

# **St. Jude's Catholic Primary School**

## **R.E. Policy**

At St. Jude's Catholic School we will support our children to enable them to reach their full potential, thereby empowering them to be caring individuals, capable of critical independent thought.

### **Consultation Process**

This policy was drawn up in consultation with the staff and governors of St. Jude's Catholic Primary School.

### **What is R.E.? A Definition**

In our R.E. lessons children will receive a systematic presentation of the Catholic Faith.

It will be realistic, have achievable aims and relate to the children's lives, both inside and outside school.

As teachers, we must be aware of the diversity of backgrounds, family relationships and faith experiences of our pupils and be sensitive in the way we approach discussions based on these themes.

"The outcome of religious education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life." (Religious Education Curriculum Directory 1996)

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To foster a love of God through knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith from scripture and doctrine.
- To encourage the development of a personal relationship with God.
- To help our children be aware of and respect other faiths.
- To encourage children to study, investigate and reflect.
- To develop the thinking and listening skills.
- To develop respect for truth and for the views of others.

### **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.

We publish an R.E. newsletter each term to inform parents about the forthcoming R.E. topics and notify parents of masses and liturgies both in the school and the parish.

Our school regularly supports parish events and fund raising e.g. CAFOD, Catholic Children's' Society, Advent Appeals, Lenten Appeals, SVP Christmas Hampers for the Elderly.

Our school attends St. Philip Howard Church on Holy days of Obligation, preparing and leading the mass for other parishioners. Our KS 2 children attend mass each Wednesday, each class having a turn to prepare readings, hymns, bidding prayers and offertory procession.

### **R.E. Programme**

We follow the 'Here I Am' programme, as adopted by the diocese, using the whole school, 4-year cycle of topics. 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.

## **Teaching and Learning in R.E.**

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

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

Approaches will include whole class teaching, group activities and individual work. Children will have opportunities to work individually as well as co-operatively and collaboratively, developing their own knowledge and expertise as well as sharing their experiences with others.

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 RE, incorporating opportunities for ICT and extended writing where appropriate.

## **Assessment and Record Keeping**

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.

Marking will be undertaken in accordance with school policy. However, it is essential that all the Key Words for each topic be corrected 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.

Comments relating to RE will be made for each pupil on their annual report.

## **Monitoring**

In order to monitor RE teaching and learning, the RE manager and Headteacher will 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.

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.

The RE manager, class teachers and Headteacher will carry out a work scrutiny and pupil conferencing activity once a term and report their findings at the first available staff meeting.

## **Other Faiths**

For two weeks of each school year, pupils will study other faiths. The whole school will focus on one particular faith for one week during each of the longer terms. The Other Faith topic will take place after the end of a Here I Am topic.

All children will study Judaism at their own level, early years pupils may study stories from the Old Testament during the Other Faiths weeks. In addition children will learn about a variety of festivals from other faiths.

Where possible, people from other faiths will be invited into school to talk to the children.

## **Equal opportunities and Inclusion**

Our Mission Statement:

“At St. Jude’s Catholic School we will support our children to enable them to reach their full potential, thereby empowering them to be caring individuals, capable of critical independent thought”

A central message of the Catholic faith is that although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. It is therefore vital that we recognize and cater for the individual needs of children, acknowledging that all children have different gifts and talents and that these should be celebrated.

Learning tasks should be matched to the abilities of the children to enable them to achieve success, helping them to develop to their full potential and to develop a positive self-image.

We aim to ensure that resources do not reinforce any kind of stereotypes and that they do reflect our own school community.

It is important that the children are provided with images, which reflect the multi cultural society in which we live, enhancing their awareness and knowledge of other faiths and cultures, respecting the rights of the individual at all times. This is essential in preparing children to take their places in a multi – cultural society.

## **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.

A display in the entrance hall will be changed according to the liturgical year, or highlighting particular issues or themes from the Here I Am topic.

Other displays around the school will celebrate RE work done in each Year Group or Key Stage group.

## **Resources**

Each class has the relevant Here I Am folder, all other resources are kept in the RE resources cupboards and shelves in the research area.

Bibles are stored in the library; other RE and Other Faiths books are also available from the library.

Resources for our Other Faiths topics are loaned from the RE resources centre and the Multi cultural centre.

## **Other related Policies**

Spiritual Development and Worship policy

Behaviour Policy

PSHE policy

Racial Equality Policy