# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary SchoolPolicy for Religious Education

# *Mission Statement*

*We follow in Jesus’ footsteps, as we care for each other when we work, play and pray*.

Religious Education is regarded with the highest priority in our school. Whilst having specific lesson times it, it underpins the foundation of every subject and extends into the daily life and routines of the school. Through teaching, example, worship and shared Christian values we are helping to foster, in partnership with the family and parish, a living and personal faith in the children. At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that all children have rights as outlined in the UN Convention.  As duty bearers, we have the responsibility to respect these rights and are committed to supporting our children through their education and to ensure that they are rights-holders.

# Aims

Religious Education in our school should:

* Nurture children’s faith
* Promote in a gradual way their understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice
* Develop their involvement with the Church Community
* Develop their ability to show care for others
* Foster pupils’ religious, spiritual and moral development
* Develop the skills required to be able to examine and reflect on religious belief and practice, including those from other faiths and cultures
* Enable pupils to develop their mortal qualities harmoniously, in order for them to become responsible and caring members of society
* Develop a sense of awe and wonder

(Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs.

Article 30: You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose.)

**Curriculum Planning**

St Joseph’s has adopted the Archdiocese scheme, ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God.’ The scheme provides progression from Early Years to Year Six and it also allows opportunities for monitoring and assessment. The scheme is intended to link in with other curricular areas and it should be resourced by using Bibles, Sacramental programmes, Multicultural resources and other resources appropriate to the programme of study.

**Other R.E. experiences**

* home situations and events being brought into school life e.g. sickness, birth, bereavement. –
* daily events in school itself e.g. telling the truth, honesty, unselfishness, respect for other’s property, good manners, obedience, caring for others.
* community events e.g. harvest festival, Lenten collection. - living alongside and respecting those who practice other faiths.

**Worship and Liturgy**

Collective worship takes place in our school every day

* Monday Whole-school Gospel Assembly (led by Executive Principal or Head of School)
* Tuesday Phase assemblies centred around the Virtues
* Wednesday Class Worship (planned by children) or classes to Mass at Holy Trinity
* Thursday Class Worship (planned by children)
* Friday Gifts from God assembly / Class led Assembly

Children are given opportunities for spontaneous prayer and individual reflection both in collective worship and in the Classroom.

Staff lead prayers during meetings on a rota basis and staff briefings start with prayer.

**R.E. Lessons**

* R.E. is a timetable subject covering 10% of teaching time.
* R.E. is taught systematically throughout the school using the Diocesan Scheme “Learning and Growing as the People of God.” This provides continuity and progression in each year group.
* R.E. is taught as a subject in isolation and where appropriate should be linked with other curriculum areas, although the Catholic ethos of the school pervades through all aspects of school life and cannot be compartmentalised.
* Children are expected to develop a repertoire of prayers appropriate to their year group. (see Prayer Progression document).
* All KS2 children should have a development knowledge and understanding of the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary.
* All children should be provided with the opportunity in their R.E. lessons to pray together as a class, to make up their own prayers in both oral and silent form.
* R.E. written work should be marked in accordance with the marking policy. Special emphasis must be made on the spelling of key words, e.g. “God”, “Jesus,” ensuring the correct use of capital letters.
* Lesson objectives should be shared with the children and an opportunity for prayer and reflection may be included at the start and end of each lesson.

**Teaching and Learning**

Children are taught:

* Knowledge and understanding of religious belief
* Knowledge and understanding of how religious beliefs shape life
* Knowledge and understanding of religious language, action and concepts
* To engage with their own beliefs and values
* To engage with the beliefs and values of others
* To engage with questions of ultimate meaning
* To reflect and contemplate

Prayer has an important role in the scheme and is taught both as an integral and a discrete area of study. Each classroom and the school hall should have a religious focal point. A crucifix and a Bible should be displayed in a prominent place. The prayer corners should include colours to represent the Liturgical Season.

**S.E.N. Provision**

Lessons and activities from the scheme should be planned and differentiated sufficiently to allow children to work at them at their own ability level, including extending the most able and gifted and talented children.

**Display**

In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school, displays of a religious nature should be evident in each classroom throughout the year. Similarly such displays should be encouraged in corridors, and at appropriate times of the year, in the school entrance.

