



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Policy

Policy for Religious Education

Date: December 2023

Next review: December 2024

Mission
Together we love, learn, follow Jesus
Vision
At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.
Values
Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect

Mission Statement

At St Joseph's, together, we love, learn and follow Jesus.

Our aims for Religious Education

- 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.
- Support programmes of sacramental preparation leading to the celebration of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist 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 Come and See scheme. R.E. is taught as a discrete subject area and is also part 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 discrete weeks in which we study "Other Faiths" Every year we study Judaism and one other faith. Where possible, visitors or visits will be encouraged to provide 'real-life' experiences where possible. In addition to this, as part of our thematic curriculum in the Summer term, we always focus on a wider culture which



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brings with it cross curricular opportunities to study other world faiths, cultures or belief systems. We also provide a PSHE curriculum each term, during which we cover RSE – Journey in Love.

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, in line with our Teaching and Learning policy. Work is differentiated in terms of activity or outcome according to the needs and abilities of the children. All work 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 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 planning Proforma.

Using the assessment sheets provided by the Archdiocese as guidance, staff provide meaningful, creative opportunities for assessment. Examples of this are provided to the subject leader and are the subject of internal and cluster moderation each term.

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. Relevant 'driver' words are used appropriately as part of this process.

Comments relating to RE, will be made for each pupil on their annual report and an assessment judgement on the termly pupil tracker.

Monitoring

The RE subject leader will monitor planning, scrutinise children's work books, Collective Worship folders and talk to children on a regular basis. During Learning Walks, displays and focus areas for worship are also monitored. Lesson observations or "drop ins" will be carried out at least twice a year.

Sacramental Preparation

Year four children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist using the resources recommended by the Diocese entitled 'With You Always'. School, parish catechists and parents and carers work together to prepare children for these important steps on their sacramental journey.

Resources

Each class has the relevant "Come and See" resources, God's Story, Church's Story, Journey in Love and other recommended resources. Each class has appropriate resources for focused areas for worship. All other resources are held centrally to ensure that everyone has access to them as required across the week.



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Home/School/Parish/Community

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

We do this in a range of ways:

- As part of our weekly newsletter, we promote the upcoming Sunday Gospel along with information that week from the children's Liturgy team at church. We also link tweets sent by Pope Francis. This offers support to parents in bringing their children up with Christian values and identity
- We send home the Wednesday Word each week to ensure that the Sunday Gospel reaches the homes of the families who do not get to Mass.
- Our Collective Worship theme at the start of a school week is the Gospel from Sunday to support parents in bringing their children up with Christian values and identity
- We support various charities; locally, nationally and internationally and these are often linked to our thematic curriculum as well as the key times in the Church's year. During Lent and Advent, children raise money for charities, CAFOD in particular. Our children often take the lead on planning their own fund-raising events and choosing charities, after researching, that mean something to them
- Our children attend Mass at St Joseph's Church at various times throughout the year and our older children lead the Mass through readings and prayer.
- Father Raphael joins us in school frequently and celebrates Mass with our children and families
- Father also supports our R.E. curriculum e.g. talking about Baptism to Class R/1 and vocation and the priesthood to Class 6
- Parents, carers, governors and other members of the community are invited into school on a regular basis for assemblies, class Collective Worship and other celebrations, which always include a time for prayer and reflection
- Each class has a class governor who develops a good working relationship with the class to support links.
- We have a Minnie Vinnies group in school. The team assists the RE Coordinator to deliver various initiatives primarily focussed on fund raising and works of charity.
- We are working towards CAFOD's Live Simply Award as a focus in school and to make the children aware of the global dimension of our mission.
- At Christmas time, we make Christmas cards for the local Residential Care home. The Mini Vinnies take the cards and spend time talking to the residents.