

## Religious Education / Assemblies

Religious education (RE) is a statutory part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and is covered in class by the teachers and also through the range of assemblies during the year, which include visitors from various churches and organisations, and through the Christian and non-Christian festivals which are celebrated.

As an integrated school doing our best to meet the needs of a school community whose backgrounds, beliefs and cultures are diverse we have worked hard over the last few years to provide a balanced and varied programme incorporating the statutory requirements yet reflecting that diversity.

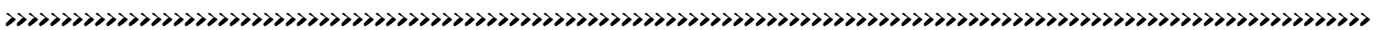
We have incorporated world faiths and are currently investigating how a humanist approach might be explored with our older children, increased the number of secular assemblies to reflect the religious balance within our school, revised and adapted our range of assembly music to include secular and non-secular pieces, worked with the teachers to develop our teaching approaches to provide a consistent and balanced approach, as well as maintained good links with our local churches, introduced a Scripture Union after school club, continue to provide sacramental preparation within school and maintain our Christian ethos. Indeed, through this balanced approach we aim to provide an ethos where children are encouraged to question and discuss any ideas or thoughts they may have around beliefs, knowing that their views will be respected.

Since becoming an Integrated school we have seldom had a family withdraw their child from either religious education in the classroom or from our assemblies which form part of the RE curriculum. This is testament to the balanced approach taken. However, at the start of a new school year it is timely to remind parents that you continue to have the right to withdraw your child from RE and we are happy to make alternative arrangements if you choose to do so.

To assist you in this decision I have outlined the assembly time table for the year and the assembly rota for term 1. Some minor changes may be necessary during the year due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you do not wish your child to take part in our assembly rota and/or to be withdrawn from the teaching of RE in the classrooms please return the completed slip below and we will be happy to make alternate arrangements during the year.

S. McKirgan  
(Principal)



### Religious Education / Assemblies

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**During the academic year 2019 - 2020 I do not wish my child to take part in:**

(Tick as required)

Wednesday Assemblies

Thursday Assemblies

The teaching of RE in class

Christian based festivals

eg. Christmas/Harvest activities inc. concerts

Signed (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY	FREQUENCY	FORMAT
WEDNESDAY MORNING	ALTERNATE WEEKS (i.e. Wk1 P1 - 4, Wk2 P5 - 7 etc.)  MAX. of 11 per child per year	15/20 mins. Approx. Key Stage specific. Visitors from local churches/organisations. Christian based. This year the visitors will include Rachel Tweedie (SU), Conor Patton & Rev Craig Jackson from Ballygilbert, Rev. Catherine Simpson from Trinity Parish, Alistair MacNeice from Holywood Baptist, Joe McKeown & Glenn Johnston
THURSDAY AFTERNOON	EVERY WEEK  MAX. of 33 per child per year	30 mins. Approx.. Whole School. Generally led by staff/pupils. A mix of secular/non-secular and includes awards and celebrations.

WEEK BEGINNING	WEDNESDAY Minister 9.15am	THURSDAY Assembly 1.15pm
26 <sup>th</sup> August	No visitor Applications for House Captain open	PRINCIPAL - Welcome back
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	No visitor Applications for House Captain open	PRINCIPAL - Behaviour
9 <sup>th</sup> September	House Captain - Presentation of manifesto & vote	VICE PRINCIPAL
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Rev. Catherine Simpson	Presentation of Office Bearers:-House Captains; Pupil Council; ECO Team, RRWarriors
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Conor Patton	PRINCIPAL - Visible Learning
30 <sup>th</sup> September	Rev. Alistair MacNeice	Who to Talk to Assembly
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Joe McKeown	PRINCIPAL
14 <sup>th</sup> October	HARVEST on Tuesday 16th	Harvest assembly
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Glen Johnston	Head of FS/KS1
HALF TERM		
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Rev. Catherine Simpson	REMEMBRANCE
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Conor Patton	Anti-Bullying Week - Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Rev. Alistair MacNeice	PRINCIPAL
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Joe McKeown	VICE PRINCIPAL
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	KS2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT REHEARSALS	
9 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT REHEARSALS	
16 <sup>th</sup> December	NO ASSEMBLY	NO ASSEMBLY

