

St Antony's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

*Learning together
in
God's love*

Agreed by staff: Autumn 2013
Agreed by governors: Autumn 2013
Review date: Autumn 2014

St. Antony's Catholic Primary School Religious Education Policy

Our Mission Statement

At St. Antony's Catholic School we celebrate our special talents as children of God:

- We try to be like Jesus and always keep him in our hearts.
- We work together in our homes, school and parish to share our gifts and learn together.
- We understand that we are all different but we respect each other.
- We look after our world so that we may share it together in peace.

AIMS

Our aim is to develop young people to become religiously literate, to have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Our aims:

- To create opportunities to develop and promote the school's Mission Statement
- To inspire children to grow spiritually and morally through developing their knowledge and understanding of Catholicism.
- To raise standards and aspirations through providing creative, inspirational and enjoyable learning opportunities and experiences.
- To inspire and enable children to grow in confidence, to take risks and develop an understanding of the world they live in and actively be part of it.

☑ Community spirit and ethos

☑ Shared values such as justice, compassion, honesty, respect and love.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales stated in January 2000:

"In the life of faith of the Catholic school, religious education plays a central and vital part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education.

Therefore religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. We are committed to classroom RE, then, because all pupils have the right to receive an overall religious education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15). Religious education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school."

The Religious Education Programme in our school is 'Come and See'. It is the programme approved by the Bishops of England and Wales. 10% of the teaching timetable is provided for religious education 5 hours each year is dedicated to other faiths, 50% Judaism, 50% another faith (Appendix 3) Christ is at the heart of the programme. It is centred on Jesus who came **'that all may have life and have it to the full'** (John 10:10). Children are helped to understand all that He means to us and how we live as His followers. Religious education lessons are arranged as a series of 'Topics'. There are three for each term, and 63 in all, spread over seven years. (Appendix 2)

Each topic works through seven stages or steps

Recognise, Reflect, Respect

In these first three steps the children reflect on an aspect of their own experience and its importance in their lives.

Relate

This is the centre of each topic and concentrates on the life and teaching of Christ. It is taught at a level appropriate to the age and ability of the children. They are helped to understand and use the Bible, especially the Gospels. They study the teaching of the Church and are introduced to the 'Liturgy', which highlights the prayer and worship in the Mass and in the Sacraments as well as other well-known prayers. They also learn about the lives of the saints as examples for all of us and learn about how they should live as followers of Jesus.

Rejoice

This is the time in each topic when the children celebrate what they have learned. At St. Joachim's we celebrate each topic with a 'Celebration Assembly' where the whole school comes together to share, reflect and rejoice in all we have learnt through each topic.

Remember, Renew

These last two steps are when the children review what they have learned and are encouraged to think about what this particular topic means for each of them in their own lives. As part of 'Remember' pupils carry out a topic evaluation which demonstrates all that they have learnt and understood through the topic taught. Evaluations are adapted for each of the topics from a generic form found on the school ICT Network.

Each year the children study Judaism and one other faith. This is important as it helps them to appreciate the other faiths of people amongst whom we live.

Other Religious Education

From time to time additional RE lessons are provided for children outside of the Come and See scheme that may focus on a range of topics such as the lives of saints, values and virtues, catholic traditions. The lessons may be provided by teachers in the school or catechists from outside the school.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

It is our belief that parents are the primary educators of their children in the Faith and we seek to support them. We warmly invite parents to become actively involved in the religious life of the school by:

- ☑ Attending class assemblies
- ☑ Celebrating pupils achievements and rewards
- ☑ Attending penitential services during Advent and Lent
- ☑ Attending Carol services and Nativity play
- ☑ Attending school Masses
- ☑ Supporting their children to learn formal prayers and to pray spontaneously
- ☑ Encouraging their children to give generously during our Christmas and Lenten Appeals to help children less fortunate than themselves.
- ☑ By going through the Wednesday Word with their children.
- ☑ Through taking their children to Mass every Sunday and Holy days.

Children are encouraged to receive their First Holy Communion from age 8 (year 3). Parents are invited to attend the Sacramental preparation talk given by Catechist team, normally held during the month of October.

Links are further strengthened by Termly RE Newsletters and regular letters sent home.

RE Parent Workshops

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In addition, parent workshops are provided by the school annually to inform parents about what their children are learning in RE, how they learn and what they can do to support their children at home.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHURCH

- ☒ Preparation for receiving the Sacraments takes place within the parish and supported by the school.
- ☒ Staff are encouraged to attend First Holy Communion celebrations
- ☒ The Parish Priest (RE link governor) visits the school regularly and also celebrates class Masses
- ☒ Visits to the school by religious orders and clergy – e.g. Sr. Dymphna – Parish Sister
- ☒ The children visit the church in conjunction with their topic
- ☒ School Masses where parishioners are warmly invited
- ☒ Benediction and
- ☒ Yearly cultural Mass during Summer term to celebrate our ethnic origins
- ☒ Involvement of school in parish events e.g. Summer Fete, Christmas Bazaar
- ☒ School supporting parish pensioners Christmas dinner and summer garden party.
- ☒

