



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Our Mission Statement is JOY through RESPECT.

We challenge each member of our community to:

Open your heart to the teachings of -

Jesus, the needs of

Others and then

You will have **JOY**

In line with our behaviour policy, based on respect, without reward or sanction, we recognise that in every moment - even the less balanced ones, every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). We reflect back to the children the truth that they are inherently good - especially in their moments of difficulty. In this way we model and teach the fundamental truths of freedom, tolerance, respect and equality - the bedrock of a successful society.

The teaching of RE is designed to enable pupils to understand the world around them and follow our Gospel values so that they can manage their lives, now and in the future. We bring them to an understanding of 'community' and the importance of relationships within. We teach about how every member of a community has a contribution to make and that they should seek to maximise this. RE is seen as the 'life blood' of the school that feeds into all we do. It is delivered in two distinct ways:

We teach explicit (or curriculum) Religious Education in accordance with the Catholic faith – those timetabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the school policy in line with the Bishops' Conference recommendations that 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include prayer and liturgy or RSE.

We use the 'The Way the Truth and the Life' programme of Religious Education. We support the teaching of RE by making regular visits to Our Lady of Pity Church to attend Mass. We also make the most of the liturgical calendar, ensuring children are familiar with the liturgical colours and events by providing the children with meaningful prayer experiences. Linking our school, home and parish links, the children take home 'travelling bags' to share and learn about liturgical events and other faiths.

In addition,

- The children lead a daily act of worship in which they focus on Catholic spirituality and morality. Our collective worship arrangements are detailed in our *Prayer and Liturgy Policy*.
- Develop understanding and recognition of the importance of prayer in our everyday lives.
- A whole school approach for the preparation and delivery by the children of a weekly whole school prayer and liturgy.

- We teach the children about the importance of good health and how this can be promoted – our policies on PE, lunch boxes, sex education and Health and Safety provide useful additional information.
- The teaching of core skills ensures that the children have the foundations on which they can build a sense of economic awareness.
- We explore other faiths
- We explore cultural diversity through our RE curriculum and by recognising significant events (e.g. Chinese New Year).
- We build an awareness of safety, teaching the children how to measure risk and guiding them through tricky situations, such as bullying, fire safety etc.

We enable implicit or unstructured Religious Education – those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to lead pupils through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of our school to use such opportunities as they arise. We nurture an ethos which is rooted in:

- Anti-discrimination. Our Equality Policy provides useful additional information.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents, teachers and the wider community to work in an effective partnership to make sure that we give our children the best possible environment in which to grow, flourish and learn
- Develop children's capacity for critical and independent thought.
- All adults will model expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for children and their families.
- Helping others less fortunate than us. An essential part of our RE is encouraging the children to support those who are less well off than they are. The main charities that are supported by the school are as follows: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Wirral Foodbank, The Catholic Children's Society, St John's Hospice, CAFOD and other appeals which arise and link with our fundraising themes.
- The modelling of good citizenship.
- The striving for independence.
- Building and maintaining high levels of confidence and self-esteem.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Children's work is assessed, recorded and reported in the same manner as the school's foundation subjects using 'Balance'.
- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out by the Catholic Education Service.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out through lesson observations and book look each term.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report mid-way through the year and again at the end of each academic year.
- There are areas in each classroom which act as a focal point for daily worship and reflect the current topic.

During Y3 the children receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The three feeder parishes (Our Lady of Pity, Ss Catherine and Martina's and St Agnes') prepare

the children to receive these sacraments. * The work done in the parishes is supported in school through a separate programme which deepens children's understanding of the Mass.

Prayer and Liturgy is our loving response to God's invitation to enter into relationship. We hold a daily act of worship for all pupils and view it as an integral part of school life.

Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady of Pity is a celebratory experience. We GATHER, LISTEN (to the Word of God), RESPOND (through reflection) and Go (forth, to apply learning).

The Eucharist - Eucharistic celebrations are held at school and Our Lady of Pity Church. They are regular and opportunities for questions are given at the end.

COVID 19

*School has taken over the sacramental preparation for Year 3.

During school closures, all Religious Education continued to be planned and taught virtually via Seesaw. This is in line with the Bishops' Conference recommendation that 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education.