An R.E. / Prayer focus area forms an essential part of the classroom. This area should have the appropriate liturgical colour, a crucifix and a candle. Statues, artefacts and posters should be prominently displayed whenever possible and changed on a regular basis.

# Breadth and Study

* Each class is involved in daily acts of worship, using a focal point of prayer within their classroom.
* Whole school masses take place regularly; Induction, Harvest, Advent, Ash Wednesday, St. Joseph’s Day, Thanksgiving.
* Years 2-6 classes attend Holy Mass at Holy Trinity on a Wednesday morning on a rota basis.
* Penitential Services, Stations of the Cross and the Rosary denote the liturgical seasons.
* Year Six celebrate a Leaver’s Mass during the last week of the academic year.

**Sacramental Preparation**

The preparation for the Sacraments of Confession, Communion and Confirmation emphasises the co-operation between the school, home and parish. All of these have their part to play in the child’s sacramental development.

* Each year Catholic children in Year 3 are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the

Eucharist. The Y3 class follows a programme using the ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God’ supplemented with materials from ‘We Celebrate Reconciliation,’ and ‘We Celebrate the Eucharist.’

* Each year Catholic children in Year 6 are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Y6 class follow a programme using the ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God’ supplemented with materials from Gifted in the Spirit and other relevant resources.

Parents are invited to Sacramental Preparation evening meetings and prayer services led by the Parish Priest and Deacon

# Parents and Parish

Many opportunities arise to strengthen the partnership between the school, parents and parish:

* Whole school masses which are advertised in the school newsletters and parish bulletins
* Annual celebrations: Induction, Harvest and Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Thanksgiving Mass
* Children's reception service of the Sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation
* Class-led assemblies
* Involvement of parents as volunteers: supporting in the classroom/ on trips, etc.
* School's newsletters and Website which keeps parents informed and up to date with school matters
* Proactive partnership with health visitors, school doctor and nurse, education welfare officer, social services and police to support pupils and their families

# Assessment

Teachers, using their professional judgement, are continually assessing children’s progress, knowledge and understanding, through discussion, written responses and other class RE work. Such assessments are used to plan future learning activities.

Each class teacher also has copies of the relevant Diocesan recommended assessment proforma for each unit of ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God’. We follow the assessment schedule as advised by the Diocese which assesses one of the four strands of ‘Learning and Growing’ each year as follows, on a four year cycle:

2017-18 The Sacraments

2018-19 Living as Christians - including Prayer

2019-20 The Liturgical Year

2020-21 Scriptures

Completed proformas are given to the RE Co-ordinator for monitoring purposes.

RE assessment contributes to an integral part of pupil progress meetings each half term.

**Monitoring**

* Each teacher completes a weekly planning proforma to give a clear indication of the content of lessons.
* Each class teacher has copies of the relevant assessment proformas, which are monitored by the Co-ordinator.
* The RE Coordinator has management time to implement monitoring strategies; lesson observations, book trawls, teacher planning, display monitoring, learning walks and staff and pupil discussion.
* Regular staff meetings allow feedback, moderation and discussions to be held.
* The Co-ordinator monitors the availability of Professional Development and informs the relevant teachers.

**Equal Opportunities**

The individual needs of children will be considered to ensure all children, irrespective of gender, needs or cultural background will be given equal opportunities to achieve success. Multicultural issues will be further explored during curriculum time, allowing the children to discuss and debate. The school library stocks a good range of child friendly material to support the sharing of other cultures.

**Resources**

St. Joseph’s has an extensive selection of resources: statues, posters, teacher and pupil books, photocopiable material and research material to supplement the scheme ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God’.

General Teacher resources are held in the RE Resource room.

Each class has their own bible and Y6, Y5 and Y4 classes have a set of children’s bibles.

Relevant storybooks and prayer books have been distributed through Key Stage One.

The library carries a significant number of relevant storybooks and prayer books.

Wall banners displaying symbols of the liturgical year or sacramental preparation are hung in the hall.

The Catholic School Pupil Profile is prominent around school for staff and children to reference.

All resources are reviewed annually to ensure replacements are made when necessary.

All staff are invited to make suggestions for purchases.

**Monitoring and review**

This policy is monitored by the Academy Committee and will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.