

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## CRC Article 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

## Religious Education Policy

This policy is underpinned by the school's mission statement: 'At Saint Joseph's we work, learn and grow together guided by Jesus' teachings'.

### Rationale

'The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.'

Religious Education is a core subject in St Joseph's Catholic school. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect and understanding between those of different faiths.

### Pupil Entitlement

Pupils will be taught two hours per week at Key Stage 1 and two and half hours at Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by Sacramental preparation, assemblies, Masses, liturgies and school prayer groups.

### Aims of Religious Education:

1. To support every member of the school community on their journey of faith by developing this faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To encourage pupils to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
5. To promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God by making pupils aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.
7. To develop moral and ethical convictions and ask questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.

### Provision

The programmes of study as outlined in the Catholic Directory will form the basis of the scheme of work. The Learning and Growing as the People of God scheme will form the main basis of teaching and learning. Teaching methods may vary but should be pupil-centred starting with the pupils own situation and experience.

Lessons are based on the four areas of study:

#### 1. Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
- To consider the personal and the community response to God.
- To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.

## 2. Church:

- Belonging to a community at various levels.
- That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
- Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.
- Relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.

## 3. Life in Christ:

- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
- Following Christ is a call to holiness.
- Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
- Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

## 4. Celebration

- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
- Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the liturgical year.
- The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hall mark.

## Prayer/Collective Worship

Collective worship at St. Joseph's takes place on a daily basis either at the start of the day or at the end of the day and generally follows the schedule below.

Monday – Whole school Assembly delivering the gospel message from Sunday's Mass.

Tuesday – Whole school Mass in school led by a different class each week.

Wednesday – Prayer Service in class.

Thursday – Whole school assembly and hymn practice.

Friday – Whole school assembly led in rota: merit assembly / Class-led assembly with RE and citizenship theme.

The aims of collective worship at St. Joseph's are as follows:

- To recognise and acknowledge God's presence in all we do as outlined in our Mission Statement.
- To pray and worship together, actively involving the children in prayer, scripture reading and songs / hymns.
- To raise awareness of the world around us.
- To celebrate feasts and festivals including those from other cultures.
- To celebrate the success of groups and individuals.
- To share and increase knowledge.
- To display talents of individuals and groups.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- To develop children's personal, social and moral awareness.
- To ensure that children are contributing to and benefitting from the Catholic life of the school.

Whole school assemblies and prayer services follow the format outlined below:

1. Gather, listen to a scripture reading, respond, go (Enter and leave to music).
2. Start with the sign of the cross and prayer, e.g. Morning Prayer, school prayer, other formal prayers.
3. An opportunity for reflection / personal prayer.
4. A greeting. Teachers and support staff remain in the assembly to give it a high status.
5. There may be a story, a moral tale, work or drama by children. The Gospel of the week is an important focus at assembly.
6. Pupils need to be actively involved and fully participating through drama, reading, questions and answers and opinions by leading some aspect of the collective worship.
7. The content of the assembly is drawn together and concluded with a prayer and a hymn.
8. At the end of the collective worship children should 'go out' understanding more about how to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

*Where a class leads the whole school assembly, prayers may be at the end rather than the beginning of the assembly*

- Classroom-based worship consists of a gathering prayer, an opportunity for reflection e.g. (Gospel reading) and a focus for the day including a response and 'go' which gives an aim of the day.
- Masses are decided in consultation with the Parish Priest but usually it follows the readings of the day. Whole school Mass is every Tuesday and are planned by the identified class and led by children from that class. Class and school Masses are planned by the teachers concerned.
- Mass in the parish (on a Sunday) is led by the RE co-ordinator. These take place twice a term with a seasonal service too e.g. Lent and Advent in church.
- Reconciliation services for KS2 take place once every term after the class mass.
- During the season of Advent pupils learn about and participate in Jesse Tree assemblies.
- During the season of Lent pupils learn about and participate in The Stations Of The Cross.
- Class liturgies are held once a year and parents are invited to attend.
- RE workshops are held once a year and parents are invited to attend.

To supplement our assemblies we use resources such as SEAL materials and children's liturgy's to support pupils understanding of the Catholic faith and ethos of the school. We have a R.E. focus display in the school hall and in our reception waiting area. Each classroom has a prayer focus.

### **Monitoring/Assessment and Evaluation**

Monitoring is carried out by the R.E. Co-ordinator and supported by the senior leadership team. Assessment takes form of a four year cycle with the focus on:

- The liturgical Year.
- Scripture.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Living as Christians.

A self evaluation form is completed for R.E that falls in line and supports judgements that are required for a Section 48 inspection.

### **Conclusion**

This policy should be read in conjunction with, the School Improvement Plan, the Inclusion Policy, Assessment Policy, SEN Policy, the Equal Opportunities and Race Equality Policy, all subject policies and DES and guidelines.

Updated: November 2016