

# **Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School**

## **RE Policy**

Policy Statement and Guidelines

## ***Mission Statement:***

### ***God in our Hearts, Love in our Words, Family in our Actions***

Our loving, caring and Catholic ethos is revealed through our everyday life in school, in our learning, our prayer and our sharing, where each child is affirmed and valued in collaboration with parents, the Parish, and the wider community.

## **Aims and objectives**

- To foster a love of God through developing knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith.
- To provide opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God.
- To develop knowledge, understanding and respect for other faiths.
- To encourage our children to study, investigate and reflect.
- To develop appropriate skills for example, ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements;
- To foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual; of moral responsibility; of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural multi-faith society.

## **Religious Education Teaching**

As a Catholic School, the teaching of Religious Education is based on the Diocesan Programme of study 'God Matters'.

Three topics are studied each term, with each topic lasting approximately four weeks. R.E. lessons constitute 10% of curriculum time in all key stages.

Our teaching incorporates children's experiences, personal feelings, questions and responses to life. The Religious Education programme provides the opportunity to deepen and enrich the children's understanding and living of the Catholic Faith. It also provides an opportunity to share, celebrate, pray and reflect.

Although we teach Religious Education as a separate subject it can and should be explored throughout other areas of the curriculum. Religious Education should inspire and unify every aspect of school life and gives shape to the whole school curriculum.

## **Recording, Reporting and Assessing**

All year groups use books to record their Religious Education work, although it is recognised and encouraged that not all responses to lessons need or should take a written format.

It is impossible to assess the level of a child's personal faith and it should not be attempted. However we are able to assess a child's knowledge skills, concepts and attitudes that have

been taught in RE. These can be demonstrated through discussion with the child, written and art work and role - play and drama. Teachers record achievement against the learning objectives for the topic.

Marking will be undertaken in accordance with school policy. However, it is essential that all the Key Words for each topic be correct so that children can learn and use these words effectively. Written comments, in relation to the learning intention, should be affirming, encouraging, thought provoking and challenging, above all being sensitive to the children's needs. When assessing pupils' work it is the R.E. content that is assessed. This is in line with the school's policy on marking.

Formal written reporting to parents takes place once a year, as part of each child's annual report, in line with school policy. Through school newsletters parents are informed about the themes and topics covered.

### **Monitoring**

In order to monitor RE teaching and learning, Leaders view RE planning throughout the school once a term. Criteria for monitoring and any resulting targets for improvement will be shared with staff at the first available staff meeting or on an individual basis. The RE manager and Headteacher will observe RE teaching once a term, across the whole school. Any common points for improvements will be shared at the first available staff meeting and individual feedback on the observation will be given to teachers. Leaders, class teachers and Headteacher will carry out a work scrutiny and pupil conferencing activity once a term and share their findings.

### **Home/School/Parish partnership**

We believe that the school alone cannot undertake a child's religious education. Religious education begins at home at Baptism; the parents are the child's first teachers and support the child with his/her first religious experiences. The school works in partnership with parents and parish to enrich the lives of our children.

Our school regularly supports local and global events to raise funds and awareness of issues in both our community and global family.

The children and staff take part in the celebration of Mass at school on Holy Days, certain other Feasts days, and important days in the school year. Our Parish Priest leads and shares our celebrations.

### **Display and Prayer Focus**

Classroom RE displays will relate to the topic being studied to stimulate further work or to celebrate the work that has been undertaken. Each class has a prayer area to stimulate and facilitate reflection and prayer, linked with the topic and the liturgical season. RE displays across the school are high profile, both in class and in shared areas. Each classroom door celebrates a shared sense of belonging and purpose. Each classroom has a Mission Statement board to evidence 'living the mission' in our daily lives.

### **Prayer**

Prayer as communication with God is part of a special relationship with God as our friend. It is important for children to be familiar with traditional prayers but also to realise that prayer is

appropriate at any time, in any place. At the beginning and end of the school day, at lunchtime, during R.E. lessons and any other times there may be prayer. Children's individual and family circumstances and the wider world are remembered. (For more information please refer to the Collective Worship Policy.)

Review: Spring 2024