



# RE Policy

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## Love God Love Learning Love Life

### At St Joseph's ...

**We love God** by putting Jesus at the centre of all that we do. We live out the teachings of the Gospels through our thoughts, liturgy, worship and prayer. Our Catholic social teaching mission guides us on how to live out our faith in the world.

**We love learning** by using our God given gifts and talents. We are confident, resilient, collaborative and independent life-long learners. As enthusiastic successful learners, we are ready for all the opportunities ahead.

**We love life** by enjoying and sharing a safe school. We are a nurturing family that has a united and caring community, that enables all to flourish. We know that each one of us is accepted as unique and special; created in God's image. This is all done in partnership with our Parish Community.

### Introduction

This policy statement outlines the purpose, nature and management of religious education in St. Joseph's. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff and will be overseen and monitored by the Headteacher.

### Rationale

Religious Education is at the centre of the curriculum at St. Joseph's School. This is achieved by the establishment of a caring Christian community, with the opportunity for children to participate in living liturgy, as well as through the teaching of the Catholic faith.

### Aims

- To develop children's faith and relationship with God, and Jesus, enabling them to have a personal relationship with Jesus, in partnership with parents and the Parish.
  - To give children experience and knowledge of the 'good news' of the Gospel.
  - To provide appropriate liturgical experiences which will enhance pupil's sense of awe and wonder to assist them on their faith journey.
  - To develop the children's knowledge and respect of other people's beliefs and values.
- Objectives These should inform liturgy, planning, teaching and assessment.
- To deliver 'The Come and See' Programme from Foundation Stage to Year 6.
  - To mark RE lessons as special events by prayerful/reflective openings that differentiates the experience from other lessons.

- To plan at least two RE lessons using the scheme of work.
- To give the children the opportunity to assess the learning objective in each lesson.
- To assess children's understanding at the end of each unit.
- To give each child a level at the end of each year in the RE attainment targets
- To plan and deliver collective worship that reflects the Liturgical year, the sacraments, charitable events, Gospel Values, British Values such as tolerance and respect, Catholic social teaching and celebrate the children's achievements. TenTen online Resources can be used to help plan.
- To develop prayer as a primary form of worship, developing the informal everyday language of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry, in addition to teaching formal prayers.
- To plan and prepare masses to celebrate special times in the school and church's year.
- To enable children to consider how they can live the Gospel Values, relating them to their own lives.
- To enhance and develop children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development making and developing links with the curriculum.
- To teach the beliefs and features of different world religions, promoting tolerance and respect of other people's beliefs and culture.

### Catholic Social Teaching

At St. Joseph's Catholic Social Teaching is incorporated into the curriculum. Children are asked to put their faith into action. Acts of Worship reference Catholic Social Teaching which helps make the worship relevant to our lives today.

### World Religions

Time is allocated during the course of the year to the explicit teaching of World Religions. In addition, links to other faiths through the unit of study eg inspirational people, justice, special places should be exploited and evidence will be looked for in children's books and in displays. Children are encouraged to learn to respect the beliefs and traditions of other people in the multicultural society in which they live. Other cultures are also celebrated through subjects such as English, History, Art and Music. Cross curricular links Teachers are encouraged to make meaningful links with Religious Education across the curriculum. Links are especially encouraged through topic work, citizenship, circle time and RHSE.

## The Sacraments

The children are taught about the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, The Eucharist and Confirmation through the 'Come and See' programme. Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist takes place within the Parish, using the 'I Belong' programme. Members of staff celebrate with the children in the Parish, by attending the First Holy Communion masses.

## Spiritual Development

Spiritual Development is an implicit part of our teaching, especially but not exclusively in RE. The responses sought from the children require them to consider carefully the questions put to them and to take the answers they discover into their own lives. Equally, assemblies seek to promote consideration of many questions which enrich the spiritual lives of the children. Wherever possible, links are made in all curriculum areas to the responsibility held by us all to act continually in a truly Christian manner. Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of awe and wonder through the widening of their horizons, which in turn allows them to realise the extent and wonder of God's creation and care for us.

## Prayer

There is a progression of prayer across the school with each year group having their own prayer booklet. Time for prayer is made every day. Children come together as a school to pray in collective worship. Class prayers take place in the morning, before lunch, and at the end of the day. The children are encouraged to learn traditional prayers and also make up their own spontaneous prayers in response to certain events, situations or feelings.

## Acts of Worship

Purpose:

- To affirm the Catholic nature of the school and its commitment to Gospel Values.
- To foster the community aspect of the school.
- To celebrate the individual talents and establish the worth of all individuals.
- To value the contributions of individuals to the school community and to develop children's understanding of this contribution.
- To give opportunities for the expression of awe and wonder, for thanksgiving and for the sharing of relief and anxiety.

### Focal areas

Each classroom will have a focal area which reflects the current unit of study, or the time of the Liturgical year. Children's learning reflecting the theme will be displayed on or around the focal area together with relevant vocabulary. Each class has their own home-school prayer book and class prayer book which they contribute to throughout the year.

### Assessment

Learning and pupil progress is assessed three times a year and discussed with the headteacher. These teacher assessments are recorded.

#### Assessment in the Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage assessments will be made through discussions with the children or pictorial representations both at the beginning and end of each topic. Judgements will also be made alongside the RE attainment targets as appropriate and against the Early Learning Goals for Personal and Social Development and Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

#### Inclusion: Equal Opportunities:

- We plan our classroom activities to challenge and involve all pupils appropriately, according to age and capability, ethnic diversity, gender and language background
- We are aware of different learning styles and the need to allow pupils to be able to work in their preferred learning styles for some of the time
- We use materials for teaching which avoid stereo-typing, and bias, towards race, gender, role or disability
- We deal with such issues clearly and sensitively when they arise SEND Learning is adapted to match the needs of the learners. Support may also be given in the form of extra teacher or TA input. A special endeavour is made to identify those children who are perhaps less able in literacy, so find recording difficult but do have good RE skills.

### Links with the wider community

The school supports the home, school, parish triangle and welcomes members of the parish to special assemblies and termly school/parish masses. As a Catholic school, the children are encouraged to think and learn about people who are less fortunate than themselves and take part in fund raising for charities and involve themselves in the community eg donating to the harvest charity, delivering hampers and singing for the elderly of the parish at Christmas.

### Links with parents

Parents are encouraged to come into school to celebrate class assemblies and whole school masses. In addition, they are welcomed for example at Nativity, washing of the feet. Parents are informed about RE each term through the school newsletters and website. Parents are also provided with a link for Ten:Ten resources.

We respect the right of any parents wishing to withdraw their child(ren) for the whole or part of collective worship and teachers have the right not to attend acts of collective worship. However, as St. Joseph's is a Catholic School, it is expected that parents are in agreement to their children attending acts of worship unless a specific request is made for their child to be withdrawn. Equally, teachers and teaching assistants are expected to support the Catholic ethos of the school, including their attendance at acts of collective worship.