

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Knutsford -

Religious Education Policy



INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement:

“It is the mission of this Catholic School to enable our children to become aware of the world that God has given them and to recognise their vocation and responsibilities within it.”

“What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate in the school that is permeated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love ... It tries to relate all of human culture to the good news of salvation so that the light of faith will illumine everything that the students will gradually come to learn about the world, about life and about the human person” (Gravissimum Educationis Vatican Council 11)

Aims/Objectives:

Religious Education in a catholic school has two main purposes.

- To ensure children have knowledge of their faith. (AT1)
- To ensure children have the opportunity to reflect on and practise their faith.(AT2)
- RE is the responsibility of the school, home and parish.

The Teaching of Religious Education

RE will be known as ‘Religious Education’ using ‘The Way, The Truth, The Life’ scheme.

- A total of 2 ½ hours a week is allocated to the teaching of Religious Education at KS2 with approximately 2 hours being allocated to FS/KS1.
- In this school we follow the objectives in the scheme ‘The Way, The Truth and the Life’ (WTL).
- The scheme involves a one year cycle and covers Foundation Stage all the way through to the end of Key Stage 2. The way the scheme is structured ensures that pupils revisit themes but in a way that is accessible for their age and ability and builds on prior learning as they progress through the school.
- One topic per half term
- The ‘WTL’ scheme is set against the liturgical cycle of the year and so it is possible to ensure that the liturgical feasts and seasons are celebrated.
- There is a grid so that teachers can use the ‘WTL’ scheme’s links to the SEAL/PSHE schemes and the ‘CAFOD - Share Our World’ programme.
- Children participate in Masses, assemblies, hymn practice and other liturgical celebrations
- Collective acts of worship take place every day (either class, key stage or whole school)

Planning

- Use 'The Way The truth The Life' (WTL) objectives
- One unit per half term.
- Planning grid is on the shared area under 'RE – WTL'
- The RE coordinator will ensure up to date materials for planning are available on the network.
- Refer to SEAL/CAFOD links also.
- Planning to include opportunities for differentiation; ongoing assessment; ICT (include websites you may have used so we can build up a resource base); reflection; faith response and worship.
- Planning to include the use of 'driver' words taken from the assessment criteria from the Bishops' Conference 2012.
- All staff to ensure a copy of their RE medium term planning is placed on the shared area with the other medium term plans.
- Links with other faiths are clearly outlined in the grid, on the staff share area of the network, which identifies which aspects of other faiths can be taught as part of the 'WTL' topics. The emphasis is mostly on Judaism and Islam although there is an opportunity in Year 5 to look at Hinduism and Sikhism as well. Pupils also need to be aware of other Christian traditions.

Assessment

- Three assessment opportunities per year.
- One to be a whole school focus – to be decided by the Head Teacher and the RE coordinator at the start of the academic year
- The two other assessments to be decided by class teacher
- Use the Shrewsbury Diocese Assessment tasks.
- Emphasise the use of 'driver' words in teachers' planning and in the assessments
- Teachers complete the RE assessment tracking grids and ensure any evidence is passed to the RE coordinator

Monitoring of Teaching and Learning in RE

Monitoring, evaluation, review and planning are a continuous programme of development and improvement.

- **Monitoring** is the process of seeking evidence to answer questions about the effectiveness of the school.
- **Evaluation** is the weighing up of evidence to make judgments about it.
- **Review** is the analysis of current policies and practices in the light of the evidence.
- **Planning** is the planned activities to address any identified shortcomings in order to improve and maintain school effectiveness.

The expectations for the Catholic life of the school and curriculum religious education are contained in various Vatican and national documents.

St Vincent's will use:

- Monitoring of planning forms
- A pupil work scrutiny form
- A model class observation record form
- A monitoring of prayer foci form
- A monitoring of collective worship form
- Monitoring of displays forms
- A staff inset record form
- Pupil self-evaluation forms
- Suggestions for the RE subject leader's evidence file

SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

- All staff are involved in the school celebrations.
- Children are encouraged to be involved in the preparations and in the events themselves.
- It is the role of the RE coordinator to plan the 'Celebration Timetable' for each term in liaison with the Head Teacher, the Parish Priest and colleagues.
- Children experience liturgy and prayer in a variety of ways. They are encouraged to listen and to be actively involved. This is done as a school, class or group and on an individual basis. Music plays an important part in many of the celebrations.

