

## **Sacred Heart School**

### **Policy for Religious Education**

*The Sacred Heart School aspires to provide an environment in which every child can achieve their potential, in a community which is inclusive, based on Christ's teachings and shared Gospel values ...*

*We acknowledge the unique gifts of each child and instil a strong sense of self worth by celebrating personal achievements and strengths. Leading by example, we teach children to respect themselves and each other as part of God's wonderful creation.*

*We offer a balanced, broad curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, emotional and physical development of each child.*

*We engage in partnership with parents and parish for the good of every member of the community.*

#### **Aims**

To instruct, engage and inspire.

Through our Catholic Life, our teaching and acts of prayer and worship, we aim to instruct and engage the children in the Catholic faith by sharing with them the history and traditions of the Church and exploring with them the relevance of its teachings today.

We teach the children the prayers of the Catholic Church and lead them to engage in personal prayer in order to develop and deepen their personal relationship with God.

We lead children to an understanding that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and therefore develop respect for themselves and others as well as for Creation.

Through the teaching of other faiths, we aim to instil cultural understanding and an awareness of shared values in order to promote peace, justice and reconciliation.

We encourage children to use their talents and to be the best version of themselves: the self that God made; and to believe that they can make a difference.

We aim to inspire in the children moments of awe and wonder, to find the ability to be still and experience moments of quiet reflection.

Through the teaching of RE we aim to plant the seeds of lifelong spirituality, for a life rooted in gospel values.

#### **Strategies**

We believe that Religious Education should not be confined to the RE curriculum but should be truly cross-curricular and inform every aspect of our interaction with every member of the school community. Children's learning in RE is visible not only in their lessons but in class assemblies, masses and special liturgies which include the Maundy Thursday Liturgical Dance, Stations of the Cross, Nativities and Carol Service and their interactions with staff and each other.

The school follows the 'Come and See' syllabus from Nursery to Year 6; in the Foundation Stage, RE is most significantly part of the following areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development;
- Communication, language and literacy;
- Knowledge and understanding of the world;
- Creative development; and
- Through Continuous Provision.

The taught curriculum refers to the Catholic faith but during the year two weeks are also spent teaching and learning about other major world faiths, particularly those based on Christian principles.

The weekly programme for liturgy and worship often offers opportunities to make links to learning objectives in RE.

### **Recording and Reporting**

Oral work, involving instruction and exploration of themes through questioning, discussion, role-play and drama will form an important part of lessons for each year group.

Pupils are given opportunities to write in different styles and voices and encouraged to achieve high standards in the presentation of their work.

Lesson headers are used from Y1 upwards to record learning objectives and associated tasks using Driver Words which link to the attainment descriptors.

Each class compiles a class book which celebrates learning and experiences, linking the strands of RE, Catholic Life and Prayer and Worship.

Parents receive a written report at the end of each term and parent consultations are offered during the autumn and summer terms.

### **Assessment**

From April 2019 we use the New Interim Standards to assess pupil progress and attainment in RE. The A&B end of year descriptors inform lesson headers which help pupils to practise self-assessment. Through the use of Driver Words we encourage children to be aware of the next steps in their learning. Written work is moderated in school and at Deanery level and pupil progress is tracked using the whole school attainment tracker.

### **Resources**

Come and See (adopted in January 2018)

Children's Bibles

Prayer Books

Videos

John Burland Music CDs

Big books, pupil books, artefacts relating to other faiths, stored centrally in the Resources room.

Other resources may be held by class teachers.

*Reviewed Spring term 2020*