



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Revised: Autumn 2023

Review date: Autumn 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

We Show Our Love For Jesus
In All We Do And Say
We Celebrate Everyone's Gift's And Talents
As We Enjoy Learning And Playing Together
We Try To Follow The Example of St. Patrick Within Our School
Community

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

This is our school
May we all live here happily together
May our school be full of joy
May love dwell here among us every day
Love of one another
Love of all people everywhere
Love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house
So every child can make this school a lovely place
Amen

OUR CORE VALUES

Love
Respect
Compassion
Faith
Dedication
Happiness

Rationale:

As members of our Catholic community we believe that Christ is at the heart of all learning. We recognise that, in the widest sense, all our members are learners: pupils, parents, teachers, support staff, governors, visitors to our school. We aim to provide a safe, stimulating and challenging environment wherein all are valued and respected and able to fulfil their potential in the acquisition of being 'religiously literate.'

Purpose:

- To achieve consistently high quality learning and teaching in RE, in all classes which enable children to attain their full potential
- To ensure a shared understanding of the expectations we have regarding the quality of learning, teaching, behaviour and the environment for RE in all classes and throughout the school
- To ensure quality provision that is appropriate to all children's needs, is fully inclusive and has regard to equality of opportunity
- To make clear the role of pupils, teachers, teaching assistants and subject leaders in the learning and teaching process
- To provide a tool by which children are assessed in their RE work
- To provide a tool for school self evaluation and a framework for monitoring
- To provide support and guidelines

OUR AIMS

At St. Patrick's, Christian attitudes are part of our whole curriculum and daily life.

Through out Religious Education programme we strive to achieve the following aims:

- To encourage children to grow spiritually.
- To make the children aware of the needs of others and to help them to live according to God's word.
- To encourage tolerance and understanding of all faiths and cultures.

- To foster the growth and development of our school family within the wider parish community.
- To help each child to form a relationship with God.
- To take into account the educational, emotional and spiritual needs of each child.
- To promote the study of the Catholic Faith.

At St. Patrick's we aim to meet the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools by following the *Come and See* programme (for Years 1- 6; EYFS are following RED from September 2023).

For Year 1 - 6: Lessons follow the format of one *Explore* lesson, two *Respond* lessons and a celebration of topic in the *Reveal* lesson. A choice of activities and tasks are offered to enable children to access lessons whatever their ability and understanding.

The *Come and See* Programme of work is delivered through a three-fold process: **EXPLORE, REVEAL, RESPOND:**

Explore: Search - An introduction to the topic where the children's life experiences is explored, questions are raised and wondered at, shared, investigated and reflected upon,

Reveal: Revelation - This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.

Respond: Response - This is where the learning is remembered, celebrated and responded to in daily life.

Time Allocation for R.E.

At St Patrick's, 10% of taught curriculum is clearly timetabled for the teaching of RE, as recommended by the Bishop's conference. This excludes Collective Worship.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

In the **Come and See** programme, assessment is covered by the Respond section which involves:

- looking back to recognise and value what has gone before.
- reflecting on the present.
- looking forward to plan the future.

Each topic is assessed by either pupil, teacher or by both.

We assess 3 Attainment Targets

AT1: Learning about religion

AT2: Learning from religion

AT3: Analysis and Evaluation

Teachers keep a record of pupils' standards relating to each of these topics. Within each term, an assessment task assesses each child's standards/understanding in terms of age related expectations. This is most useful in supporting teachers' assessments and moderation purposes.

In conjunction with other schools in the Deanery, St Patrick's pupils writing is additionally assessed and moderated, both in school and across the Deanery.

Example of Christmas assessment task:

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| Foundation stage | To sequence the Christmas Story. (Prior to the implementation of RED) |
| Year 1 | To retell the Christmas story and write a simple sentence about each part. |
| Year 2 | To retell the Christmas story. Focus - as Angel Gabriel delivering the good news. |
| Year 3 | To retell the Christmas story. Focus - shepherds story (pupils reflect on why 'poor' people were chosen to visit Jesus) |
| Year 4 | To retell the Christmas story. Focus - Kings story (what do the Gifts represent and where else in the Bible are G, F & M mentioned again?) |
| Year 5 | To retell the Christmas story Focus - empathy for Mary and Joseph |

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| Year 6 | To retell the Christmas story. Focus - compare the Nativity Story from two different Gospels. |
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THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

