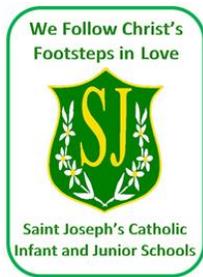


**We Follow Christ's
Footsteps in Love**

***Religious Education
Policy
April 2019***

***St. Joseph's
Infant and Junior Schools***



St Joseph's Mission Statement

St Joseph's aims to remember that our faith underpins all that we are and all that we do.

We aim to commit ourselves to providing our children with a balanced curriculum where abilities and interests are stimulated.

Prayer and worship will be real experiences for each child, parent, governor and member of staff.

We endeavour to strengthen Christian values and encourage all to live in a harmonious, multicultural society.

Race and Equality Statement

Clearly if we are to achieve our mission statement we must aim not only to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination but also to actively promote equal opportunities and good race relations in all areas of school life.

We aim to eliminate both direct discrimination (treating a person on racial grounds less favourably than others are or would be treated in the same or similar circumstances) and indirect discrimination (when the application of a condition, though applied equally to all racial groups, is such that a smaller proportion of a particular racial group can comply with it, and it can not be shown to be justifiable on other than racial grounds).

Religious Education Policy



‘At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a catholic school... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and to find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.’ (Statement on Religious Education in Catholic School – Bishops’ Conference 2000)

“Excellence in religious education, then will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievements of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom R.E will be challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material,”

Whilst evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

Our Policy for Religious Education in our School is linked to our Mission Statement, which states the Staff guides the pupils who are at the beginning of their faith journey.

Philosophy

We believe that:

The process of education, teaching and learning is a holy act and that it is related to God.

The curriculum must reflect the fact that Christ is the foundation of education in our school. Religion Education in our school seeks to provide pupils with an intellectual foundation for them to stand on 'a solid base of faith.'

Religious Education provides opportunities for the pupils to develop personal skills, attitudes and values.

There is a need for strong links between home, school and parish.

Prayers deepen our personal relationship with God.

Aims and Objectives

The essential nature of our Religious Education Programme is living out our daily beliefs in our daily life together.

The explicit teaching of Religious Education, as a subject, will promote the physical, moral and spiritual development of children. It will work towards giving children an understanding of the aims and beliefs of the Catholic Faith, and promote the equal value of all peoples, regardless of colour, race or creed. Religious Education, is at the heart of the curriculum of our Catholic Schools which takes its share of the community's responsibility of passing on the Christian faith to our children.

- To teach the broad content of the Religious Education from the R.E Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools.
- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Outcomes

- Pupils feel confident, secure and loved.
- Pupils have a 'solid base in faith'
- Pupils feel valued.
- Pupils are aware of other faiths, they realise that all people are equal in God's eyes and as a result value and respect everyone.
- Pupils know how to pray. Praying is part of their daily lives.
- Pupils participate in acts of worship, assemblies, prayer services, Masses and sing hymns.
- Pupils know about the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Pupils learn about the sacred scriptures, the sacraments and other aspects of the Catholic faith as outlined in the Curriculum Directory.
- Pupils recognise a sense of wonder and awe in the world around them.
- Pupils are confident talking about their faith.

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

1. Educate children to the experience of worship and liturgy gradually, which will involve them actively in ways suited to their age and stage of personal, social and religious development.
2. Educate children to become religiously literate pupils equipped with age appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills, which enables them to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically demonstrating an awareness of the responsibility of their religious commitment in everyday life.
3. To know as a staff that the Christian Faith is communicated to children through contact with the witness of the Christian community i.e. the school staff.
4. Create opportunities for praying with children using traditional prayers and prayers in their own words, collectively and silently, at assemblies, prayer services and Church celebrations.
5. Celebrate events of life; those which address the emotions and feelings children experience: joy, happiness, friendship, sadness, anger, fear, loneliness and to celebrate each child's birthday.
6. Make full use of music, art and drama in celebrations.
7. Provide sufficient resources for this area of the curriculum e.g. books pictures and icons etc.
8. Instil in children a sense of wonder and awe in the world around them and link this to other areas of the curriculum.
9. Encourage children to reflect upon their faith and share their thoughts and ideas with others.
10. Evaluate and assess children's achievements in R.E in order to communicate results to colleagues, pupils and parents, and to ensure continuity and progress.
11. To use I.C.T. to enhance children's learning in religion.

Special Educational Needs

We aim for all children to have equal access to the RE. curriculum, so that they are encouraged to strive for academic excellence and develop their full potential in recognition that we are all children of God.

We believe that teaching R.E. to pupils with special educational needs is an extension of our existing good practice.

Differentiation

In order to implement a balanced curriculum, we build on the past achievement of individual pupils.

We plan for specific development in skills, knowledge and understanding so that pupils can be given appropriate tasks.

- Build on the past achievement of individual pupils
- Remove barriers to participation, e.g. where these apply to pupils with special needs
- Provide opportunities for individual pupils to experience success.

High Achievers

At Saint Joseph's we try to ensure that progression and extension activities are planned, to ensure high achievers to progress to their maximum potential, extending their knowledge and experiences in R.E

EAL

Pupils are supported through differentiated work and through the successful strategies and implementation of our EAL checklist.

Equal Opportunities

There is equal access and opportunity for all pupils in Religious Education in respect of: Curriculum balance, activities, time allocation and resources and facilities.

The Curriculum Directory follows the Second Vatican Council. It is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church published in 1994. It seeks to present the broad content of the religious education expected to be taught in Catholic schools by the bishops of England and Wales. We adhere to the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools.

