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St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester

'Following Jesus in all we do'

Religious Education Policy

Contact Details

RE Coordinator

Mrs Lauren Jackson

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,

Chedworth Drive,

Warndon,

Worcester,

WR4 9PG

Telephone: 01905 452772

Email: office@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.

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Review date: November 2021

Religious Education at St Joseph's is central to the life of the school, it is a way of life, living and learning through Faith. RE is a core subject and is taught through the four areas of study: Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. The beliefs and values studied in RE inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of our school. To adhere to requirements set at the Bishops Conference, 10% of teaching time is devoted to RE. This will help to nurture the human wholeness of each pupil to play a full role in society and provide a community in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony. R.E. is taught as a discrete subject but can also be part of cross curricular work.

Aims

- Place Christ at the centre of our community.
- Recognise that everyone is created in the image and likeness of God.
- Foster, deepen and nurture the faith of pupils, staff and parents; the whole school community.
- Promote an understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice.
- Educate and enrich each individual and develop values that reflect the gospel message and the teaching of the church.
- Foster and promote the moral and spiritual development of pupils.
- Promote and encourage active and committed participation and service in the life of the church and its community.
- Develop a relationship with God by responding to the presence of God in their lives through prayer and reflection.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith in partnership with school, home and parish.
- Foster attitudes of respect and understanding for the beliefs and traditions of other faiths and of the global community.

Our Religious Education Curriculum Policy seeks to ...

- Promote high standards of learning and teaching in Religious Education.
- Foster an understanding of the Catholic Faith and its links to other Christian and world faiths.
- Recognise that each child is a unique individual able to make a valuable contribution to our school community and to the wider world.
- Encourage pupils to develop their individual skills to the best of their ability
- Encourage pupils to develop an enquiring attitude to their own faith and that of others.

How we meet our stated aims:

- Children will, through a planned curriculum programme, learn about the Catholic faith and an appreciation of others in the world around them.
- Religious Education is taught as a subject in its own right, accounting for 10% of lesson time in each class timetable, using the 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme as its basis.
- The prayer programmes are used during Advent and Lent as part of class and whole school liturgies.
- At St Joseph's we aim to teach Religious Education through a multi-faceted approach. This might take the form of children working as a whole class, small groups, pairs or individuals, and encompassing a wide range of approaches, e.g. writing, investigations, role-play, discussion, meditation, prayer, music, dance.

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- All pupils have access to the religious education provided irrespective of ability, gender, disability, colour or religion. Tasks are differentiated or changed in order to accommodate all individuals. This is included in planning.
- As a Catholic school all pupils receive the same RE curriculum. All are fully integrated into the class structure and are given the same opportunities, e.g. RE Support Network, reading at Mass and saying daily prayers.
- Children are assessed using 'Diocesan Levels of Attainment in Catholic Schools and Colleges' as guidance, providing a tool which pupils' understanding and progression may be measured.
- Resources are available to staff for supporting a range of abilities. These are available to support the teaching of the Religious Education Programme. This includes material for assemblies, sacramental preparation, seasons and feasts of the church, Saints, multi-cultural themes, posters reflecting Old and New Testament events. Our libraries also house a number of child-centred faith books. All classes have access to Bibles relevant to their year group.
- The use of technology is used where appropriate and relevant to enhance and develop the teaching and learning of Religious Education.
- Support is always available between colleagues at any time, e.g. in the planning of liturgy, through paired moderation, through induction for new staff and in planning / delivering learning and teaching.
- The Religious Education Co-Ordinator attends half termly Worcestershire partnership meetings as well as half termly meetings as part of our SLA Diocese entitlement where different aspects of Religious Education teaching is discussed, good practice shared and resources recommended.

SMSVC

The school has adopted the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile as a way of providing a thematic focus for **Collective Worship and SMVSC**.

- Vocabulary displayed in every classroom and referred to and used by all staff.
- Weekly star certificates given with links to SMVSC vocabulary. The names of these children are also displayed on the school website.
- SMVSC is included on every RE plans and other subject planning where appropriate.

Elements of Class Prayer

Pupils have the opportunity to experience different forms of prayer – formal, traditional prayers of the church and school day, spontaneous, meditative and reflective. Through prayer, we aim to develop a personal relationship with God. This will not just happen however, and we need to create the right atmosphere. Prayer time should be quality time and children should be taught in a meaningful way in order to develop a real 'sense of prayer'. This may take place in whole school, key stage or class settings.

Should be taught to classes in accordance with Diocesan Guidelines and the children therefore need to learn traditional prayer formulae. Pupils should be encouraged to understand why we say the prayer and what the prayer is about e.g. Stations of the Cross in Lent, the Rosary in October.

Prayer weeks happen two to three times a year to expose staff and pupils to different forms of prayer and activities based around prayer. These prayer weeks then influence how prayer is planned for and led by both teachers and pupils in and out of class.

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All classes have a focal point for prayer and religious artefacts with an altar in each classroom to support pupils in their prayer and worship. Other areas of the school are used for prayer including the studio, church and the Marian Garden.

Collective Worship

This takes place weekly:

Monday - Prayers in own classroom. Occasional Class Assemblies.

Tuesday – Prayers in own classroom. Whole School Assembly with the Headteacher based on the Sunday liturgy (hymns are sometimes led by the choir) OR class/whole school Mass.

Wednesday – Prayers in own classroom. Class collective worship 3pm.

Thursday - Prayers in own classroom. Class collective worship at 3pm for those who swam.

Friday – Prayers in own classroom. Whole School Praise Assembly.

