



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

(Including Collective Worship, PHSE, Spiritual and Moral Development policies)

Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on 29/1/13
Ratified by full governors on 20/3/13

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
DATED

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY OUR LADY OF PITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our **Mission Statement** is JOY through RESPECT, a point of reference for all that we do at the school.

The teaching of RE is designed to enable pupils to understand the world around them 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 and 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 to give 10% of the timetable to RE. We use the 'The Way the Truth and the Life' programme of Religious Education. A whole school approach is used which means that classes work on a common theme throughout the school. We support this by using materials from SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and citizenship themes. 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, providing the children with meaningful prayer experiences at Christmas (nativities), Easter (assemblies), May (May Procession).

In addition,

- The children take part in a daily act of worship in which they are taught about Catholic spirituality and morality. Our collective worship arrangements are detailed below.
- 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, eg Judaism, Hinduism and Islam
- We explore cultural diversity through our RE curriculum and by recognising significant events (eg. 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.
- 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, Operation Christmas Child, The Catholic Children's Society, 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.

Children's work is assessed, recorded and reported in the same manner as the school's foundation subjects: work is assessed against learning outcomes and judgements are made at the end of units of work to form a summative judgement at the end of the year.

'The Way the Truth the Life' topics are reviewed and evaluated at the end of each topic. 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, St 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.

Collective Worship 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.

Collective Worship 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, Our Lady of Pity and Ss Catherine and Martina. They are regular and opportunities for questions are given at the end.

Foundation Stage

Monday	-	Assembly (Headteacher)
Tuesday	-	Class Prayer
Wednesday	-	Assembly (Annexe)/Class Prayers
Thursday	-	Class Prayers
Friday	-	Class Prayers

Key Stage 1

Monday	-	Assembly (Headteacher)
Tuesday	-	Class Prayers
Wednesday	-	Class Prayers
Thursday	-	Class Prayers
Friday	-	Class Prayers

Key Stage 2

Monday	-	Assembly (Headteacher)
Tuesday	-	Class Prayers
Wednesday	-	Class Prayers
Thursday	-	Class Prayers
Friday	-	Class Prayers