

# *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, Prayer & Liturgy 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, ethically and theologically
  - 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% direct teaching of Religious Education each week; this is in addition to Mass, assemblies, prayer and liturgy.

Teachers plan for the long and medium term using the Religious Education Scheme, 'Come and See'. They 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 is used appropriate to the age and ability of the children and content of the lesson being delivered.

All teaching staff teach RE. In year 3, where the Sacramental Programme takes place, a direct preparation is organised between the school and Parish.

Each class has a prayer area reflecting the liturgical year or RE Topic. These are used as a visual aid for the children when they pray at the beginning, middle and end of the day.

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

A variety of methods is used to teach RE and make Bible Stories and Catholic worship more meaningful. These include:

- Use of ICT
- Whole class teaching
- Retreat days at Savio House, The Marist Centre and Just Youth
- Group work

- Individual study and research
- Role play
- Video clips
- Visiting speakers
- Visits to Church
- Multimedia presentations
- 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 criteria in the Age-Related Standards booklet agreed by the 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 (which includes lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks and pupil voice) takes place termly.
- 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

### **Prayer and Liturgy**

At Sacred Heart, we ensure all children are provided with daily opportunities for prayer and liturgy, enabling the spiritual development of each child and providing opportunities for them to develop a personal relationship with God. Music and candles are used to create the appropriate atmosphere of reverence and quiet reflection and all children are encouraged to lead their friends in worship.

Classes worship together daily in class and take it in turns to lead weekly key stage assemblies, praising God in song, sharing Scripture and leading their peers in prayer. Every week, children in KS1 and KS2 take it in turns to go to Mass at Sacred Heart Church to worship in, and with, the community. We celebrate Mass as a whole school, with parishioners, on key dates such as the beginning and end of the year, during Advent and Lent and on holy days of obligation. In addition to the Sacramental Programme, KS2 children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

## **Inclusion**

At Sacred Heart School we recognise that each child is uniquely created by God and must be valued, respected and treated as special. 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 of other faiths have the option to worship their faith and 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 for a better understanding of our own faith and culture. The emphasis is on similarities rather than differences. Everyone will study Judaism during the Autumn Term and Islam in the Spring or Summer term (whichever is longer). We endeavour to invite Jewish and Muslim consultants into school annually to share their faith with our children, staff and parents.

## **Parents**

Parents receive a weekly newsletter with information regarding the Sunday Gospel, important dates and celebrations. This newsletter supports parents in encouraging their children's faith. We recognise and value the vital role of parents as the first educators of their children.