At St. Patrick's we follow the **Come and See** programme as recommended by Brentwood Religious Education Service. (Yr 1 - 6; RED - EYFS)

Three topics are covered each term lasting approximately 3 /4 weeks. Every year group studies Judaism as one example of a different faith and, additionally, a second faith is also studied.

| Come and See Autumn | RED 2023 AUTUMN | Come and See Spring | RED 2023 SPRING | Come and See Summer | RED 2023 SUMMER |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Domestic Church Focus on Family 4 weeks | Creation and Covenant 11/9/23 | Local Church Focus on community 4 weeks | Galilee to Jerusalem 4/1/24 | Pentecost Focus on serving 4 weeks | To the ends of the Earth 15/4/24 |
| Baptism/Confirmation Focus on belonging 4 weeks | | Eucharist Focus on relating 4 weeks | | Desert to Garden 26/2/24 | |
| Judiasm (1 week) | Prophecy and Promise 30/10/23 | Lent/Easter Focus on giving 4 weeks | Journey in Love | | Dialogue and Encounter 3/5/24 |
| Advent/Christmas Focus on Loving 5 weeks | | Islam (1 week) | Universal Church Focus on world 4 weeks | | |

Come and See / To Know You More Clearly: Timetable 2023 - 2024

WORSHIP

Whole school celebrations

The celebration of the Mass is central to our lives and plays an important part in the life of the school.

The whole school celebrates Mass on certain feast days and holy days; to which our families and friends are invited.

Some of the times when the Parish Priest celebrates Mass for the school are:

All Saints Day 1st November

Ash Wednesday Moveable

St. Patrick's Day 17th March

Corpus Christi Moveable

SS Peter and Paul 29th June

Other Celebrations

Each Thursday morning, Mass is attended by different year groups, the younger year groups have a special liturgy in Church. .

A Leavers Mass is celebrated in the church in July and attended by parents and teachers.

The Year 3 children are involved in the *God's Greatest Gift* First Holy Communion programme organised by Parish Catechists.

Assemblies

On Monday morning there is a whole school assembly led by the Head Teacher. During this assembly the 'Wednesday Word' is shared and provides a focus for an interactive display for the coming week.

There is a whole school assembly on a Wednesday afternoon, led by teachers on a rota basis. TenTen assembly resources are used by the teachers who lead the assembly.

On Friday there is a whole school, where the Gospel is revisited alongside the children's responses to the reflection from Monday. As a school we give thanks for the week and also celebrate the week we have spent together. Parents are invited to attend this assembly.

The Harvest Festival Assembly, which takes place during the Autumn term, is led by pupils from year 5. Again parents are invited to share this celebration with us.

At Christmas time there are separate infant and junior celebrations of The Nativity, which involve every child and is open to parents.

At Eastertime, Year 6 children lead the assembly, where the focus is The Passion Of Christ. Unfortunately due to the organisation of the hall, we are unable to invite parents; instead we offer photos to highlight the very special assembly.

Prayer

It is our practice to begin and end each day with a prayer and to say Grace before meals at lunchtime - Infants in class, Juniors in the Hall.

A prayer of the week can be found on the newsletter.

Suggestions for prayers throughout the school:

Reception

Introduce and Learn

Sign of Cross, Morning/Night Prayers & Grace

Years 1 & 2 as above

Introduce and Learn Hail Mary, Glory Be and the Our Father

Juniors as above

Introduce and Learn Mass Responses Lord have Mercy, Gloria, Holy Holy, Eucharistic Acclamation and Lamb of God
Confiteor and Creed - Years 5/6 only.

In addition, Rosary club is held in October, during Lent and in May. All children are invited to attend. All children visit Corpus Christi Church during Lent to learn about The Stations of the Cross.

Liturgical Monitors.

These children support teachers during assemblies by choosing and reading prayers and organising PowerPoint displays and music. In addition, they are responsible for the 'Wednesday Word' display.

ROLE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATORS

The Religious Education co-ordinators are responsible for the following:

The co-ordination of all Religious Education work throughout the school.
Work with the Governors to ensure that the standards of Religious Education within the school are high.

Attend Diocesan INSET

Attend RE Co-ordinators meetings

The support of staff in the preparation and implementation of the Come and See programme and RED.

The drafting of the assemblies rota.

The building of close links between school and parish community.

The liaison with parish priest in organisation of school celebrations.

The production and evaluation of a school Religious Education Policy.

Collaboration with other Deanery schools to produce exemplar of RE work.