

	<p style="text-align: center;">Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Religious Education Policy</p>
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*Joyfully, unique in Jesus' family, we learn to use our special gifts to love,
serve and make the world a better place.*

Religious Education Policy			
Approval	Board of Governors	Chair	Anna Murphy-Sullivan
Headteacher	Simon Lennon	Signature	
Date of last review	July 2019	Date of review	June 2021
Date of next review	June 2023	Maintenance	SIPS Committee

In exceptional circumstances this policy may be subject to change in accordance with the school's risk assessment (approved by SLT and Governors) which will override current policy guidelines.

‘You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus’

2 Timothy 2:1

Context

“Our school aims to be a sign of God’s presence in the world.”

We do this through our explicit relationships, attitudes to learning and the daily living of our faith in our own Catholic community.

Our Aims in Religious Education

In Religious Education our aims for each child are:

- to explore their own sense of awe and wonder at the beauty of God’s creation
- to develop an understanding of what it means to be a Christian, based on the life and teaching of Jesus
- to receive a systematic programme of teaching based on the Roman Catholic Faith in order to develop a personal relationship with God
- to deepen pupils understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and its direct impact on our lives and that of the wider community
- to experience belonging to a faith community which strives to live by and foster Gospel values
- to become familiar with religious language, symbols and styles of worship and prayer
- to appreciate the diversity of Christian traditions and to understand and respect the beliefs and traditions of all other faiths
- engage in a ‘see-judge-act’ approach to all their learning based on Catholic principles.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has the primary responsibility in promoting the ethos outlined in the Mission Statement and in ensuring that this policy is implemented. The Headteacher ‘is the spiritual leader of the school.’ (CES). The Mission Statement is central to all decisions made.

All stakeholders have, by virtue of agreeing to work in a Catholic school, a responsibility to uphold the Catholic ethos of the school.

The RE Leader is responsible for the promotion and development of the school’s RE programme. They assist colleagues in planning effectively to enable each child to achieve to the best of their ability. They are available to advise, support and liaise with colleagues, lead discussion, set an example of good classroom practice and be involved in leading and developing good practice amongst all staff. The subject leader attends meetings with other coordinators at diocesan and local level, passes on information and helps to monitor planning, teaching and learning through the school’s self-review programme.

Governors support staff in the implementation of the RE policy. The RE Governor works closely with the RE leader to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

The RE Programme

a) The main teaching of R.E. in the school is through the ‘**God Matters**’ programme. Each year group follows the same unit of work at the same time. The units are taught by class teachers and explored by the children at levels appropriate to each age group. The topics are all closely related to the Scriptures. Most topics are taught in subject-specific lessons, but are integrated into other curriculum areas as and when appropriate, according to the age range of the children. The Gospel of the forthcoming Sunday is studied at collective worship each Friday, key lessons from the Gospel are played out in the coming week and reflected upon at the end of the week

- b) " Nominated feast days are observed, and celebrated, in addition to the Church's main feasts – Corpus Christi (the school's own feast day), Ash Wednesday, Saints' Days, Harvest and First Holy Communion and House Feast Days
- c) School Mass is celebrated weekly and parents and the local community are invited to attend. Each class invites their parents to attend on a specific date each year.
- d) There are two assemblies each week – one for the whole school (Foundation Stage to Year 6) each Friday and an assembly for each key stage on Mondays, which begin with a Collective Worship based on the gospel reading from Sunday mass
- f) Our Parish Priest, Fr. Adrian and the Sisters Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, maintain close links with the children, staff, parents and governors and attends celebrations and other school activities
- g) Knowledge and respect for other faiths are taught from Foundation Year to Year 6, in line with the Diocesan recommendations, within 'God Matters'.
- h) Annual Multicultural Mass celebrated as part of the school's multicultural enrichment day".

Time Allocation

In accordance with the recommendation of the Bishops of England and Wales, a minimum of 10% of school time is given to the teaching of R.E. that is two and a half hours weekly. In addition to this the children attend and take part in hymn practices, daily Collective Worship Masses and assemblies. Time is also given to special liturgical services to celebrate Easter and Christmas (Carol Service, Nativity play).

Prayer

Prayer is an essential element in forming a relationship with God. Children are given the opportunity to experience personal, private prayer, sharing of thought and expressions, communal and spontaneous prayer within collective worship and during any relevant opportunity which presents itself during the school day. They are encouraged to develop and maintain their own spiritual prayer life in and out of school, and to recognise the value of it, to themselves and others. Children are taught specific prayers. A rosary group each October and May encourages pupils to develop a love for the rosary.

Links with Home and Parish

All our main feeder parishes provide their own Sacramental preparation programmes for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The school endeavours to support and extend this work wherever possible, relating it to 'God Matters'. School newsletters are displayed on the parish church noticeboard. Parents are invited to assemblies and celebrations and are regularly invited to contribute to R.E. lessons in terms of photographs, memories and experiences and to take part in the preparation for some celebrations, e.g., Harvest, Christmas and Feast Day.

Planning, Assessment and Recording

All planning for 'God Matters' units takes place in year groups using the Revised Supplementary Guidance to support the planning. These plans are regularly monitored by the R.E. Leader. An overall plan of when units are to be covered throughout the year is provided by the RE Leader. Assessment is in line with new age related expectations and levels are electronically entered onto the school's tracking data. The Annual Report of Achievement for parents contains a specific section for progress in R.E. RE data is reported to Governors three times yearly (at SIP and full Governors)

Resources

Each class has a copy of the 'God Matters' folder and Revised Supplementary Guidance relevant to their year group. Other resources include a wide selection of Bibles, appropriate to different year groups, posters, pictures and artefacts, and a variety of books for teachers and pupils. In addition, the 'God Matters' scheme is on the Diocesan website and is accessible to all staff, along with any appropriate resources.

Induction of New Teachers in the Teaching of RE at Corpus Christi

All new teachers to the school, having had a general induction with the Headteacher, then have an induction meeting with the RE Subject Leader to discuss the 'God Matters' scheme, and other aspects of RE within the school, such as masses, assemblies etc. New teachers are supported throughout the year by RE lead and other staff members and the Sisters of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. New staff to the school/ Diocese receive additional diocesan training.