

A POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION- May 2018

Introduction

Lead us Lord,
To Act justly,
To Love Tenderly
And To walk humbly,
Amen.

At St. Augustine's School we are dedicated to developing the potential and well-being of every person made in the image and likeness of God. The gospel message underpins everything we do.

The religious education teaching is based on the 'God Matters' programme which is a scheme produced by the Diocese of Portsmouth and used throughout many other catholic dioceses including our diocese of Plymouth. The programme promotes the following:

- The presentation of the life and teaching of Jesus and of His calling to us to follow Him, spreading the Gospel message by the example of own lives.
- Opportunities for analysis, critical appreciation of sources, prayer reflection and celebration.
- Spiritual growth.
- The language of religious experience.
- An awareness and understanding of other faith communities and cultures within our society.

The 'God Matters' programme contain units of study that are closely linked to the liturgical year of church. They are as follows: Creation, Prayer, Saints and Feasts, Advent, Christmas, Revelation, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and Mission. Each year group follow the same topics at the appropriate levels. The programme recommends using a variety of teaching and learning styles and includes strategies for teaching thinking skills. Several units of study include learning about other world religions.

The school supports the Parish catechists who prepare the children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Some of the preparation takes place during school time and is led by a teacher and teaching assistant, and also in the parish, with close consultation between parents, catechists and the Parish Priest.

Parents are made aware of the Catholic ethos of the school. They have the right to request that their children be withdrawn from Religious Education lessons, religious activities and Collective Worship, although in choosing to exercise this

right, they need to consider whether or not their choice of this school is an appropriate one.

Aims

Curriculum Religious Education in Catholic Schools aims to promote:

- knowledge and understanding of Catholic Faith and Life.
- knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
- the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

Objectives

The objectives of Curriculum Religious Education in Catholic Schools are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life.
- to encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
- to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements.
- to foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society.
- to develop understanding and respect for peoples from other faiths or none.

(Curriculum Directory, p.9)

Religious Education in the Classroom.

To fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum Directory, we ensure that Religious Education receives ten per cent of the total teaching time in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This is explicit curriculum RE, as distinct from liturgies and masses. Our planning is consistent. We all use planning set out in 'God Matters' incorporating the new writing materials giving appropriate time to the Engage, Explore and Express sections of each topic.

Implicit and unstructured Religious Education occurs when opportunities arise in the course of a school day. Children are helped to apply and develop their religious understanding of situations that they might have to deal with

among peers and adults showing children how to build and mend relationships in God's way is an important part of our work. This aspect is often dealt with as part of Personal, Social and Emotional Development work in the Early Years Curriculum and in Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.) which in our school is underpinned by the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

During the Units of Study, teachers carry out ongoing formative assessments. At the beginning of a Unit, the children record their prior knowledge and understanding and then at the end of the Unit, they self evaluate and summarise what they have learned.

Work done in the children's books is marked according to the school's marking policy, with particular importance placed on interactive marking and the readdressing of misconceptions of faith.

Work is also recorded in the Class Big Book. This book serves as a place to record class discussions and responses to scripture or 'big questions' for the class to read, reflect upon and review.

Children's progress in RE is recorded by the teacher. The information is used by teachers in future planning and by the RE Coordinator to monitor pupil progress through the school. The RE coordinator carries out pupil interviews and book scrutinies take place on a regular basis during Staff Inset sessions as part of the ongoing school's monitoring process. The RE coordinator occasionally observes lessons in order to gain an overview of the current position of RE within the school.

Reporting to parents is carried out in Key Stages 1 and 2 as part of the annual written report on the child's work and response to school life.

Displays and Focal Points

We have a focal point for prayer in each classroom incorporating the correct liturgical colour. It is distinct from other displays in the classrooms or around the school. The display in the main entrance of the school reflects our Catholic mission to 'be the hands of God' and shows all the work the children are doing in the local and wider community to help the lives of others.

Policy, Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the headteacher, staff and governors in line with our school policy review. As a core subject, this takes place every three years or sooner if there is a change to policy or practice.

Date of Policy- May 2018