Links are strengthened on a Diocesan level by the participation at :-

- ☒ Headteacher Conferences
- ☒ Deanery Headteachers Meetings
- ☒ Deanery RE coordinator network meetings.
- ☒ R.E. Co-ordinators Annual Conference
- ☒ Liaison with other primary school R.E. Co-ordinators on a deanery level once a term
- ☒ Liaison with secondary schools St. Bonaventure's and St. Angela's

PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNORS

- ☒ Liaison with Headteacher in planning and implementation of RE curriculum
- ☒ RE Co-ordinator informs Governors of RE programme at Committee meetings
- ☒ Programme of visits to the school arranged on a regular basis
- ☒ Governors are invited to attend school events, Masses and Parents evenings
- ☒ Governors invited to observe the teaching of RE in lessons

WORSHIP

The Mission Statement is reflected through worship and the daily life of the school.

Worship is expressed through prayer, reflection and liturgical celebrations.

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Prayer and Reflection

- ☒ Personal and formal prayer to reflect the events in the Liturgical Calendar
- ☒ Whole school traditional prayers (see Appendix 1)
- ☒ Hymns linked to the Liturgical Year
- ☒ A prayer focus in each classroom
- ☒ Class RE display board
- ☒ Staff pray before Insets and Staff Briefings
- ☒ A launch of a new RE topic
- ☒ Celebration of topic Assembly

- ☒ School RE corridor and entrance display
- ☒ Rosary/Prayer Room
- ☒ Annual Spiritual Reflection Day for staff
- Liturgical Celebrations
- ☒ Assemblies whole school - Monday
- KS 2 - Tuesday
- KS1 - Wednesday
- End of topic only ~ Whole school – Fridays (Celebrations)
- Hymn Practice and Prayer Reflection - Thursday
- ☒ School Masses – at the beginning and end of school term
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Year 6 Leavers Mass
- ☒ Services of Reconciliation – during Advent and Lent
- ☒ Day Retreat for year 6

EDUCATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Our PSHE Policy aims to develop each child's positive self-image. It integrates with the RE programme and promotes self respect and respect for others. Sex education is dealt with sensitively. The "Journey of Love" Scheme by Sr. Jude Groden RSM is used throughout the school together with other related resources including educational films relating to growing up and physical development (See SRE Policy 2012).

PLANNING / ASSESSMENT / RECORDING / REPORTING

As a preparation for each new theme, staff come together to reflect on a personal level, the theological meaning and understanding of topic content. The RE coordinator leads these 'before you begin' sessions. The first Monday of the topic there is a whole school launch assembly for the new topic where all staff contribute. Medium term plans are written from the 'Here I Am' scheme, using the standard HIA pro-forma.

Each topic is subdivided – one third of the time is spent on recognise, reflect and respect, - one third on relate and one third on rejoice remember and renew. Short C:\Users\sdrotar1.316\Desktop\st Jochaims policies\Religious Education Policy 2013.doc term plans are written in more detail on a weekly basis using the headings (7 R's). Plans identify differentiation, assessment, evaluation, use of support staff and resources. These are monitored regularly by the Headteacher and RE co-ordinator to ensure progression and continuity throughout the school.

Recording provides evidence of achievement. It involves pupils in self assessment and progress, in dialogue with the teacher. It takes many forms:

- ☒ Notes from observations
- ☒ Written comments on children's work
- ☒ Visual evidence – for example photographs of displays, dance, drama and celebrations
- ☒ Class / school portfolio
- ☒ Pupil self assessment

Assessment

At the end of each topic, pupils carry out a topic evaluation. This work is then ascribed a curriculum level. At times other written work and observations is also used to prescribe a level of attainment. The 'Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges' from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is used to prescribe the level. In addition, the Jacqueline Walker Levels of Attainment & Come & See (2012) are used to support the levelling progress. Pupils' levels are recorded for each topic, which is then recorded and monitored. An analysis of progress is made annually for all children.

Reporting to parents is undertaken on a termly basis through parent consultation evenings and annually through a written report.

Staff inset is provided to ensure continuity and progression.

ROLE OF R.E. CO-ORDINATOR

- ☒ To nurture the Catholic ethos of the school
- ☒ To provide support and guidance for colleagues
- ☒ To termly evaluate and review the RE policy in consultation with staff
- ☒ To liaise with parish team, Governors and Diocese
- ☒ To endeavour to strengthen links between home, school and parish
- ☒ To provide a link with other primary and secondary schools in the deanery
- ☒ To be responsible for preparing liturgies, hymn practices, Masses and retreats for children and staff
- ☒ To monitor with the Headteacher, the teaching and learning of religious education
- ☒ To be responsible for updating staff on new initiatives and disseminating information (Support monitoring carried out by the RE link governor)
- ☒ To induct new members of staff

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- ☒ To be responsible for RE budget, to renew, update and organise resources
- ☒ To lead staff and parents in further improving the quality of Religious Education

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