

St Peter's Catholic Primary School



R.E. Policy

Reviewed in consultation with staff
May, 2019

Review Date: May, 2022

Our Mission Statement

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a Christ-centred community where every person's uniqueness is celebrated with joy, and is truly valued.

We foster caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love.

We embrace the different communities to which we all belong – home, school and parish, as well as our local, national and global families.

When we welcome the child, we welcome the family.

We strive for excellence in all we do, to be the very best that we can be.

This statement serves to underpin the policies, aims and objectives that the school adopts. All procedures, policies and organisation are based on the fulfilment of this statement.

The children and staff at our school come from a variety of faith backgrounds, and our aim is to acknowledge this and to provide a source of loving support for all. As a staff, we aim to encourage Gospel Values, and an atmosphere where the Catholic faith and moral responsibility may develop and grow.

We strive to achieve an atmosphere of love and respect for others which contributes to the children's self-confidence and self-acceptance. We aim also to develop their capacity to relate to others and to God. 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' scheme of Religious Education helps us to fulfil our aims and objectives, and we have a strong tradition of class and whole school masses, where family, school and parish are invited to join together.

Aims

We also aim to :

- Encourage and foster links with home and parish.
- Implement 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' according to the wishes of the Shrewsbury Diocese and to the best of our abilities.
- Ensure that the sacramental programme runs smoothly, to reassure parents where necessary and to lend support and assistance as a team of staff.
- Devote time and energy to the preparation of whole school and class masses.
- Provide a loving support for each child and to demonstrate that our faith is central to everything.

Objectives

These are as follows:

- To provide the opportunity for celebration, prayer and reflection in a variety of ways.
- To provide the children with the language of religious experience through the use of stories, prayers and hymns. The language of celebration shall be made available and familiar to the children to enable them to take part in class masses, whole-school assemblies and classroom worship. There shall be a presentation of Christian events and Catholic way of life, paying particular attention to the age and experience of the children.
- To support and encourage all members of staff to understand and to be familiar with our R.E programme. For the R.E co-ordinator to provide help and support, and to make available any appropriate material to supplement 'The Way, The Truth and The Life.'
- To ensure that R.E has its own place within the school improvement plan.

RE Curriculum

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' scheme of work for Religious Education, as recommended by the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The WTL scheme raises questions and provides material for reflecting on our own experiences and will help to explore the beliefs, values and Catholic tradition. It also provides ideal opportunities to look at other faiths where appropriate.

Our aim is for everyone to love God, each other and themselves and to live according to these principles.

Topic Planning

It is important to make use of all the resources available and to make sure that everyone feels comfortable about the topic. Teachers are expected to enhance the WTL topics by including Creative RE: role play/drama, music, games, artwork, speaking and listening activities, spiritual reflection and celebrations. Invitations to parishioners, parents, governors and our Parish Priest are also encouraged.

During their years at school the children will become familiar with a large number of prayers and hymns. This familiarity will be invaluable in helping them to understand, to take part in and to enjoy school celebrations, whether they are prayer services in the classroom or whole school masses.

The Relationship Of RE To Catholic Life in our School and Parish.

St. Peter's has a very long history of inviting parents into school to enjoy class masses and whole school masses. It is felt that these occasions cement the relationship between school, parish and family.

The spiritual and moral development of the children is considered to be of equal importance to their academic progress. To quote from our mission statement:

'We foster caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love.'

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for attending training days and passing on relevant information to colleagues.

Links between family and parish are fostered in a number of ways. Parents are made welcome at any liturgical celebrations and also at our Easter Liturgies and Christmas Concerts. Any interested members of the parish are made equally welcome.

Preparation for the sacraments is school and parish-based. An enrolment mass is celebrated for the children and their families in the Year of Celebration. Each child affirms that they wish to be prepared for First Forgiveness and Holy Communion. A medal is received and can be worn each time mass is attended during the year.

Meetings are held for parents, led by school and our parish priest, prior to First Forgiveness, in which they learn about the work that their child is doing in school. Time is given to allow them to reflect on their own understanding of the sacrament, and to compare and contrast the new rite with their own experience. The First Communion programme continues with a series of meetings, leading up to the day in the summer term, when the children receive the sacrament, surrounded by their family and prayer sponsors. We use the CAFÉ DVD's, which have been welcomed and enjoyed by the parents, as they enable the parents to deepen their own understanding of the sacrament. The Year 3 teacher prepares the children in school, in close consultation with the parish priest.

