

Sacred Heart RC Primary School



'Where Every Heart is Sacred'



Our Mission

Our school community serves the common good to the benefit of all where the rights and dignity of every human person are respected and “Every Heart is Sacred”.

We support and encourage everyone to reach their full potential.

We are witnesses to God’s love through our actions; inspiring hope, nurturing love and caring for our Common Home.

We serve each other peacefully, joyfully and truthfully
so that all

‘have life and have it to the full’.

Religious Education Policy

Introduction

As a Catholic School we aim to work closely with the home and parish to create an atmosphere where, through teaching and example, our children will be helped to enter into a loving relationship with God our father, Jesus our brother and with each other as members of God's family and so continue to lay foundations of the Catholic faith. At Sacred Heart School, we believe that a child's spiritual, moral and social development is every bit as important as their academic development. This means, in Religious Education, we are not just teaching a curriculum subject but also a living faith.

Aims and Objectives

The following aims and objectives are taken from the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools published for the Bishops' Conference by the Catholic Education Service.

Aims:

Curriculum religious education in Catholic schools aims to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic Faith and Life
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- The skills required to engage in examination and reflection upon religious belief and practice

Objectives:

The objectives of curriculum religious education in schools are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and Jesus Christ, of the Church and the central beliefs which Catholics hold
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and death
- to encourage, study investigation and reflection by pupils to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, appropriate skills; for example, ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively
- to make informal judgements

- to foster appropriate attitudes for example: respect for truth, respect for the views of others, awareness of the spiritual, of the moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living a multicultural, multi faith society.

(Curriculum Directory P. 10)

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, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Teaching and Learning

Throughout the school, children receive 10% of direct teaching of Religious Education each week; this is in addition to Mass, assemblies, praise and worship and collective worship.

Leaders plan a clear RE Curriculum encompassing the Come and See Scheme, Liturgical Calendar and the Caritas in Action Programme. Teachers then select and adapt the different activities offered to meet the needs of their individual class, ensuring the main objectives of each unit are covered. A variety of tasks are used appropriate to age and ability of the children and content of lesson being delivered including writing, speaking and listening, drama, art and music.

All teaching staff teach RE. In year 3, children take part in the Sacramental Programme and are prepared by the school, home and parish catechists to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Each class has a prayer area reflecting the RE Topic and the Liturgical Calendar. This is used as a visual aid for the children when they pray throughout the day.

Various methods for stimulating prayer are used i.e. music, candles, pictures, icons and children's work. Spontaneous prayer is encouraged.

A variety of methods are used to teach RE and bring Scripture to life. These include:

- Bible Stories
- Catholic Worship
- Godly Play
- Lectio Divina
- Imaginative Contemplation
- Performance Poetry

- Use of ICT
- Retreat days at Savio House, The Marist Centre and Just Youth
- Drama
- Videos
- Visiting speakers
- Visits to Church
- Using pictures and artefact to stimulate thought and discussion
- Extended writing tasks on RE topics that use curricular links

Assessment

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the interim age related standards agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- An in - house standardisation meeting is held every term.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning includes termly lesson observations, work scrutiny and learning walks.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Progression of Prayer

Throughout their time at Sacred Heart School, there is an expectation that pupils will become familiar with a variety of Scripture and that every opportunity will be given for the children to express themselves through a variety of forms of prayer.

This includes the following:

Foundation Stage:

- Sign of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Grace before meals
- Prayer of thanksgiving after meals
- Prayer of thanksgiving at the end of the day
- Sign of peace.

Year 1:

As FS and

- Our Father
- Hail Mary

Year 2:

As previous and

- Glory be
- Familiarity with response to bidding prayers
- Familiarity with parts of the Gloria
- Familiarity with parts of the Eucharistic Celebration

Year 3/4:

As previous and

- Act of Contrition
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Year 5/6:

As previous and

- A variety of forms of traditional prayer
- Familiarity with the Nicene Creed
- Familiarity with more parts of the Eucharistic Celebration

Collective Worship

At Sacred Heart, we ensure all children are provided with daily opportunities for collective worship, enabling the spiritual development of each child and providing opportunities for them to develop a personal relationship with God. Music is used to create the appropriate atmosphere of reverence and quiet reflection and a lighted candle is used as a focal point. Each class gathers in worship at the end of every school day.

Collective worship also takes place during praise and worship, Friday class assemblies, and any Masses the children are involved in. This is not a time when children simply recite prayer, but a time when they are given an opportunity to develop and nurture their relationship with God. The school uses these opportunities to follow the Liturgical Calendar.

Inclusion

At Sacred Heart School ‘the rights and dignity of every human person are respected and every heart is sacred’. There is a particular duty to be inclusive and to provide for the needs of the less able and those who are socially, academically, physically and emotionally disadvantaged.

In all classes, there are children with different abilities. At Sacred Heart School, we recognise this fact and activities and expectations are adjusted to meet the particular needs of individual children.

Equal Opportunities

All children are afforded the same opportunities in their Religious Education. All children have access to the religious teaching of the school but only Catholic children who have made their first confession and have been involved in the Sacramental Programme will take part in the actual receiving of the Sacraments.

Children and families of other faiths are welcomed by the school community and have the option to worship in accordance with their faith. Parents can choose if they do not wish to take part in the school collective worship. The school will provide supervision for those children of other faiths not taking part in collective worship.

Other Faiths

We believe that learning about other faiths and cultures is essential. The emphasis is on similarities rather than differences. Over the course of the academic year, children will study Judaism and Islam. Visitors of other faiths are invited in to school to deliver workshops which are followed up in class with lessons from the Come and See Scheme.

Parents

An R.E Newsletter is sent home at the beginning of each half term to inform parents of the topics their child will be taught and how they can support their child’s spiritual growth, learning and understanding. It also lists important dates and celebrations. Parents also receive a weekly newsletter with information regarding the Sunday Gospel. We recognise and value the vital role of parents as the first and most enduring educators of their children.