

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

## **1. We begin with our Mission Statement –**

### **Adult Version**

#### **OUR SCHOOL ~ OUR MISSION**

**“Something which has existed since the beginning  
*that we have heard,  
and we have seen, with our own eyes;  
that we have touched with our hands:  
the Word, Who is life –  
this is our subject.  
That life was made visible.  
We saw it and we are giving our testimony,  
telling you of the eternal life  
which was with the Father and has been made visible to us.  
What we have seen and heard  
we are telling you  
so that you may be in union with us  
as we are in union  
with the Father  
and with His Son, Jesus Christ.”***

(John 1:1 – 4)

#### **THE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF PRAYER**

***“Where two are gathered together in my name ...”***

***“Be joyful – pray at all times”  
(St Paul to the Thessalonians.)***

Our school is distinctive as we provide a grounding in the Catholic Faith for our children. The special character of our Catholic School is the quality of the religious teaching, integrated into the overall education of our children. Our beliefs, which are Gospel centred, affect the way we live, making our school a living example of Christ and His teaching.

***We believe that all aspects of our school life are enriched by prayer and worship.***

#### **THE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL IS A PLACE WHERE A COMMUNITY IS BEING CREATED.**

**“Love one another as I have loved you”**

(John 15:12)

As a Catholic community, we endeavour to nurture all our relationships. We try to do this by following the example and teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in and strive for, all-round team commitment and mutual support and respect.

We hope to be distinguished by the quality of care, concern and support that we extend to all as we strive always to create and uphold a truly Christian community.

We respect and value each individual and try to be sensitive to each others needs – particularly those of the less able, the least popular and anyone who may feel marginalised in any way, thus proclaiming Our Lord’s teaching.

“ ..... so far as you did this to one of the least of these children of mine, you did it to me”.

(Matthew 25:40)

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**THE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF LEARNING**

***“He guides me by paths of virtue for the sake of His name”.***  
***(Psalm 23)***

We feel that the whole ethos of the school is encapsulated in the Roman Catholic Church’s New Code of Canon Law (1983)  
(Canon 795)

“Education must pay regard to the formation of the whole person ..... children are therefore to be cared for in such a way that their physical, moral and intellectual talents may develop in a harmonious way, so that they may attain a greater sense of responsibility and a right use of freedom, and be formed to take an active part in social life”.

***We recognise a religious dimension in all the subjects we teach.***

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**THE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL IS A PLACE WHERE WE TREASURE GOD’S WORLD**

***“The world is full of good things you have made”.***  
***(Psalm 23)***

We know that people and property – both personal, school and community are part of God’s creation and deserve respect and careful treatment. Care of ourselves, others and all kinds of property is an expression of thanks to God for His many gifts.

***“Love the Lord your God .... and your neighbour as yourself”.***  
***(Luke 10:27)***

We try not to face inwards and concern ourselves solely with matters within our school, but strive to show care of and compassion towards the local and global environments and their peoples, believing that our school should be a ‘model of justice’ in our world. We actively seek to be of service to the local community and beyond

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**Mission Statement – Child’s Version**

**OUR SCHOOL IS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**WE THINK OUR SCHOOL IS SPECIAL BECAUSE:**

1. We work hard to help one another to learn about Jesus and what He taught.
2. Our teachers teach us about Jesus and the Catholic Church.
3. We believe that Jesus is present in everything we do.
4. We want our school to be an example to everyone and show people the way to Jesus.
5. We believe praying really makes a difference to the way we work and the way we treat one another. We offer our work, our behaviour, everything we do up as a prayer.
6. We want to show our love for Jesus by working together.
7. We want to help everyone in need in and outside our school.
8. We want to grow up as an example to everyone through the way we learn and behave.
9. We believe that everything around us – people, property, the environment belongs to God and that by taking care we are saying thank you for the many gifts he has given to us.
10. We want to share what we believe in with everybody.

# Policy for Religious Education

## **Rationale of Religious Education:**

- At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, we believe that religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.<sup>1</sup>
- We believe Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.
- Religious education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis but its specific contribution to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and so Religious Education will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.<sup>2</sup>

‘The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.’

## **The Aims of Religious Education**

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice<sup>3</sup>

## **Curriculum time allocation:**

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

## **Programme of Study:**

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 The Way, The Truth and The Life programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

## **Process**

‘Our starting point in Religious Education is **Revelation**. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is his revealing of himself that makes classroom religious education possible. To begin with revelation ensures that we respect the revealed nature of Christian faith.

From revelation we move onto Church; in other words, we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God’s revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church’s response to God’s revelation; Celebration – the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and Life in Christ – the moral life and the pursuit of holiness.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils’ experience of life are essential.’<sup>4</sup>

‘Teaching in Religious Education . . . should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.’<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Religious Education in Catholic Schools, para. 4, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 2000

<sup>2</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 10, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 1996

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10

<sup>4</sup> *The Way, the Truth & the Life, Teacher Book 4*, 7, CTS, 2004

## **Methodology**

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

## **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting**

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains three samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
- An in-house moderation meeting is held every *year*
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is conducted as part of the school's normal procedures
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report termly and at the end of each academic year.

## **Policy review.**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by *Mrs. Jefferson* and updated every 2 years.

## **Management of the subject.**

Mrs. Jefferson the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

## **Other Faiths**

*Other Faiths are studied during blocked weeks*

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education**

#### **The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for:**

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
  
- Self evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

The policy is also available in the following formats, on request to the headteacher: email; enlarged print version; other formats by arrangement.

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<sup>5</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 11

# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL RE POLICY STATEMENT

