

Policy for Religious Education

Mission Statement

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

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.

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 6 in the key areas of Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life of Christ. 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 including I.C.T.
- Children are expected to develop a repertoire of prayers appropriate to their year group. (see Prayer Policy)
- 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 "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

Teaching and Learning objectives of the school are:

- To help children become more aware of and to reflect on their experience of living in the world with others (Experiential).
- To reveal to the children some aspect of God's plan for our salvation (Doctrinal)
- To help them respond to God's love in their lives. (Moral)
- To help them listen to and respond to God (Prayer)

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 – see Gifted and Talented Policy.

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.
- ◆ KS2 classes attend Holy Mass at Holy Trinity on a Friday morning.
- ◆ Penitential Services, Stations of the Cross and the Rosary denote the liturgical seasons.
- ◆ Y6 celebrate a Leaver's Mass during the last week of the academic year.
- ◆ Y6 attend a day retreat at Alton Castle.
- ◆ A Citizenship programme has been developed to allow children to grow and explore 'choice', which is based on the moral aspects of RE.

Sacramental Preparation

- ◆ Y3 Reconciliation
 Holy Eucharist

The Y3 classes follow 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.

Y6 enjoy a day retreat at Alton Castle for reflection and prayer.

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
- Shared contributions to displays, e.g. Memorial Book
- Involvement of parents as volunteers: -
 - supporting in the classroom/ on trips/ accompanying children swimming
- 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

Each class teacher has copies of the relevant Diocesan recommended assessment proforma for each unit of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. Completed proformas are given to the Headteacher and Co-ordinator for monitoring purposes.

Monitoring

- ◆ Each teacher completes a weekly planning proformas to give a clear indication of the content of lessons. These assist the RE Coordinator and the Headteacher in ensuring the four aspects, Revelation, Celebration, Church and Life in Christ are adequately covered.
- ◆ Each class teacher has copies of the relevant assessment proforma which are monitored by the Co-ordinator.
- ◆ The RE Coordinator has ½ day per half term to implement monitoring strategies; Lesson observation, book trawl, teacher planning, display and staff discussion.
- ◆ Regular staff meetings allow feedback and discussions to be held.
- ◆ The Co-ordinator monitors the availability of Professional Development and informs the relevant teachers.

Related Documentation

- ◆ Mission Statement
- ◆ Children's Mission Statement
- ◆ Prayer Policy
- ◆ Family Life Policy

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 Citizenship days, allowing the children to discuss and debate and explanatory teaching resources, with artefacts are available to assist the teacher. The school library stocks a good range of child friendly material to support the sharing of other cultures. RE has a designated section of the Gifted and Talented Policy to assist the identification of more able children.

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 Staff 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 library drawers.

'This is Our Faith' Textbooks are available in Key Stage Two.

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.