



# Religious Education Policy

Reviewed: September 2018

## **Religious Education Policy for St Ignatius' School**

### **St. Ignatius Mission Statement**

Our Catholic School of St Ignatius puts the faith and uniqueness of Jesus Christ at the centre of our vision for our children. We all strive to treat every person with respect and understanding. We know that no matter who we are or what our backgrounds, in school we will all be listened to and valued. We are all children of God. We are totally committed to providing every opportunity for all of our children to develop intellectually, socially, physically and spiritually through a working partnership with home, parish and other local faith communities so that our children are prepared for further opportunities, responsibilities and experiences.

We work in an atmosphere of reconciliation where we all learn to forgive each other and to start each day afresh.

We acknowledge our great responsibility to help all our children on their individual faith journeys guided by our belief in the Word of God. The diversity of faiths in our school challenges us to teach our children-

- To live together
- Pray together
- And play together

**This is our school**

**This in our community**

**Here we all are, Lord !**

### **St. Ignatius School's Aims for Religious Education**

- a) To help our children to recognise and appreciate the spiritual, religious and moral dimensions of life.
- b) To foster in our children a reverence for God and the things which are God's, and a sense of love and respect for one another.
- c) To put Christ firmly in the centre of all that takes place in our school.
- d) To lead our children to a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christian and other religious traditions.
- e) To allow our children the opportunity and time to ask questions and to search. To support their need to find out for themselves answers to fundamental questions about human existence e.g.
  - Where do I come from?
  - Who am I?
  - Where am I going?
  - Why do we have to experience pain, suffering and death in this world?

- f) To teach our children to have respect for both religious and moral values, other races, religions and ways of life.
- g) To create in every classroom a community where children know they are loved and respected and where they can feel confident and secure. Love and security are basic human/ religious needs and our concept of God springs from the loving, consistent, secure experiences gained in formative years from both parents and teachers.

**Our Religious Education Programme.**

To fulfil these aims we use the “Come and See” programme of religious education. The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life. God’s initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. (cf. CCC26) This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond sessions.

We try to make strong links with our pupils own experiences, with universal experiences and the other faith traditions of many of our pupils.

The “Come and See” scheme is followed in accordance with the Bishop’s directory, and guidance is given by diocesan advisors. It is supplemented by relevant additional material. See appendix 1.

**School Organisation**

The teaching of the “Come and See” takes place in class and is delivered through diverse activities including,; class instruction, story telling, written work, music, role play, art discussion, reading research and visits. The amount of RE time recommended by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales is 10%o of available curriculum time and at St Ignatius we interpret this as 2.05 hours in KS1 each week and 2.5 hrs per week in KS2.

Our children explore “Come and See” and learn together and are not grouped on the basis of faith commitment or faith background.

Class Organisation

Reception Class	age 4+
Year 1 Class	age 5+
Year 2 Class	age 6+
Year 3 Class	age 7+
Year 4 Class	age 8+
Year 5 Class	age 9+
Year 6 Class	age 10+

**Recording and Reporting**

At St Ignatius School we record achievement in RE in a variety of ways. We may use:-

- Observation
- Planning and evaluation

- Written work books
- Pupil interviews
- Display
- Records of achievement
- End of topic assessments
- Informal observations
- Celebratory assemblies
- Levels of attainment as advised by the diocese.

We report to parents in the following ways:-

- Using end of term Report sheets
- At Parents' Evenings
- Through invitations to assemblies and Liturgies
- Updates of information on the website and weekly newsletter

### **Transition**

We pass on information regarding RE according to the requests made by our many transfer High Schools. Such information will include profiles of attainment and achievement.

We work closely with Christ the King High School for all our children in Y5 and Y6. We have regular visits to CTK for worship, sporting and academic experiences thus establishing firm relationships and offering pastoral care along the journey towards high school.

### **Evaluation**

We base our evaluation of RE throughout our school on the following:-

- Discussion
- Classroom observation
- Internal Moderation meetings
- External Moderation meetings with St. Augustine's School and with our Christ the King Cluster
- Diocesan moderation

### **Resources**

Resources are important for the successful implementation of the RE curriculum and each year an allowance is allocated for the purchase of new materials and artefacts, reflecting the high priority that RE is afforded in our school. There is immediate access in all classrooms to age appropriate scripture resources. Many of these are also available in the school's prayer room.

### **Other Faiths**

As we are a Catholic school serving our local multi-faith community we:-

- Make links with people of other faiths
- Make links with experiences of other faiths within our school, currently represented by our Muslim and Hindu children.
- Learn about the Jewish tradition.
- Make links between what people say and do, e.g praying, fasting pilgrimage.
- Have multi-faith and multi-cultural activities which include an Ecumenical Leaver's service, representation of other faith prayers in our Acts of Worship, celebration of important celebrations in other faiths e.g. Eid, Divali, etc...
- We provide a prayer room for daily prayer and use during times of preparation for feasts and festivals

### **Our School in the community**

We try to make our school part of our local community and we strive to do this through:-

- Lenten Fundraising
- Presenting the Living Stations to our faith community
- Harvest donations
- Entertaining the elderly
- Inviting Parishioners, the elderly and local schools to our Christmas productions
- Taking an active part in parish social events eg. Inauguration of Cardinal Benny (Autumn 2016)
- Joining them at Mass when there are particular feasts
- Regular written communication of events being held in school

### **Preparation for the Sacraments**

It is customary for our children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time in Year 3, but many of our Catholic children may, at their parents/guardian's request be prepared at any later time. We also take account of parents who may ask for baptism for their children at a later stage. Members of the Parish team prepare the children in partnership with the school. Various approaches are used to prepare children and parents for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The efficacy of preparation is reviewed annually.

### **Staff Training**

RE is of great importance to our school and the value we place on training reflects this. School pays an annual subscription (£2000.00) to the diocese to support CPD for the Head Teacher, RE co-ordinator and staff throughout the school, this includes access to LLDE advisory support staff. Currently our Staff Training consists of:-

- Annual RE INSET day
- Staff meetings
- Support for teachers of other faiths
- Attendance at HT & DHT conferences
- RE co-ordinator cluster meetings
- New to RE conferences

## Role of RE leader

The role of the RE Leader is important and is reflected by having the Deputy Headteacher undertake this responsibility.

The role of the RE co-ordinator is:-

- To develop and extend the Catholic ethos of the school and promote the Mission of the school within the multi-faith community
- To lead staff in developing their teaching of RE by example and good practice
- To provide support and advice and disseminate information from courses and meetings
- To monitor and evaluate teaching and learning
- To monitor standards of pupil achievement and report to HT, staff and governors

## Review of Policy

This policy was written in October 2016 and will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed: October 2017

Reviewed: October 2018

Next review date: October 2019

Appendix one

Come and See overview

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic church family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God's love and care for every family	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/confirmation belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God's family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/Christmas loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local church community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish family	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community Life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus' special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
Lent/Easter giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
Pentecost serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holidays & holydays Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church world	Our world God's wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God's world	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

