



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
*Following in Jesus' footsteps we live, learn and love*

## **Policy for Religious Education**

### Mission Statement

Following in Jesus' footsteps we live, learn and love

### Our Aims

- To recognise that Christ is in and around us and to celebrate His love through our prayer and worship.
- To ensure that our teaching remains Catholic in nature whilst acknowledging the beliefs and traditions of others.
- To welcome and care for everyone and each other, promoting strong links between home, school, parish and community.
- To raise questions and provide materials which will help our children to look at and reflect on their own life experiences.
- To help the children in developing the necessary attitudes to discover God as a reality in their lives and in their relationships with others.
- Provide time and opportunity for celebration, prayer and reflection leading to an increased knowledge of religious stories, symbols, places and people.
- Develop and update programmes of sacramental preparation leading to the celebration of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in Year 4, and sustaining practice in future years within the context of the parish community.
- Develop and sustain links with parents and parishioners maintaining the excellent interchange our school is privileged to enjoy.
- Help the children know and understand, where appropriate, the traditions of other faiths, enabling them to respect the religious beliefs of other people.
- Ensuring that all elements of our R.E. scheme are fully integrated into the national curriculum, maintaining standards in all subjects in a broad and balanced approach.
- Ensure that our children are given opportunities to be challenged in their work and provide stimulating assessment opportunities.

## Process

Our school follows the current 'Come and See' Program. R.E. is taught as a discrete subject area and is also part of our integrated cross-curricular approach. Time allocation is in line with guidance from the Liverpool Archdiocese which is currently 10%.

All staff will take into account the starting point of the children to accommodate their different backgrounds and faith experience. Fundamental to this is maintaining and enhancing the pleasant, happy, caring family ethos which enfolds all that we do.

During the year we have two discrete weeks in which we study "Other Faiths" Every year we study Judaism and one other Religion. Where possible, visitors will be encouraged to come into school. The children will also be encouraged to take part in visits.

## Teaching and Learning

A range of teaching strategies will be employed depending on the needs and abilities of the children and the nature of the activities to be undertaken.

Lessons will be differentiated in terms of activity or outcome according to the needs and abilities of the children.

Lessons will involve thought provoking reflection and discussion, encouraging the children to develop their moral and spiritual consciences. Teachers are encouraged to make cross - curricular links when planning R.E. incorporating opportunities for ICT and extended writing where possible.

## Assessment

Formal assessment is carried out three times a year following the guidance from the Christian Education Department (CED).

Informal assessment of the children is done on a daily basis through discussions, written work and more creative activities. Children who are above or below expectations are noted on the annotated plans. Summative assessment is recorded at the end of each term.

Staff fill in the assessment sheets issued by the CED which go up with each child as they move through the school.

Marking will be in line with school policy and written comments, in relation to the learning objective, should be affirming, encouraging, thought provoking and challenging, and above all be sensitive to the children's needs.

Parents will be kept informed of their children's achievement and progress on annual written reports and on Parents Evenings.

### Monitoring

The RE subject leader will monitor planning, carry out book scrutinise and talk to children on a regular basis.

During walk through, displays and focus areas for worship will be monitored.

Lesson observations and "drop ins" will be carried out on an annual basis. These are timetabled.

### Sacramental Preparation

Year 4 children will be prepared for reconciliation during the Spring Term. Their preparation sessions take place after school. For First Holy Communion the children attend preparation meetings after school with Parish Catechists and staff members during the Summer term.

### Resources

Each class has the relevant 'Come and See' Book, God's Story and Church's Story.

Each class has appropriate resources for focused areas for worship.

All other resources can be found in the RE cupboard in the Hall and in the staff room stock cupboard.

### Home/School/Parish

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

We publish an R.E. newsletter each term to inform parents of the forthcoming topics and any celebrations taking place.

We support various charities both home and world wide.

Our children attend Mass at St Joseph's Church at various times throughout the year. Fr. Peter comes into school during Lent to celebrate Mass in the junior classes. We organise "School Sunday" annually in which the school, Parish and families come together to celebrate Mass.

Parents, governors and other members of the community are invited into school on a regular basis for assemblies and other celebrations.

Other related policies

Spiritual Development

Collective Worship

Moral Development

Racial Equality

Behaviour

Marking

Reviewed by staff September 2016