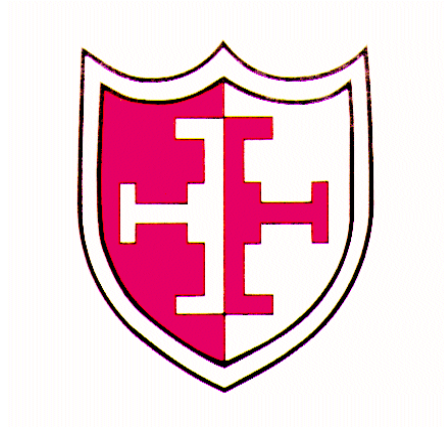


ST. CHAD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy



'Christ in our heads, our hearts, our hands'

Reviewed June 2014

1 Aims and Objectives

1.1 The Religious education curriculum will:

- seek to help each person to live and grow in community in a way that reflects human dignity and purpose;
- make a significant contribution to the child's self understanding as a human being, capable of responding in integrity and freedom to the invitation of God and the challenges of life;
- promote a gradual opening of mind and heart in the search for truth about God, respect for people of other faiths and a willingness to recognise goodness wherever it exists.

1.2 The Religious Education programme will provide a comprehensive and systematic study of Christianity so that the children and young people will be enabled to:

- grow in knowledge of and openness to the mystery of God;
- become familiar with the person, life and teachings of Jesus, who as Saviour and Lord reveals both the Face of God and the fullness of what it means to be human;
- grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Church, her life and teachings, her significance in the world today, and her concerns for peace and justice;
- prepare for, participate in and appreciate Personal and Liturgical Prayer and Worship;
- develop a moral and ethical awareness as they reflect on the human condition and on their own lives and the lives of others in the light of the Christian message;
- avail of opportunities to foster their spiritual development;

1.3 Through sound teaching which reflects children's and young peoples capacity for learning and growing the Catholic School's Religious Education will:

- be informed by a range of teaching styles and a whole variety of ways in which children learn, and will enable teachers to select from or devise appropriate learning experiences;
- affirm all pupils' value and worth, build on their own experiences of living relationships and contribute to the development of positive self esteem;
- provide opportunities for pupils to recognise, appreciate and develop their own talents and skills;
- promote the development of independence and autonomy in children and young people so that they are encouraged to accept responsibility for their own learning and are enabled to make ever more full and informed responses and choices in relation to God, Faith and service of others.

2 Implementation

2.1 To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the RE Curriculum Directory, the Diocesan Scheme of Work, the Diocesan Curriculum Mapping for Religious Education, and the Diocesan Levels of Attainment in Religious Education. We incorporate materials from a variety of sources.

2.2 The Birmingham Diocese scheme "Learning and Growing as the People of God" is followed throughout the school . It provides the core of the spiritual and doctrinal teaching of the Church. The content and teaching methods take into consideration the children's age and capacity to learn, the doctrine throughout stressing the central truths of the Catholic Faith.

2.3 The programme of study contained in the Diocesan Curriculum Mapping for RE is followed in Key Stage 1 and 2. The four areas of study emphasized at each stage are: REVELATION, CHURCH, CELEBRATION, LIFE IN CHRIST

2.4 In Key Stage 1 the programme commences by aiming to develop self awareness leading the child, through his/her experiences and environment to God our Loving Father. As the child moves to Key

Stage 2, that self awareness is developed into an awareness of others and the community in which the child lives. Involvement in the Parish community is emphasized.

2.5 Towards the end of the Primary School, this same awareness of being a responsible member of the Community of God -the Church- encapsulates a more living and personal Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. It promotes an appreciation of human dignity and the acquisition of values such as truth, beauty, justice and love. It fosters respect for other traditions, values and beliefs within the context of mutual understanding. It raises pupils awareness of the Gospel values of justice in economic, political, cultural, racial and religious systems. It raises an awareness of God's presence in all of his creation.

2.6 This programme incorporates clear guidelines on how to communicate the doctrine outlined in the text. It suggests activities, provides teaching on how to pray, lead penitential services etc. and enables the teacher to approach the main feasts of the Church with meaning and joy. It also gives specific preparation programmes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. This programme ensures continuity and progression.

3 Process

3.1 The process for delivering the RE programme is clearly expressed in the Long and Medium Term Planning. This process enables the Development of Knowledge, Understanding of Religion and Reflection on Meaning. Teachers plan using the R.E Department's Liturgical Year Plan.

3.2 The teaching of RE takes place in the classroom through a selection of differentiated activities including storytelling, role-play, painting, discussion, reading and independent research. The amount of time recommended by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales is about 10% of available curriculum time. RE is also taught in a cross-curricular way in addition to explicit subject teaching.

4 Assessment/Record Keeping/ Evaluation

4.1 Recording of children's work takes many forms -pictorial, written, wall displays, assemblies etc. Wall displays can be seen in each classroom around the focus of the lessons and centered on the prayer area. All children keep a Religious Exercise Book/Folder throughout the year.

Display themes in the main entrance correspond to the Liturgical Cycle.

4.2 Children are assessed on the Levels of Attainment in RE each term. In addition the RE Co-ordinator keeps a school profile of examples of children's work from Reception to Year 6.

4.3 Staff endeavour to ensure that all children have equal access to the RE Curriculum and plan so that the activities are differentiated to meet the needs of the class.