'The Westminster Units of Faith' written by Dr Margaret Carswell, also seeks to take up the challenge of the Second Vatican Council and includes every aspect of current thinking in religious education today. The Programme explores questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with

the pupils' own experiences and the programme raises questions and provides material for reflecting on this. This is the scheme we use to assist in our teaching and learning. We have also begun to look at the new age related standards and cross reference with current planning ahead of their final introduction.

Partnership with parents is embedded at St. Joseph's. This principle can be seen at all levels. Parents are invited to class assemblies throughout the year. Parents are welcomed to school masses and other celebrations. Year two children along with children from each junior class, assist in the liturgy for our school Masses. This emphasises the link between home, school and parish in a special way.

At St. Josephs, teachers are aware there are children from a variety of faith backgrounds. Some pupils will have come from homes where parents and children are living and sharing faith in positive ways, while others will have little experience of Catholic practice and traditions.

Through the units of Faith, we follow the topics recommended for each half term. The topics and themes run through the prayer sessions and celebrations both in school and in the Church. The children experience the richness of linking the school family with the home and parish family.

Each teacher has a copy of the Curriculum Directory and the planning block provided by Dr Margaret Carswell for the age group he/she teaches.

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ – .

Designated Curriculum

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

2 hours 30 mins per week - infants

2 hours 45 mins per week – juniors

Homework is set weekly to deepen and consolidate the current topic.

Worship

We have a rich liturgical life in that the experiences we provide are wide ranging and take place in school, out of school, in church and engage and involve pupils, parents, staff, governors and the parish.

The celebration of the Eucharist and prayer are central in our schools.

Assemblies - Two per week.

Hymn Practice - Fortnightly.

Morning Prayers	(on non assembly days) Morning Offering, Hail Mary (Especially during May and October), Our Father, Glory be to the Father and thanksgiving prayers.
Before Lunch	Grace before meals prayer.
After Lunch	Prayers of thanks/forgiveness if applicable to playground behaviour.
Home time	Evening prayer/own prayer. (Together with appropriate hymns that reinforce prayers, themes or topic etc.)
Links with the Parish	Priests regularly visit the school to celebrate Eucharistic and non- Eucharistic liturgies .Governors and staff support the Parish in a variety of ways including preparation for First Holy Communion and confirmation programmes. Significant numbers of pupils are altar servers.
Attendance at school Masses.	Whole School Masses (Y1-Y6). Reception to attend once settled. Children are taught prayers used during Mass. Children attend Masses on all relevant Holy days with the whole school. There are class masses, held in our school, for years 2-6 throughout the year. Reconciliation for Years 4-6 during Advent and Lent. (Year 3 pupils after making their first reconciliation)

Charities

Pupils at Saint Joseph’s regularly support various charities including CAFOD, Catholic Children’s Society and Mission Together; together with pupil designated worthy causes e.g. Great Ormond Street, Local Foodbanks and The Passage.

Other faiths

Children are taught Hinduism in the Autumn Term and Judaism in the Summer Term. Children are also taught about other cultural festivals during the relevant times. We encourage children to develop their tolerance and knowledge of other faiths and beliefs particularly those celebrated within our community.

Assessment

Assessment of the pupils’ work is a necessary part of the learning process. It helps the teacher plan the next step in the pupils’ learning.

Children are split into two mixed ability groups in each class and are assessed in every R.E topic. This means each child is assessed and levelled once per term.

R.E folders are kept by the teachers and monitored and checked regularly by the R.E coordinators.

Children are involved and informed of their next steps for R.E by having a target question on assessment pieces as well as being given appropriate feedback.

Staff meet with their phase once a term to moderate with each other and check our assessed pieces to ensure we agree with the work being produced.

Once a term, RE coordinators meet with schools in the borough to cross moderate and to ensure there is a consistency in our understanding of particular levels.

Regular planned inset provision is disseminated to staff led by the co-ordinators or external providers to ensure diocesan advice and guidance is fully implemented.

Regular homework is set in line with the school's homework policy.

Leadership and Management

The Headteacher has had delegated by the governors day to day leadership of the school community and is charged with sustaining and developing all aspects of Catholic identity and safeguarding the Church's teaching within the whole learning environment. From this all members of the school staff and pupils are supported in their own faith journey.

Role of the R.E Co-ordinators

- Co-ordinate the development of R.E, support staff and monitor progress throughout the schools
- Attend Diocesan training and disseminate information to staff at regular insets
- Ensure that Acts of Worship timetables are adhered to
- Analyse data and monitor pupil progress to ensure all pupils achieve their maximum potential and that high standards are maintained or further developed.
- Provide additional support and guidance as necessary
- Liaise with colleagues from local schools or with the Diocese to collaborate and share good practice and for moderation purposes
- Deliver reports and presentations to Governors and other stakeholders as necessary
- Make appropriate use of the R.E budget in order to ensure quality resources and supporting material are available for pupils and staff

Resources

Children's Bibles.

Gods Story 3

Church Story 2 and 3

Church Story and God's Story CD in staff area for use on IWB.

Books dealing with issues such as death, one- parent families and divorce.

Story books to support the recognise section of topic.

Non Fiction Books about other religions.

Big books

Cafod resources

Posters (Old & New Testaments)

Books on assemblies and prayers.

Hymn books.

Rejoice songbook and cds.

Judaism and Hinduism artefacts.

Be Spirited books.

Unit of Faith resources.