

Religious Education Policy

St Joseph and St Bede RC Primary School



With **Christ** at the
centre, our *Dream*
is for **greatness** in our
learning, to
Believe in our
unique talents, to be
Guardians of
life & creation
and to *Achieve*
a better world, by
living life to the **full**.

Approved by:

Mrs S. Prince and Curriculum, Standards and
Welfare Committee

Date: June 2020

Last reviewed on:

2019

Next review due by:

June 2022

As a deeply committed Roman Catholic Primary School, St Joseph and St Bede regards Religious Education as central to the whole life of the school.

The Religious element permeates throughout the school day: in and out of the classroom, with the hope that the children will identify with and adopt such an attitude to life.

The school follows Come and See, The 5Ws Framework, Building the Kingdom Principles and Caritas in Action for the teaching and assessment of R.E.

We are committed to allowing pupils to explore their own faith and develop their relationship with God and what He wants them to be. Our Mission Statement is also our vision and reflects this.

Our Catholic School has a unique and special role to play in the lives of the children. It works in partnership with the parents in bringing up their children in the Catholic Faith. We seek to foster a distinctive outlook on life rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We aim to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, personal and social development of all our children and help them to achieve their full potential and enlarge their capacity to enjoy learning.

AIMS

- * To encourage an atmosphere of Christian understanding, care, friendliness and devotion throughout the school in every aspect of school life.

- * To identify the school as distinctively Catholic ... through its teaching, liturgy, displays and ethos.

- * To give religious instruction on the elements of:

 - Scripture

 - God

 - The Trinity

 - The life and teaching of Jesus

 - Our Lady

 - Saints

 - Followers of Jesus

 - The early Church

 - The Sacraments

 - Forms of worship especially those of the Catholic Church

 - The Liturgical Year

 - Structure of the church and people within the church

 - How being Christian is important and relevant in today's world

- * To give to the children a sense of moral value...by personal example, teaching and discussion.

- * To liaise with the Parish Sacramental Programme ; with Catechists, the Parish Priest, parents and the wider parish ... in guiding children through their journey of Christian initiation.

- * To celebrate our Catholic tradition of worship, praise and thanksgiving to God through various liturgies.

- * To celebrate feasts throughout the Liturgical year.

* To develop an understanding of those who worship in another faith.

* To mark particular important occasions through the liturgical year with specially prepared liturgies, involving parents and the wider parish.

* To worship in a wide variety of ways, including;

1. Whole school worship throughout the week, with children as presiders.

2. Daily prayers in class.... morning, before and after lunch, at the end of the school day.

3. Regular class liturgies in class and the outdoor prayer garden and The Croi where the children are responsible for preparing their own worship.

4. Celebration of the Eucharist in church with the whole school joining the parish on special feasts and Holydays of Obligation.

6. Special liturgies particularly in Lent and Advent, linking parish and school.

- The school entrance and the zones are quiet spaces that have prayer areas available for personal use by the children.
- The Croi (junior playground) gives classes the opportunity to reflect and pray together in a unique location.

The R.E. Programme

Children currently follow the 'Come and See' scheme alongside the 'Caritas in Action' programme which looks at the social teachings of the church. This is enhanced in a number of ways; through incorporating 'Building the Kingdom' ideas, whole school impact weeks and developing the 'Big Questions.' In addition there are elements of study and experience that are included because they have special significance to the school, for example a special interest in Saint Joseph and Saint Bede. Each class produces a book which showcases this teaching across the school year. EYFS produce a 'Golden Book' where learning is logged in a floor book style. KS1 and 2 produce an 'Awe and Wonder' book where RE is celebrated across the curriculum.

We plan our work in 5 areas along the guidelines of the 'Diocese incorporating; Word. Worship, Witness, Welfare and Welcome. We ensure that the curriculum is made available to all children regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin or faith. A variety of teaching styles will be used to impart the curriculum and reference will be made to other subjects where appropriate. The key skills in English, Maths and Science will be developed through the teaching of Religious Education. Work with a Religious Education consultant has further developed the teaching and given it a more creative approach.

Early Years Foundation Stage cover the *Come and See* objectives and make clear links with the framework through Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

Teaching of R.E.

Each class teacher is responsible for the teaching and learning of RE in his/her class.

Lessons constitute 10% of teaching time each week. However RE is celebrated and incorporated into the whole of the curriculum.

Grouping will vary according to the content and style of the lesson and will be decided by the teacher.

Teaching and learning experiences will be planned and delivered in as many ways as possible.

Whole school impact weeks/days will be planned for to link with the liturgical year, such as All Souls Day, Candlemas, Pentecost and St Bede's Day.