5 Resources

5.1 Each class has a set bibles, appropriate to their age and abilities.

5.2 Further resources are stored centrally in the Headteacher's Office. Books on the saints and other faiths are kept in the library. Staff have access to posters, rosary beads and other religious symbols and artefacts to enrich teaching in religious education.

5.3 Our resources are continually reviewed and updated.

5.4 We recognise that people are our greatest resource and that teachers "take the place of Christ" in relation to the children's education in the Catholic Faith. Therefore we work to promote respect, love, understanding, compassion, kindness, dedication and personal growth.

6 Staff training and Development

6.1 Staff meetings are held to discuss the teaching of Religion and Spiritual Development in school. The RE Co-ordinator attends meetings at the RE Diocesan Centre when appropriate and other relevant courses e.g. on Liturgy, Collective Worship etc. She communicates to staff the content of the courses and whatever is relevant to the teaching of RE. The R.E. Co-ordinator attends termly Cluster Meetings, where the five Dudley Catholic Primary school meet together with an advisor from the Diocesan R.E. department, who leads the meeting. Each year the five Dudley Catholic Primary schools share an INSET day which focuses on an aspect of RE/Spiritual development of staff.

7 Prayer and Worship

7.1 Each day begins and end with a meaningful and appropriate time of prayer. Each classroom will have a focal point for prayer decorated with children's work e.g. prayers, poems, drawings etc. Each class takes time during the week for more personalised prayer.

7.3 Collective Worship is a gathering of all or some of the school community which aims to foster the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all those present. Prayer/Collective Worship will take place in the Hall for the whole school on Mondays, led by the Headteacher (deputy or R.E. Co-ordinator). Each week during this assembly Anniversary of Baptisms and birthdays are celebrated. Good work and positive values are affirmed and rewards distributed. Friday assemblies are led by individual teachers or whole classes. Parents and carers are invited to attend class assemblies. Special Assemblies are held for Harvest, at the beginning of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. A hymn practice is held every week.

7.4 The simple version of the school's mission statement is used as a prayer during assemblies.

7.5 Whole School Masses are held in the Church every week. Classes take it in turns to prepare reading and bidding prayers, and to take up the Offertory. Year 6 have a special Leavers Mass each year. Parents and Parishioners are invited to take part in all School Masses.

7.6 The children learn that we are part of a Catholic community – the school and the parishes working together. When in Y6 the children attend requiem Masses as part of this community support.

7.7 The third Sunday of each month (excluding school holidays) is Children's Sunday in St. Chad's Church. Classes led the music, do the reading, bidding prayers and offertory. All children and parents are encouraged to attend this Sunday Mass. "Thank you" stickers are given to all children who attend.

8 Role of the RE Co-ordinator

8.1 The RE Co-ordinator leads the staff in developing their teaching of Religious Education by example through good practice; by support and advice offered at staff meetings and in informal conversations; by ensuring that the resources needed are available to staff and children; suggesting cross curricular links; involving staff in-service with regard to planning, record keeping and assessment.

8.2 The Co-ordinator, with the support of staff develops and extends the Catholic Ethos of the school in relation to Worship, Prayer, Scripture, Assemblies, the Mission Statement and the general life of the school.

8.3 To encourage the involvement of Parents, Governors, Staff and Parish Community in the preparation of children for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

8.4 Together with other members of staff the Co-ordinator organises displays and opportunities to celebrate children's achievements in Religious Education.

9 School and Community

9.1 Parents and Parishioners are invited to participate in School Masses and Assemblies.

9.2 We try to develop in the children a sense of care and concern towards other people in the community. We do this by involving the children in charity fund raising events throughout the year.

9.3 Children in Y6 support the parish by attending requiem Masses and other parish events eg. Woman's World Day of Prayer.

9.4 Through these and other activities the children become aware of the needs of other people both near and far and develop sensitivity, generosity and a sense of responsibility towards their neighbours.

9.5 We are very aware that we live in a multi-cultural / multi-faith society, so the school has a whole school plan for learning about other faiths. Classes visit other religious places of worship or people from other faiths make visit the school.

10 Preparation for the Sacraments

10.1 The Sacraments are a celebration of the presence of Christ permeating every moment of our lives. Growing in understanding of the Sacraments is a complex interaction of a variety of experiences and celebrations in which the children take part during the years they spend in school.

10.2 In preparation programmes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation parents have a very vital and important role in supporting their children. We aim to enable parents, priest and teachers to work closely in unison. Parents are invited to attend enrolment Masses and meetings during the preparation period. This is to ensure that they are fully committed to supporting their child and to enable the priest, teachers and parents to share knowledge, experience and faith together appropriate to the Sacramental experience of their children and their own lives. Parishioners support the preparation through prayer, support and interest. Parents are asked to take their children to Mass on Sunday and those who do not do so are continually encouraged to begin again.

10.3 Year 3 is the first year when children follow a more specific course of instruction in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Parents are asked to take part in the preparation alongside their children, with work being done in their preparation books both in school and at home.

10.4 Years 6 are prepared for the Sacraments of Confirmation. Parents are again involved in the preparation. As part of their preparation they are asked to consider how they can work for the church community. Parents are asked to take part in the preparation alongside their children, with work being done in their preparation books both in school and at home. Parents and sponsors are asked to attend the final preparation Mass and meeting.

11 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

11.1 Through teaching religious education in our school opportunities for spiritual development are integrated into the whole process e.g. daily prayer, reflection, etc. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life and our eternal destiny. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions in the light of the teachings of Christ and of the Church. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.