All children are respected and valued at St. Peter's School.

Links are made in Year 6 with the high schools to which the children will transfer. It is genuinely hoped that the faith journey joined at St. Peter's will continue with the same interest and fervour.

Where possible, cross-curricular links are made, with topics being studied from the WTL programme. RE is seen as being central to all the work being done at St. Peter's School.

Display plays a significant role in the presentation of RE. Space is made available in each classroom for a topical display, as well as a permanent display in the entrance hall, depicting the liturgical season.

Resources

We have a useful selection of resource materials, consisting mainly of books, but we have some posters, photocopiable worksheets, artefacts etc. We also have access to a wide selection of Jewish, Muslim and Hindu artefacts and information. We enjoy regular visits from a teacher about the Jewish faith, and we make links with another local Christian church to celebrate 'Life in Jesus,' and to share a prayer intentions box.

The resources are all kept together in the resource area and have recently been updated. This is an ongoing process and we hope to add to our list of resources, working within our financial constraints.

Each class has access to a copy of 'Listen' whilst each teacher has a copy of 'The Children's Bible' published by Lion. The Nursery and Reception also have 'The Illustrated Children's Bible' with simple text and large pictures.

'In the Beginning' is the scheme chosen by school to deliver our RSE curriculum, in the light of the Bishop's recommendation. Parents are invited to a consultation about this curriculum. Children take home examples of work from 'In the Beginning' to share with their families.

CAFOD Universal Church units are taught within our WTL topics, as recommended by the diocese

Assessment of RE

See separate document.

Staff Induction

It is important that the staff feel encouraged and supported and it is the role of the RE co-ordinator to remind everyone about the need to support new staff.

All new staff are introduced to 'The Way, The Truth, The Life' scheme and supported in teaching, planning, resources and any other support deemed necessary. Non-Catholic teachers are given help and encouragement with the teaching of the RE curriculum. They are provided with time to watch the Café DVD, which parents view as part of their children's sacramental preparation. All new teachers attend the 'new to the diocese' day. Very often the mere process of talking with other members of staff and asking their advice can be invaluable, especially for a newly-qualified teacher. Teachers new to Y3 and sacramental preparation are supported by the RE Co-ordinator and Headteacher.

Staff Development

One of the roles of the RE co-ordinator is to ensure that staff develop their knowledge of teaching RE. The primary sources of new information, which needs to be cascaded to staff, are the co-ordinator hub meetings, and the full day attended in the summer term. This is an opportunity to meet other RE co-ordinators and to receive information about

various aspects of the RE curriculum, events planned for the liturgical year, Collective Worship and Creative RE. Inter-school moderation of assessed pieces of work is carried out at these meetings.

The information received at these sessions is passed on to other members of staff to keep them up to date with any new areas that need to be developed. It is through careful study and constant practice that confidence and appreciation grows.

A considerable amount of time has been set aside for RE within our INSET programme. All staff attend the annual Deanery Day, which is shared with our partner schools and parishes. We also attend LPA masses with our neighbouring Catholic schools throughout the year.

During the last two years, we have prepared and planned for the implementation of Creative RE within our RE scheme – The Way, The Truth and The Life.

The sacramental programme is implemented with care and skill by a team of staff.

Leadership and Management

RE planning and RE books are monitored by the RE co-ordinator, and by the headteacher as appropriate. Subject reports are presented to governors termly. Observations of Religious Education lessons are carried out by the Senior Leadership Team each year.

Information about the half termly topic for RE is shared with parents in the form of a cover sheet for the topic. Key dates, vocabulary and Bible stories are included on this information sheet.

The budget for RE has parity with the budgets for English and Maths, as core subjects. The RE School Development Plan has been written in detail by the subject leader. Actions from it are shared with all staff, who are asked for their contributions. Pupils are invited to give the 'pupil voice' about RE annually

'There is a variety of gifts but always the same spirit; there are all sorts of services to be done but always to the same Lord: working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them'.

Corinthians 12: 4-7

Other Documents

Collective Worship Policy

Prayer Policy

Spiritual Development Policy

Moral Development Policy

Assessment Policy

PSHE Policy

Equal opportunity and Anti-Racism Policy

Sacramental Preparation File

Assessment Portfolio

RE Co-ordinators File

Selection of Class Masses and Assemblies

School Improvement Plan

Governor's Reports

Response to Last RE Inspection

Mrs. K Ryan, May 2019

Review Date: May 2022