

Policy for Religious Education

Mission Statement

We follow in Jesus' footsteps, as we care for each other when we work, play and pray.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we recognise that all children have rights as outlined in the UN Convention. As duty bearers, we have the responsibility to respect these rights and are committed to supporting our children through their education and to ensure that they are rights-holders.

Aims

Religious Education in our school should:

- Nurture children's faith
- Promote in a gradual way their understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice
- Develop their involvement with the Church Community
- Develop their ability to show care for others
- Foster pupils' religious, spiritual and moral development
- Develop the skills required to be able to examine and reflect on religious belief and practice, including those from other faiths and cultures
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder

(Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs.

Article 30: You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose.)

Curriculum Planning

St Joseph's has adopted the Archdiocese scheme, 'Learning and Growing as the People of God.' The scheme provides progression from Early Years to Year Six and it also allows opportunities for monitoring and assessment. The scheme is intended to link in with other curricular areas and it should be resourced by using Bibles, Sacramental programmes, Multicultural resources and other resources appropriate to the programme of study.

R.E. Lessons

- R.E. is a timetable subject covering 10% of teaching time.
- R.E. is taught systematically throughout the school using the Diocesan Scheme "Learning and Growing as the People of God." This provides continuity and progression in each year group.
- R.E. is taught as a subject in isolation and where appropriate should be linked with other curriculum areas, although the Catholic ethos of the school pervades through all aspects of school life and cannot be compartmentalised.
- Children are expected to develop a repertoire of prayers appropriate to their year group. (see Prayer Progression document).
- All KS2 children should have a development knowledge and understanding of the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary.
- All children should be provided with the opportunity in their R.E. lessons to pray together as a class, to make up their own prayers in both oral and silent form.
- R.E. written work should be marked in accordance with the marking policy. Special emphasis must be made on the spelling of key words, e.g. "God", "Jesus," ensuring the correct use of capital letters.
- Lesson objectives should be shared with the children and an opportunity for prayer and reflection may be included at the start and end of each lesson.

Teaching and Learning

Children are taught:

- Knowledge and understanding of religious belief
- Knowledge and understanding of how religious beliefs shape life
- Knowledge and understanding of religious language, action and concepts
- To engage with their own beliefs and values
- To engage with the beliefs and values of others
- To engage with questions of ultimate meaning
- To reflect and contemplate

Prayer has an important role in the scheme and is taught both as an integral and a discrete area of study. Each classroom and the school hall should have a religious focal point. A crucifix and a Bible should be displayed in a prominent place. The prayer corners should include colours to represent the Liturgical Season.

S.E.N. Provision

Lessons and activities from the scheme should be planned and differentiated sufficiently to allow children to work at them at their own ability level, including extending the most able and gifted and talented children.

Display

In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school, displays of a religious nature should be evident in each classroom throughout the year. Similarly such displays should be encouraged in corridors, and at appropriate times of the year, in the school entrance.

An R.E. / Prayer focus area forms an essential part of the classroom. This area should have the appropriate liturgical colour, a crucifix and a candle. Statues, artefacts and posters should be prominently displayed whenever possible and changed on a regular basis.

Breadth and Study

- ◆ Each class is involved in daily acts of worship, using a focal point of prayer within their classroom.
- ◆ Whole school masses take place regularly; Induction, Harvest, Advent, Ash Wednesday, St. Joseph's Day, Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Years 2-6 classes attend Holy Mass at Holy Trinity on a Wednesday morning on a rota basis.
- ◆ Penitential Services, Stations of the Cross and the Rosary denote the liturgical seasons.
- ◆ Year Six celebrate a Leaver's Mass during the last week of the academic year.

Sacramental Preparation

- ◆ Y3 Reconciliation
Holy Eucharist

The Y3 class follows a programme using the 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' supplemented with materials from 'We Celebrate Reconciliation,' and 'We Celebrate the Eucharist.'

- ◆ Y5 Y6 Confirmation

The Y5 and Y6 classes follow a programme using the 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' supplemented with materials from Gifted in the Spirit and other relevant resources.

Parents are invited to Sacramental Preparation evening meetings and prayer services led by the Parish Priest.

Parents and Parish

Many opportunities arise to strengthen the partnership between the school, parents and parish:

- Whole school masses which are advertised in the parish bulletins
- Annual celebrations: Induction, Harvest and Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Thanksgiving Mass
- Children's reception service of the Sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation
- Class-led assemblies
- Involvement of parents as volunteers: -
 - supporting in the classroom/ on trips, etc.
- School's newsletters and Website which keeps parents informed and up to date with school matters
- Proactive partnership with health visitors, school doctor and nurse, education welfare officer, social services and police to support pupils and their families

Assessment

Teachers, using their professional judgement, are continually assessing children's progress, knowledge and understanding, through discussion, written responses and other class RE work. Such assessments are used to plan future learning activities. Each class teacher also has copies of the relevant Diocesan recommended assessment proforma for each unit of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. We follow the assessment schedule as advised by the Diocese which assesses one of the four strands of 'Learning and Growing' each year as follows, on a four year cycle:

2012-13 Scriptural Knowledge

2013-14 Living as Christians including Prayer

2014-15 The Sacraments

2015-16 The Liturgical Year

2016-17 Scriptural Knowledge

Completed proformas are given to the RE Co-ordinator for monitoring purposes.

Monitoring

- ◆ Each teacher completes a weekly planning proforma to give a clear indication of the content of lessons.
- ◆ Each class teacher has copies of the relevant assessment proformas, which are monitored by the Co-ordinator.
- ◆ The RE Coordinator has management time to implement monitoring strategies; lesson observations, book trawls, teacher planning, display monitoring, learning walks and staff and pupil discussion.
- ◆ Regular staff meetings allow feedback, moderation and discussions to be held.
- ◆ The Co-ordinator monitors the availability of Professional Development and informs the relevant teachers.

Equal Opportunities

The individual needs of children will be considered to ensure all children, irrespective of gender, needs or cultural background will be given equal opportunities to achieve success. Multicultural issues will be further explored during curriculum time, allowing the children to discuss and debate. The school library stocks a good range of child friendly material to support the sharing of other cultures.

Resources

St. Joseph's has an extensive selection of resources: statues, posters, teacher and pupil books, photocopiable material and research material to supplement the scheme 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'.

General Teacher resources are held in the RE Resource room.

Each class has their own bible and Y6, Y5 and Y4 classes have a set of children's bibles.

Poster sets are stored in the drawers in the Music Room.

Relevant storybooks and prayer books have been distributed through Key Stage One.

The library carries a significant number of relevant storybooks and prayer books.

Wall banners displaying symbols of the liturgical year or sacramental preparation are hung in the hall.

All resources are reviewed annually to ensure replacements are made when necessary.

All staff are invited to make suggestions for purchases.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the Academy Committee and will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.