Resources

The resources are available to all staff and are kept in school storage and individual classrooms. The RE cupboard houses the necessary resources and equipment. Come and See is available online and any enhancements are available on Dropbox or the shared network (e.g. Maria Hall Liturgy Resources, Lat Blaylock resources, Building the Kingdom resources etc.) We aim to enhance and extend the teaching of 'Come and See' to make our curriculum exciting and engaging.

Assessment

Much of RE is a development of personal values and attitudes and can be assessed through the children attitude and approach to life. We plan 'Check In/Check Out' activities for each topic, this assesses their knowledge and progression of a certain topic. Children are assessed in a range of ways; through written work, art work, role play, puppets, videos and teacher dialogue. The 'Check In/Check Out' logo is used to show assessment pieces of work. Three times a year assessment is placed on Target Tracker.

Parents receive information regarding their child's effort, attainment and progress in parents evenings and in a written report at the end of the academic year.

Prayer and Worship

As stated in the aims of RE we value very highly the times when we meet for collective worship. At present the following takes place;

Whole School Liturgy

This takes place every Monday morning during the Good News assembly and also Friday morning during assembly. This is a time of worship for staff and children. The liturgy is largely based on a feast of the week, the liturgical season or the Gospel reading of the Sunday. The GIFT team prepares the bidding prayers based on a theme. The liturgy is led by the Head Teacher and the GIFT Team. The aim is to create an atmosphere of praise and reflection and to begin/end the school week in a most fitting way.

Each classroom has its own altar and resources for class Liturgies.

Key Stage assemblies and Singing Worship begin with a liturgy and follow the Gospel theme for a week.

Class Liturgy and Collective Worship

Each class participates in a weekly Collective Worship/Liturgy that reflects the Gospel or RE theme for the week. Children are involved in setting up the altar for worship, preparing the Scripture/prayers and sitting in prayerful silence. Teachers and pupils can use Ten:Ten resources as a guide if needed.

The GIFT Team prepare a Wednesday Word which is then shared with each class to display on their class altar.

The daily routine for all classes is:

Morning prayer

Grace before meals

Grace after meals

Prayer at the end of the day

Children have opportunities to develop and plan their own liturgical experiences on a regular basis. They are encouraged to use scripture and prayer as a basis for their worship. The children begin preparing for this as early as Nursery and progress throughout their school life.

Advent

A highly successful and well attended Advent service takes place each year for KS1 and EYFS. Its aim is to provide a focus on the importance of getting ready for the Birth of Christ. The liturgy is a very visual, musical experience including art work, dance, drama and prayer. KS2 Advent services are led by different year groups throughout the weeks of Advent. These are an intimate gathering where parents are invited to stay afterwards for a coffee and a chat. These have provided a strong link with school, the wider community and the parish.

Lent

The school places the emphasis on thinking about others during Lent and money raising goes alongside learning about those who are less fortunate than us, and the organisations which help in a practical way. We begin the season with a celebration on Shrove Tuesday to contrast with the solemnity of Ash Wednesday. The Parish Priest visits school to conduct whole school Mass. Throughout Lent the theme is followed by each class and is reflected in RE lessons and class Liturgies. An interactive Stations of the Cross service is planned for and the GIFT Team help deliver this.

Multi faith

We value the importance of learning about and understanding other faiths.

Throughout the year we plan for and deliver whole school Multi-faith weeks in which they learn about different beliefs and ways of worshipping. The children make visits to places of worship and invite speakers into school.

We have built up resources in this area and have extended the school library to include more multi faith books. We have taken steps to strengthen the bonds with pupils of other faiths. The pupils themselves have been actively involved in this process and as a result, our Muslim pupils are sharing their faith and their prayers at whole school assemblies

Differentiation

The school recognises that in any class there will be children of different levels of ability and personal needs. In planning lessons the class teachers will take these needs into consideration and work will be aimed at an appropriate level as much as possible. In RE books Learning Challenges will be open questions to ensure stretch for HA children and support LA children. Big Questions ensure that children can be inquisitive about their faith and tackle some of the more stimulating questions.

Pastoral guidance and support

The teaching and non-teaching staff regard their role as guiders and supporters as an extremely important part of their job. They are always available and very willing to help the children in and out of the class for whatever need. They remain fully professional in their approach and respect each individual. We have a Pastoral Support Worker who works closely with children to develop SMSC awareness and support children who may need additional help. We have a Place2Be appointed counsellor who supports children who may need it. We also have a Family Support Worker who is based across the local community who helps deal with attendance, punctuality, behaviour and any other issues that our families may face.

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