

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education in a Catholic School cannot be just confined to specific RE lessons. The message of the Gospel permeates all aspects of School life.

Nevertheless, specific Religious Education lessons are of central importance. The whole aim of the school is the Christian Growth of the children, not simply their growth in their own Faith but their growing awareness of the world as maturing Christians. Regard is paid to the formation of the whole person, so that all may attain their eternal destiny – and at the same time promote the common good of society.

Our Catholic ethos clearly inspires and affects the quality of life in our school community. This is reflected in the very good relationships that exist between the staff, parents and parishioners and the positive attitudes and values of the children.

Our School follows the Archdiocese of Birmingham's curriculum strategy "Learning and Growing as the People of God". It is a developmental scheme, which builds upon what has gone before. All sorts of activities such as Art, Creative Writing, Drama and Music are used to help the children understand the "Good News" of Jesus Christ and relate it to their lives, helping them to develop spiritually, morally and socially.

All children take part in daily collective worship. This may be within their own classroom, with other children from their key stage, or with the whole school. Mass is celebrated regularly in school, and parents and parishioners are welcome to attend, thus furthering the community ethos which is central to Christian life. Parents wishing to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship should speak in the first instance to the Head Teacher. We make the Sacrament of Reconciliation available to children before the major festivals of the Church Year and children participate in a range of prayer services, Parish Church Masses, assemblies and Rosary prayer times. We appreciate the efforts made by parents to support these occasions.

At appropriate ages, decided upon by the Archdiocese, the children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The "Learning and Growing as the People of God" curriculum strategy is used in this preparation, but other supplementary materials are used. At these times in the children's lives, parental support in the preparation is particularly valuable. Parents' meetings are held and various services organised to promote understanding and partnership.

The School is obliged to comply with a parent's request that his or her child be excused from Religious Education or Worship or both until the request is withdrawn. Should a parent wish to exercise his or her right to withdraw the child from Religious Education, contact should be made with the Head Teacher to establish the issues to which the parent would object, how the school might reasonably respect the parent's wishes and the implications for withdrawal.