefacts, God Story books, Bibles, crucifixes, related story books and items for each focus table.
- To provide an annual Action Plan for the maintenance and development of resources.
- To maintain a portfolio of work carried out by the children throughout the school across the curriculum.
- To ensure assessment moderation takes place across the school.

#### **Learning out of school hours**

The children in Year 4 work with their family members and Parish Catechists on their programme for Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion in the Church and side Chapel. They are also invited to participate in masses and messy days.

The Parish Co-ordinator is keen to set up an after school 'club' for the children to attend.

#### **Home/School Links**

The school has an effective website which communicates information to parents, other prospective parents, children, and the wider school community. It provides termly curriculum information and an RE newsletter, and relevant dates for events or trips within school. Photographs are added to show parents what has been going on within RE. Curriculum links are also being added to enable parents and children to investigate relevant and appropriate websites. Each class now has a twitter page that we can celebrate and share our good news on.