



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

This policy is underpinned by the school's mission statement: 'Loving and Learning'

Rationale

'The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.'

Religious Education is a core subject in St Gregory's Catholic school. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect and understanding between those of different faiths.

Pupil Entitlement

Pupils will be taught two hours per week at Key Stage 1 and two and half hours at Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by Sacramental preparation, assemblies, Masses, liturgies and school prayer groups.

Aims of Religious Education:

1. To support every member of the school community on their journey of faith by developing this faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To encourage pupils to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
5. To promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God by making pupils aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.
7. To develop moral and ethical convictions and ask questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.

Provision

The programmes of study as outlined in the Catholic Directory will form the basis of the scheme of work. The Learning and Growing as the People of God scheme will form the main basis of teaching and learning.

Teaching methods may vary but should be pupil-centred starting with the pupils own situation and experience.

Lessons are based on the four areas of study.

1. Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
 - To consider the personal and the community response to God.
 - To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.
2. **Church:**
- Belonging to a community at various levels.
 - That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
 - Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.
 - Relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.
3. **Life in Christ:**
- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
 - Following Christ is a call to holiness.
 - Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
 - Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.
4. **Celebration**
- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
 - Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the liturgical year.
 - The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hall mark.

Prayer/Worship

- Morning prayers are said each day, either in class or assembly.
- Afternoon prayers are said before pupils go home.
- Grace before meals is said in the hall and after meals are said in class.
- Whole school masses are held at the beginning and end of each term and for holy days that fall during term time. In addition Key Stage One and Two attend morning Mass each term on a rota basis.
- Seasonal services are held e.g. Harvest, Lent and Advent.
- During the season of Lent pupils learn about and participate in The Stations Of The Cross.
- A prayer service for the whole school is held each Monday morning led by the Headteacher.
- Key Stage assemblies and hymn practices are held weekly.
- Class services are held weekly.
- A celebration assembly takes place on a Friday afternoon that reinforces the gospel message for the week.

To supplement our assemblies we use resources such as SEAL materials and children's liturgy's to support pupils understanding of the Catholic faith and ethos of the school. We have a R.E. focus display in the school hall and a board that displays our weekly gospel message and special saints and feast days. Each classroom has a prayer focus.

Monitoring/Assessment and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out by the R.E. Co-ordinator and supported by the senior leadership team.

Assessment takes form of a four year cycle with the focus on:

- The liturgical Year.
- Scripture.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Living as Christians.

A self evaluation form is completed for R.E that falls in line and supports judgements that are required for a Section 48 inspection.

Conclusion

This policy should be read in conjunction with, the School Improvement Plan, the Inclusion Policy, Assessment Policy, SEN Policy, the Equal Opportunities and Race Equality Policy, all subject policies and DES and guidelines.

Revised and reviewed March 2014