

St. Peters Catholic Primary School
POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"The following statement of principles for the teaching/learning of Religious Education was arrived at through a consultative process, agreed by all staff and is based on the school's Mission Statement values and the requirement of the National Curriculum and Diocesan Policy"

Mission Statement

To provide a	Catholic education, embracing World Faiths,
Nurturing	Happy and motivated children,
Who want to	Reach to achieve high expectations,
	In partnership with parents,
	Supported by a committed staff and Governing Body,
Who help children	To feel self-worth and know success

Principles

Religious Education is important to the children of St. Peter's School because it will deepen and enrich their understanding and living of the Catholic faith, including education about other World Faiths. The children will be led to appreciate the significance of beliefs and practices for their everyday life, so that the Gospel values become part of themselves.

An effective approach to Religious Education in St. Peter's School should:

- ◆ Recognise that we are acting as an instrument of the Catholic Church helping children to understand, deepen and appreciate our Catholic beliefs and practices.
- ◆ Involve a three-way partnership between home, school and parish to support each child's unique journey to faith.
- ◆ Help each child to understand about the significance and dignity of life, which is reflected throughout the curriculum.
- ◆ Explore our specific Catholic faith and beliefs as one of the Christian traditions to encounter other World Religions and encourage children to understand, respect and be tolerant of others' beliefs.
- ◆ Be child centred and accessible to all children, taking account of their family backgrounds.
- ◆ Take Christ as our model and ensuring, as He did, that in practice our daily lives reflect the Gospel values for our pupils.
- ◆ Involve adults living and sharing their faith experiences with the children.

CURRICULUM AIMS

- ◆ To reward Religious Education a high status in school, in line with other core subjects, and to ensure that it contains the same academic demands and challenges
- ◆ To demonstrate continuity and progression throughout both Keystages by providing appropriate information and planning to develop each pupil's understanding and skills
- ◆ Religious Education is to be both interactive and irrelevant to the child's interests and experiences.
- ◆ To provide opportunities for the children to reflect on, express and evaluate their religious and spiritual experiences.
- ◆ To give understanding of our own and others' cultures in our multi-cultural society
- ◆ To set aside a time for worship in order to develop one's spirituality
- ◆ To ensure that Religious Education permeates through the life of the school

Curriculum Guidelines

The R.E Curriculum is organised around the diocesan "Here I Am" scheme. It includes objectives and learning intentions which take into account the religious and educational needs of all children:

- ◆ Those from supportive catholic homes
- ◆ Those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of Church
- ◆ Those from other Christian traditions
- ◆ Those from other World Faiths

The programme identifies 7 elements of the process of religious education

- ◆ Recognise - a focus on our own experiences
- ◆ Reflect - an exploration of experiences
- ◆ Respect - a deeper understanding
- ◆ Relate - relevance to Christian teaching e.g. Bible Scriptures
- ◆ Rejoice - celebration
- ◆ Remember - holding on the learning and making it personal
- ◆ Renew - using assessment and evaluation

We work on a 4-year rolling programme, including 2 weeks per year learning about other World Faiths, so that each theme is developed through 5 levels. It allows revisits to an area at a different level of understanding. The levels are:

Nursery/Reception	3 - 5 years
Year 1	5 - 6 years
Year 2	6 - 7 years
Year 3 & 4	7 - 9 years
Years 5 & 6	9 - 11 years

Knowledge and Experience of Catholic Beliefs and Way of Life

Religious education and the Life of the School

- ◆ Area dedicated to prayer and reflection in our classroom.
- ◆ Catholic/Christian teachers as role models. The way in which we deal with one another will be a concrete example of Christ's love at work.
- ◆ Specific explanations of feasts and liturgical services.
- ◆ Opportunities to participate in a Liturgy Group, which is a part of the Chaplaincy Team.
- ◆ Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation (and the Eucharist through the Parish). The RE curriculum, from Reception Class, supports and prepares children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist through the parish in Year 3, and continues to reflect on the Sacraments beyond Year 3.

Christian and Catholic attitude to Life

- Development of a moral code based on respect for God and each other
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy which is based on 'Assertive Discipline', preferring to promote and emphasise positive behaviour and thus foster each child's self esteem
- Participation in class, school and parish endeavours e.g. Choral concerts, dancing for fetes
- Participation in festivals, liturgies and masses
- Parents and staff having closed ties through use of the Link Book to express concerns and share children's achievements, which are not necessarily academically based. Building up links with parents will be encouraged through:
 - ✓ Open door policy - pre-school parents' meetings
 - ✓ School Parents' meetings
 - ✓ Parents' evenings/afternoons twice a year
 - ✓ Parental workers in school
 - ✓ School links to PTA
 - ✓ Invitations to parents to school assemblies and functions

✓ Parental involvement with preparation for the Sacraments

- ◆ Visits to school by the clergy of the parish and groups working within the parish e.g. Developing Group.
- ◆ Opportunities for children of the school to join parish organisations: Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, Guides, Don Bosco, Guild of St. Theresa etc.
- ◆ Use of the Golden Book to celebrate achievements with everyone.
- ◆ Assemblies based on religious themes. Usually this will be linked to the topic being studied that week in the curriculum, in order to extend every child's knowledge and give deeper appreciation and experience.
- ◆ Assemblies celebrating the children's achievements.
- ◆ Working for others beyond our immediate circle i.e. the Universal Church through projects such as Nursing Homes, Children in Need, Jesu Ashram, The Good Shepherd, the Homeless, the Nevett Fund and other deserving causes.

Assessment

To ensure parity with other core subjects RE has two Attainment Targets (AT)'s:

AT1 Learning about Religion: knowledge, understanding and the ability to evaluate

AT2 Learning from Religion: the ability to reflect on meaning

Formal assessments are made once a term.

Monitoring

The RE co-ordinator and RE governor monitor RE in school through teachers' plans, observations, work-sampling, displays, assemblies, liturgies and evaluating formal assessments.

The Chaplaincy Team's Monitoring Group are also involved in monitoring RE.

Other aspects of RE in a Catholic School are monitored through the Governing Body's policies on Collective Worship and SMSC (Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural) parent's questionnaires, staff discussions with children and links with the community.

This policy was agreed by the Governing Body on 17th November 2015

Signed for and on behalf of the Governing Body by Jim Connolly, Chair of Governors
It will be reviewed in Autumn 2018.