

Aims of Religious Education

St Edmund's School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognise that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children.

Religious Education in school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. The religions of the world are classic expressions of this search and, for many people, provide the context within which the experience is to be understood. Through his or her understanding of this search, the child is helped towards a deeper awareness of their identity enabling him/her to grow and develop freely in a world of divergent beliefs and values.

Education is concerned with the development of understanding. Religious Education is concerned with the development of the understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience.

"Understanding" is used in a wide sense, being concerned with feeling and empathetic insight as well as an intellectual grasp of certain information. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims we use the Come and See programme of Religious Education. In accordance with the guidelines from the Bishops' Conference the children at St Edmund's receive 2.5 hours of Religious Education each week.

It integrates the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. Children explore the mystery of Faith through Scripture and Tradition. Links are made explicitly in planning documents to the resources and plans are adapted to meet the needs of the unique cohort. Lessons are very well resourced with both interactive stimuli, a variety of artefacts and making cross curricular links. There are three topics taught each term and 2 'other faith' units; Hinduism, Islam or Judaism. Come and See meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory.

Planning

Taking a whole school approach in using Come and See, we are confident that the breadth of the curriculum is being taught and that there is good progression from year to year. Please refer to the Come and See, materials for more detail about planning and curriculum coverage.

The advantages of this approach are:

- Appropriate content for each group is ensured
- Planning and recording are easy
- Continuity and progression across the school are assured

- Communal celebrations are possible

Assessment and Record Keeping

Each teacher has the responsibility for maintaining records on the children in their class. Detailed levelling is carried out through work sampling for focus children at least once a term for Religious Education. Assessments are then moderated at a cluster of local schools. The remainder of the class are levelled/benchmarked against the focus children. The subject leader then analyses attainment and progress at whole class and group level. This information is then used to inform action planning.

RE is reported formally to parents in the annual reports.

Home, School, Parish links

We recognise the importance of parents as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. Parents and staff do everything possible to work in close partnership. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life.

St Edmund's School seeks, in partnership with parents and parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition.

Children are prepared for the Sacraments at the church of St Richard's, St Francis' or St Mary's.

Celebrations of the Mass take place in the school in consultation with the parish.

Parents are:

- Given a warm welcome when they visit our school.
- Given termly curriculum overviews which inform them of the topics covered in class, as well as ways they can support their child's learning.
- Given the Wednesday Word each week so they can share the message of the Gospel with their children
- Given an opportunity to give support/input with their child's RE homework.
- Given fortnightly newsletters
- Given a verbal report on their child's RE development during Parents Evenings.
- Given a written report on their child's RE development at the end of the year.
- Given opportunities to support their child during First Holy Communion preparation by attending meetings and working at home on aspects of the programme
- Given opportunities to be involved in all charity activities during the year for school or for the wider community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

The Religious Education Subject Leader

The first purpose of the RE subject leader's role is to help improve the quality of the teaching and learning that the pupils receive in Religious Education.

The subject leader is responsible for:

- Writing and keeping relevant documentation up to date
- Co-ordinating the teaching throughout the school by encouraging collaboration between year groups or key stages
- Being involved in the process of assessment, recording and reporting
- Monitoring the quality of teaching, the progression and continuity of Religious Education throughout the school.
- Offering support and advice to colleagues
- Identifying resource requirements
- Maintaining a strong relationship between the school and the Diocese, and with the school's Diocesan advisors
- Maintaining the high status of worship within the school
- With the headteacher, completing the Religious Education action plan and using it to inform the School Improvement Plan
- Keeping resources well stored, catalogued and available

Environment and Display

From the moment you enter St Edmund's, the school environment says loudly and clearly that we are a Catholic school. There is a topic themed devotional area in the entrance foyer and a book that records all the charity work done by the children. There is a 'Prayer Board' where pupils, staff and parents can post prayer requests and the whole school community prays for those intentions each week.

Each classroom has a devotional area in a prominent place of the classroom and a display dedicated to current learning in Religious Education. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's religious art work, statues of saints and The Holy Family and prayer boards and prayer areas.

Spiritual, Moral and Social Education

The Come and See programme encourages the children to think about their relationships and act responsibly. Year 6 children take on the role of peer mediators within the school. Our behaviour policy is founded on the principles of restorative justice.

Equal opportunities

Religious Education cannot proceed on the assumption that all pupils will, or should, have positive religious convictions or commitments. St Edmund's school, should however, foster the search for meaning, value and purpose since these are implied by the very concern to educate the whole person. It is therefore a legitimate part of the pupil's education that he/she should be encouraged to consider his/her own response to such issues.

Marking

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (see policy). Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Key words must be corrected. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and should be interactive.