



# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

**November 2018**  
(Review November 2020)

## **Mission Statement**

Our Lady and St. Philip Neri Primary School serves the two parishes of Sydenham and Sydenham Kirkdale. With Christ as the heart of our School community we believe that our School should be distinctive in character and ethos.

To achieve this we will:

- Foster and nurture the faith of each child in the School.
- Strive to promote the teachings of Christ; love, justice, respect, truth and prayer.
- Endeavour to create a meaningful interaction between home, school and parish, which is vital to the child's religious development.
- Support the parishes and families in preparing the children for the Sacraments.
- Seek to provide equal access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in support of the high expectations we have for our children, thus enabling each child to achieve their full potential.
- Be a worshipping Community and provide opportunities for prayer, liturgy and the celebration of our faith.
- Encourage parental support and involvement in the life of the school.
- Seek to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where politeness and respect are shown to all.
- Aim to promote positive relationships between Staff and children by providing a calm and well disciplined environment.

## **Rationale**

Religious Education in our school is based on the Gospel values and teachings of the Catholic Church. We aim to develop a strong awareness of the spiritual dimensions of life amongst our pupils and to equip them with Christian values which will guide them throughout their lives.

## **Aims**

- To help pupils develop a personal relationship with Jesus, and to experience the good news of the Gospel.
- To enable the pupils to grow in their awareness of what it means to be a member of the Church.
- To encourage our pupils to reflect on their lives and on society in the light of the Gospel.
- To support the parents and the parish in creating a Christian community built on the experience of Liturgy and Prayer.
- To develop in our pupils a sense of social justice.
- To increase pupils' knowledge, awareness and respect of other religious traditions and cultures.
- To seek to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where politeness and respect are shown to all.

## **Broad Guidelines**

- At Our Lady & St Philip Neri School we aim to lead the children towards a lasting belief in our Catholic faith. We do this through prayer, celebration and a caring attitude to each other, based on the Gospel values of love and reconciliation.
- We seek to recognise, value and extend the talents of every child as each has a unique value in God's sign regardless of ability, nationality, wealth status or disadvantage.
- We endeavour to extend the academic, social, aesthetic, physical and spiritual potential of the children in our care through our delivery of a broad based and stimulating curriculum.
- Religious Education is characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment.
- We recognise the position of parents as the prime educators of their children and aim to work, in partnership with them and the Governing Body, to develop a parish community that is a wise, honest and loving witness to the wonder of God's World.
- R.E. lessons are differentiated appropriately. Children's work is assessed at the end of each unit and each half term and parents are informed about children's progress.

## **Planning for R.E.**

- All classes follow The Way, The Truth and the Life Series .
- We allocate at least 10% curriculum time to the teaching of R.E.
- Religious Education is concerned with the development of knowledge, understanding and the ability to evaluate (learning about religion) and with the development of the ability to reflect on meaning (learning from religion). These aspects of development are expressed as AT1 (learning about religion) and AT2 (learning from religion). Both are concerned with educational progression that can be described by levels.
- We have included Other Faiths in our planning as recommended by The Way, the Truth and the Life.
- Alongside The Way, the Truth and the Life we aim to extend the children's knowledge of the following important feast days and occasions for celebrations so that they all become familiar with the structure of the Church's year:

### **Autumn Term:**

Holy Rosary  
 All Souls Day  
 All Saints  
 Advent  
 Christmas

### **Spring Term:**

Epiphany  
 Ash Wednesday/Lent  
 Easter

### **Summer Term:**

St Philip Neri N.B. 26<sup>th</sup> May  
 Sacred Heart  
 Ascension  
 Pentecost  
 Trinity  
 Corpus Christi  
 SS. Peter and Paul

## **Prayer**

- Prayer is a fundamental part of our school life including formal prayers and children's own informal prayers.
- We recognise that our prayer life forms a large part of our personal relationship with God and prayer plays a fundamental part in our school life. We encourage and teach formal and informal prayers/personal and communal prayer.

## **Assessment**

- “The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in religious education is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress” NBRIA (1997)
- We recognise that assessment recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and integral to the learning progress. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate. They are the responsibility of all teachers.
- We believe that assessment is at the heart of good teaching and that our approach to the assessment, recording and reporting of religious education will be broad in character and will recognise the innate dignity and worth of each individual.

## **Practice**

- Good Assessment strategies will be rooted in effective planning.
- All assessment will take account of the concepts, attitude, skills and knowledge highlighted in the Curriculum Directory for Schools. We use the revised levels of attainment as taken from “The Levels of Attainment in RE Catholic Schools and Colleges”.
- There will be one formal assessment of children’s work each half term.
- Assessments will recognise the distinct nature of religious education and will provide evidence of what pupils have done and can achieve.

## **Assessments and Evaluations**

These can be made via strategies such as:

- Children’s recorded work and marking.
- CT observations of children during role play, carpet time etc.
- Children’s own speaking and listening contributions.
- Pupils self assessments – for example through concept maps.

## **Tracking of Assessment**

- The process of assessing and recording will enable us to provide evidence of the quality of teaching and learning for ourselves as teachers and for parents and inspectors.
- Class teachers will keep a record of ½ termly assessments and will record an end of year overall level in RE

## **Monitoring of RE**

Will take place annually in line with the school monitoring policy and will provide feedback to teachers and governors.

**Liturgical Worship**

Through worship we aim to join the work of home and parish in developing the Spirituality of the children and to develop the concept of worship as an integral part of School life. Our Parish Priest leads us in many areas of worship and supports and enhances the partnership.

We also aim to develop an understanding of different forms of worship and to reflect on the multicultural nature of our children in various acts of worship.

Ways in which we provide opportunity for different forms of worship:

- Celebrating Mass at Our Lady & St Philip Neri Church
- Weekly school assemblies.
- Keystage Assemblies, Class Assemblies & Celebration Assemblies.
- Special Liturgical services to celebrate feasts of the Church’s year.
- Class worship supported by focal areas where the children can reflect and pray.
- Wednesday assemblies led by individual teachers on a rota.

**Assemblies**

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them”  
(Matthew 18.20)

Regular weekly assemblies are held. These are led by the Head and senior staff. One assembly reflects on the liturgy for the coming week. In addition there are hymn practices and phase group assemblies around a Biblical story.

**Phase Group Masses**

Individual classes attend mass on a rotational basis. The Mass takes place in the Parish Church or on occasion, in the school hall or classroom. The children are involved in the preparation and celebration of the Mass, serving on the Altar, leading bidding prayers, the readings and bringing the Offertory Gifts. Children attend the mass for Holy Days of Obligation in addition to this.

**Focal Areas**

These are set in up each classroom and are changed regularly to reflect changing topics. The children may be involved in the design and content of the Class Focal Area and are encouraged to make use of the area throughout the day. Room is left for the children to bring in items from home to add to the display and they can be reminded to place questions / captions on the Display if they wish.

Signed ..... (Headteacher)

Signed .....(Chair of Governors)