Mass

- Mass is celebrated in the school at least twice per half term.
- Masses can either be whole school or for each key stage.
- All parents and parishioners are welcome to attend masses.

Assemblies

- Whole school assemblies are held on Monday and Friday morning.
- Each class presents a class assembly once a year.
- When there is no Mass on a Tuesday, there are Key Stage/praise assemblies led by our music specialist.

Staff Prayer and Reflections.

- The staff meeting at the beginning of each half term allows an opportunity to reflect on the new themes and liturgical events of that term.
- This is coordinated by the RE coordinator.
- Each year one Inset day is set aside for the purpose of promoting and reflecting on the unique ethos of our Catholic school.

Other opportunities for reflection/prayer.

- Teachers are encouraged, as good RE teaching practice, to build in reflection/worship opportunities within lessons as appropriate.
- Each class must have a prayer focus area.
- Class prayer tables should reflect the liturgical seasons ensuring correct colour cloths and relevant artefacts.
- A model prayer focus area would ideally have: a display board with up to date work from pupils relating to their current topic; the Word of God; a cross, candle(s), something living like a plant or flowers, and relevant prayer material.

Storage/records of whole school worship.

- As far as possible, all material relating to whole school worship should be saved on the 'staff share' area on the network in the folder entitled 'Masses and Assemblies'.
- Other resources are found in the hall cupboard.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- Through 'WTL' topics 'Called to Change' and 'Eucharist' the Year 3 children are able to learn about the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.
- Most children receive the sacrament of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion in Year 3, but provision is made for older children when required.
- The Sacramental Programme for the First Sacraments involves very close links between Home, School and Parish.
- Parents attend Parents' Meetings, led by the Parish, where work being done by the children is explored at an adult level through Bible readings, discussions and prayerful reflections.
- In school, all the learning that has been ongoing through the 'WTL' topics, is reinforced and related directly to the Sacraments and their true meaning.
- Parents' Meetings are led by parents who are members of the parish community. Parents of children making the First Sacraments are encouraged to participate very actively in these sessions.
- The older members of the parish are invited to be prayer sponsors.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

- **Enrolment Mass** At a Sunday Mass candidates are formally enrolled and introduced to the congregation. Children ask to be enrolled and Parents make a commitment to help their children with their preparation. Each student is presented with a medal on a red ribbon and asked to wear it each time they come to Mass so that the parishioners can identify them and pray for them.
- **First Forgiveness** This takes place during Lent in church. The evening starts with a short service involving readings, prayers and singing. The children then receive the sacrament of Forgiveness from a priest seated on either side of the altar.
- **First Communion** Pupils receive this sacrament at the 11am Mass on a Saturday early in June. On a subsequent Sunday all the children are presented to the parish and receive their certificates. This is followed by a party in the parish hall which is attended by the children, their families and any other Year 3 children who, for various personal reasons, did not receive the Sacraments.

DISPLAYS

- Class displays will reflect the current theme being taught in RE from the 'WTL' scheme. Therefore they will need to be updated each half term.
- Responsibility for the entrance area display will be taken by a different year group each half term.

Autumn A – Y6 Autumn B – Y4

Spring A - Y2 Spring B – Y5

Summer A – Y3 Summer B – Y1

RESOURCES

- WTL teacher and pupil book
- TERE website

- Other resources, for example, the internet, books, worksheets, thinking skills frameworks, vocabulary, drama, prayer, art, music, hot seating etc – creative teaching! Thinking skills frameworks are on the 'staff share' area.
- Resources for the teaching of RE, including books used to support the HIA scheme, CAFOD, PSHE and for celebrations are located in the classrooms, the cupboard in the hall and the KS2 corridor.

CHARITABLE WORK.

- Various charity events are held during a year.
- Children are aware of the important work of CAFOD
- The annual Harvest Festival also enables children to become aware of the needs of other and make an individual contribution to this.
- A record of funds raised by the school is kept by the school bursar, the RE coordinator and certificates are displayed for the children to see.

Policy owner: Lisa Holland

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