



# Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School

'Christ in the centre, excellence at the heart'

## Mission Statement

To provide a	<b>Catholic</b> 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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Adopted Date: Autumn 2021

Meeting Minutes of LGB

Signed: Jim Connolly

(Chair of approving/adopting committee)

Next Review Date: Autumn 2024

## **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 ensure that Religious Education has 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 relevant 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 "Come and See" 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

Come and See is a Catholic Primary Religious Education programme for EYFS and Key Stages 1 and 2.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life, God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond.

A minimum of 10% curriculum time is allocated each week to the teaching of Religious Education as stated by the Diocese of Nottingham. We work on a 3 topic per term programme, including 2 weeks per year learning about other World Faiths.

### **Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the School**

The School will have

- ◆ An area dedicated to prayer and reflection in each classroom.
- ◆ Teachers as role models showing the way in which we deal with one another to be a concrete example of Christ's love at work.
- ◆ Specific explanations of feasts and liturgical services.
- ◆ Opportunities for Year 6 pupils 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 EYFS, 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.
- ◆ Development of a moral code based on respect for God and each other
- ◆ A 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. Church plays, Choir concerts, dancing at Church fetes
- ◆ Participation in festivals, liturgies and masses
- ◆ Parents and staff having close ties through use of pupils' school 'Link Book' and Dojo (an online platform) 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 - teachers available at the beginning and end of each day
  - ✓ Parents' evenings/afternoons twice a year
  - ✓ Parental volunteers 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 and wider parish.

- ◆ Opportunities for children of the school to join parish organisations: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Don Bosco, Children's Liturgy Group etc.
- ◆ 'Stars of the Week' celebrating achievements with everyone.
- ◆ House points collected throughout the week.
- ◆ 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, or with the 'statements to live by', or the previous Sunday's Gospel.
- ◆ Assemblies celebrating the children's achievements.
- ◆ Working for others beyond our immediate circle i.e. the Universal Church through projects such as CAFOD, Children in Need, Jesu Ashram, the Homeless, the Nevett Fund and other deserving causes.

### **Assessment**

The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in RE is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress.

We recognise that assessment, recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate.

We believe that assessment is at the heart of good teaching and that our approach to the assessment recording and reporting of Religious Education will be broad in character and will recognise the innate dignity and worth of each individual.

Assessment is used to help inform future planning. Teachers also assess the children in two areas; Knowledge and Understanding (AT1) and Reflection on Meaning (AT2).

Assessment can be made via strategies such as:

- Pupils' recorded work and marking
- Class Teacher observations of children during role play, carpet time etc
- Pupils' own speaking and listening contributions
- Questioning
- Pupils' self-assessments - for example through mind maps
- Statements for each unit of work. End of Year expectations

Three formal assessments (one per term), are made by the class teacher in line with the Diocesan table of topics to be assessed. These will be recorded on the school assessment program Target Tracker for the RE Co-coordinator to monitor.

Moderation meetings are held once a term.

### **Monitoring**

The RE co-ordinator and RE governor monitor RE in school through teachers' plans, learning walks, 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), parents' questionnaires, staff discussions with children and links with the community.