- Class Assemblies take place throughout the year.
- Pupils help to plan and lead both class prayer and KS collective worship.
- The Liturgical Calendar plays a large part in the planning of collective worship and liturgy e.g. Holy Days of Obligation, Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter.
- Pupils in Year 3 are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion while pupils in Year 6 begin preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation held in the summer term of Y6. The Sacramental Co-ordinator works closely with the Parish Priest. Workshops for parents and children take place during the year as part of the preparation programme.

Moral and Social Development

- The Religious Education curriculum underpins the moral development of pupils throughout their faith journey.
- Resources used and topics covered are founded on Catholic moral principles. Guidance may be sought from the Diocese and from the Parish Priest, as necessary.
- Pupils are encouraged to become mature and responsible Christians at all times and are valued, respected and rewarded for their work, actions or attitude within the classroom and at our weekly reward assemblies and half termly Golden Assemblies. Pupil voice is of great importance.
- Social development is an on-going programme, incorporated into all curriculum areas, everyday experiences and teaching, showing pupils how to interact, accept and understand others.
- Pupils are encouraged to be aware of people less fortunate than themselves by supporting and fund raising. These include CAFOD, Operation Christmas Child, Acorn Children's Hospice, Father Hudson's Home, Mission Together. They are also encouraged to respond to current national disasters as part of their Catholic Mission.

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- Music, Art, Drama, History and Literature play an important role in the teaching of Religious Education and are used to enhance the pupils' learning experiences.
- At significant times in the year, educational visits / retreats are organised to support the spiritual and cultural development of pupils, e.g. St Chad's Cathedral, Oscott College, Harvington Hall, Belmont Abbey, Islamic Exhibition, Synagogues and Mosques. WE also have Vocational experts and Seminarists visiting us to promote Vocations throughout the year in Upper KS2.

Multi-cultural Education – A Cross-Curricular Subject

Although St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is committed to handing on the Catholic faith and ethos, we do aim to:

- Enable pupils to learn Christian values to respect all people regardless of race, creed or skin colour.
- Teach pupils to appreciate the value and worth of the different cultures and races reflected in the society in which we live – a multi-cultural Britain.
- Emphasise our similarities and respect our differences not judge them through various teaching experiences.
- Enhance pupils understanding of their values while respecting those of other faiths and beliefs, without compromising the principles of the Catholic faith.
- Through planned teaching and enrichment opportunities, help children to learn about other faiths, cultures and customs from around the world.
- Teach and develop positive attitudes and values in our pupils towards people from other cultures, which, as part of their moral and social education will be applied across the whole curriculum.
- Equip our pupils with the necessary tools of understanding and respect, so preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life in a modern multi-cultural Britain.
- Annually we hold 'One World Week' which celebrates (exposes or informs children of the different ?) the religions and cultures from around the UK and the rest of the world.

Management and Organisation

The RE Coordinator has responsibility for the development of RE throughout the school and leads the RE Team in monitoring, collecting evidence and supporting staff with collective worship, religious education and Catholic life.

- Formulating objectives for the RE Development Plan and Self Evaluation Form (with support from the Headteacher)
- Policy writing, implementing and monitoring
- Planning – ensuring that long term plans are reviewed in line with the SDP
- Evaluating and monitoring of teaching and learning in RE
- Providing support for all staff as required and supporting induction

- Reporting developments to the Head Teacher and the RE Governor
- Identifying training needs and informing staff of new developments
- Providing in-service training
- Reviewing and communicating to all staff the RE Non-Negotiables
- Auditing resources and purchasing resources following consultation with staff

Class teachers are responsible for:

- planning and providing learning opportunities using the diocesan schemes
- using agreed long term plans
- providing assessment data in line with the assessment focus
- providing ongoing assessment data to support attainment target judgements
- adhering to the RE Non-Negotiables

The Headteacher and RE Co-ordinator are responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the RE policy, RE development Plan, expectations in relation to learning and teaching and identifying training needs throughout the school. The RE Governor liaises with the Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator reports to the governing body as part of the Headteacher's Report

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring takes place in line with the school's monitoring policy. The policy document and curriculum planning are evaluated, and revised if necessary, in line with school development. The RE Coordinator monitors and evaluates the policy and teaching and learning and reports to the RE Governor.

RE Link Governor: Kevin Gowdy

RE Coordinator: Mrs Lauren Jackson/ Miss Marina Annese

Head Teacher: Mrs Louise Bury

Date: Nov 2020

APPENDIX 1: RE during Covid-19 restrictions

While restrictions are in place during the pandemic of 2020 certain adjustments have been made to Religious Education, Catholic life and Collective Worship at St Joseph's. All changes follow guidance from the Diocese, Public Health, and DfE guidance; and are regularly reviewed by the RE Team:

- RE teaching time is as close to 10% as possible while teachers focus on 'catching-up' on the core subjects missed during the first national lockdown.
- Collective Worship happens in classes/bubbles and is supported by the resources shared on the school website. These include Mrs Bury's virtual assembly, Mrs Jackson's RE Reflections and the Ten:Ten prayer and collective worship resources.
- Retreats and visits from religious visitors are suspended until it is safe to continue with such events.
- Mass takes place in the church, following cleaning restrictions, with classes/bubbles and is only suspended when directed by government and diocesan guidance.
- Assemblies are held with bubbles in the school hall and all other classes use the virtual assemblies in class. These are held weekly and mark any liturgical events.
- Prayer still happens at least three times a day in classes/bubbles and following Covid-19 restrictions e.g. no passing round of prayer resources and limited singing following the government guidelines.
- Certain liturgical themed events are unable to go ahead during this period e.g. Nativity plays and carol services. However, alternative celebrations will be arranged to mark these important liturgical events.

The RE Non-Negotiables have been updated to reflect this period of restriction, and the points above, and have been shared with staff. These will be reviewed as and when necessary by the RE Team.