

Policy for Religious Education

RATIONALE

Our school is viewed as a Catholic community of faith whose main task is to help our children know, understand and participate more fully in the life of the church and also to appreciate the spiritual and religious dimensions in life as expressed in the Catholic faith tradition.

AIMS

1. To bring children to an awareness of God the Father as a presence in their lives, through the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 2. To be a community which meets the human and religious needs of the children and looks further than its own frontiers to challenge and serve a society, which is religiously, racially and culturally diverse.
 3. To present religious education in the context of a community which seeks to live by, and foster, gospel values.
 4. To help children recognise and appreciate the religious, spiritual and moral dimensions of life.
 5. To enable pupils to explore, understand, reflect on, and develop their personal knowledge.
 6. To allow time and space for searching, questioning and accepting.
 7. To lead the children through a programme of study which has, as its foundation, the four key areas of the Catholic doctrine and practice:
Revelation
Community Church
Christian living
Celebration.... Sacraments, ritual prayer, worship and liturgy.
 8. To make prayer, worship and liturgy meaningful and to present opportunities for the children to take responsibility for liturgical experiences.
 9. To foster feelings of wonder, awe, joy and mystery and a sense of ritual.
 10. To create in the classroom a community where the pupils know they are loved, and where they feel confident and secure.
 11. To enable the pupils to achieve a knowledge and understanding of their Catholic religion so that they are able to form their own faith, whilst respecting the rights of other people to hold beliefs which are different from their own.
 12. To introduce children to the background and beliefs of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age
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SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

General Skills to be Taught

R.E is not simply the attainment of knowledge and understanding; it requires the acquisition of basic skills essential for increasing knowledge and understanding.

The Skills Required in R.E. are -

- Investigation
- Interpretation
- Communication
- Critical
- Affective and Social
- Evaluation.

Attitudes to be fostered

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Right Judgement
- Courage
- Reverence
- Awe and Wonder.

RESOURCES AND ASSESSMENT

In subjects, which are included in the National Curriculum, teachers are required to assess and record the performance and progress of pupils.

While R.E is not included in the National Curriculum in our school it has the status of a core subject and should be allocated time and resources equivalent to other core subjects.



Teachers observe, assess and record knowledge, concepts and skills and attitudes, which have been taught and learned in R.E lessons. (See assessment Recording & Reporting policy)

CONTENT OF R.E IN OUR SCHOOL

R.E should present our pupils with the same academic demands and challenges as any other curriculum area.

It should promote knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith; its relevance to the ultimate questions of life and the skills required engaging in religious thinking.

We follow the programme 'Here I am' including the section on other Faiths. The basic content of our scheme of work has as its point of reference, 'The Catechism of the Catholic Church', and follows the guidance of the R.E inspectors and Advisers in 'Broad Areas of Attainment in R.E. and 'What are we to Teach?' Also, the Curriculum Directory..

The broad areas with which R.E is concerned are –

REVELATION -	Story Scripture
COMMUNITY -	Memory and Tradition of the Church Church Community of Believers Pilgrim People of God
WAY OF LIFE -	Life Style Morality Values Attitudes
CELEBRATION -	Sacrament Ritual Prayer Worship Liturgy

This policy is closely associated with our Mission Statement and was approved by the Governors.
