

Holy Name Catholic Primary School
Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

Holy Name is a Catholic Community working in partnership with parents/carers to nurture and educate the whole person, in the way of Christ, enabling all to know their worth and reach their potential.

Children's Mission Statement

‘Shine Like the Stars’
Be your best in all things

We try to follow Jesus' footsteps by treating everyone with love and respect.

At Holy Name Catholic Primary School aim to

- To help pupils develop a personal relationship with Jesus, and to experience the Good news of the Gospel.
- Develop care and respect for others, their faith and culture
- Provide a warm stimulating learning environment
- Promote quality teaching and learning
- 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
- Encourage cohesion between home, school, parish and the local community
- To increase pupils knowledge, awareness and respect of other religious traditions and cultures. To create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where Politeness and respect are shown to all.
- Create and foster an environment, which reflects the teachings of Christ within the Catholic Faith
- Provide a rich curriculum suitable to the different learning styles of all children which supports all in achieving their potential
- Provide quality leadership and management at all levels

At Holy Name we hope to achieve our aims in Religious Education by:

Fostering an environment which reflects the spiritual teachings of Christ within the Catholic Church:

- Celebrating liturgies of the Catholic Faith at various times throughout the school year
- Participating in Collective Worship, in class and as a whole school community
- Developing relationships with God through prayer and celebration of the sacraments

Developing care and respect for others their faith and culture:

- Providing equal opportunities for everyone in the school community
- Promoting and studying other faiths and cultures
- Developing responsibility for good citizenship, and celebrating our 'Citizen of the Year', at the end of the academic year

Provide a welcoming safe stimulating environment:

- Ensuring everyone entering Holy Name School are made to feel welcome and all enquiries are dealt with accordingly
- Ensuring adequate safety systems are in place for the safety of all
- Celebrating the achievements of children and staff in the life of the school through assemblies, display, local acknowledgement
- Promoting children to take responsibility for the environment in the many roles and clubs that are available to them
- Ensuring standards of behaviour are high at all times

Promote high standards of achievement in all aspects of school life:

- Providing good examples as role models for children
- Ensuring high expectations for all
- Providing wide range of extra curricular activities
- Celebrating achievements through rewards, and Friday Golden Good News Assemblies

Provide quality teaching and learning:

- Organising resources appropriate for all learning styles, and deliver quality teaching
- Continually monitor evaluate and assess the quality of teaching and learning
- Providing opportunities for continuing professional development for all staff
- Ensuring Assessment recording and reporting policies are adhered to
- Regularly informing Parents of planning and attainment
- Recognising and sharing quality practice and achievements with each other

Develop strong community cohesion links between home, school, parish and community:

- Continually inform parents each half term what is being taught through newsletters, notice boards etc
- Dealing with parents and visitors in a welcome manner and by dealing with requests queries and queries accordingly
- Having continuous liaising with outside agencies, school visitors, Governors and the whole community to events in school
- Holding Parents evening throughout the year, and sending home written school reports
- Supporting events and activities organised by the Parish
- Developing and promoting the PTFA
- Supporting the preparation of children in the community for the Sacraments
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Provide a rich and meaningful curriculum, which supports and challenges all to reach their full potential:

- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum suitable to the different learning styles of all
- Developing Educational visits, school clubs, school committees and responsibilities which children can be part of.
- Having high expectations of children
- Expecting homework policies to be adhered to
- Providing advice and support for children through interviews and target setting
- Celebrating our Gifted and Talented achievements

Provide quality leadership and management at all levels:

- Communicating to disseminate information at all levels
- Holding regular staff meetings and INSET days
- Nurturing each individual by providing appropriate training
- Promoting a strong team ethos
- Recognising each other's gifts and talents

Planning For RE

Holy Name Catholic School delivers Religious Education in accordance with the "Come and See" Programme, as outlined by the Archbishop of Liverpool.

The whole school explores each religious theme through the same topics at the same time following a four year cycle. We allocate at least 10% Curriculum time to the teaching to R.E.

We aim in the delivery of Religious Education to develop strong community cohesion links and to promote home school parish links. We strive to do this with planned Class Masses, held in church, at which the community, parish and home are invited; Church Masses which school attend and Class Assemblies when home, parish and family are invited in order to celebrate together.

We plan for music to be an integral part of our celebrations to add to the quality of our liturgical celebrations.

Each class has access to the Prayer Room to develop prayer in a quiet meaningful way with children with resources appropriate to the various learning styles

The assigned Religious Education Governor is welcomed into school to take part in our RE lessons and to attend other liturgical celebrations.

Other Faiths are included in our planning as recommended.

Teachers Long/Medium/Short Term planning will be a collaborative process which assists continuity and progression.

All teachers will use the agreed planning document.

All planning will identify specific assessment opportunities for each topic which will be integrated into our teaching.

FEAST DAYS AND LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Alongside “Come and See” we aim to extend the children's knowledge of the following important feast days and occasions for celebration so that they become familiar with the structure of the Church's year:

Autumn Term:

Harvest
Holy Rosary
All Souls Day
All Saints
Advent
Christmas

Spring Term:

Epiphany
Ash Wednesday/Lent
Easter

Summer Term:

Ascension
Pentecost
Trinity
Corpus Christi
Peter and Paul

Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental part of our school life including formal prayers and children's own informal prayers. Prayer leaflets are sent home at the beginning of each school Year for our families to share together at home.

The prayers introduced during Class lessons and assemblies follow the "Come and See" programme.

Additional prayers in KS 1 & 2 include prayers at beginning and end of school day and prayers before meals.

Informal prayer has a very important place in the spiritual life of the children and should include the everyday language of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry. Informal prayer should encourage reflection by all pupils on their everyday life.

Marking

Marking pupils work will be approached positively and constructively so that it affirms and celebrates success and encourages future learning.

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 process. 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.

There will be one formal assessment of children's work per term.

Foundation State Nursery/Reception – portfolio of annotated work from each topic including photographic evidence

Links with Early Goals and Developmental Matters (See 'Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges.')

Years 1-6 - Formal Assessment using expectations and Attainment Levels on a 3 year cycle so that each theme is assessed formally twice throughout Key Stage 1 and 2. (N.B. Other strands may also be covered in these topics.)

Assessment should be undertaken during **Respond**. An activity will be undertaken that enables children to show how they have met the Learning outcome. This will be marked against the attainment levels on the child's 'Record of Attainment in Religious Education'. We recommend that a concept map be undertaken at '**Explore**' and '**'** for each topic.

Assessments will recognise the distinct nature of religious education and will provide evidence of what pupils have done and can achieve.

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.

The formal assessment for each term will be marked and levelled by the class teacher and submitted to the RE Coordinator for tracking.

Monitoring of RE

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

Assemblies.

Special liturgical services to celebrate feasts of the Church's year.

Classroom Worship supported by focal areas where the children can reflect and pray.

Focal Areas,

These are set up in 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 or captions on the display if they wish.

Useful items for an attractive display include:

Brightly coloured fabrics,

Artefacts.

Pictures

Statues

Photographs

Candles

Book stands

Bibles

Pebbles

Class prayer books/Books for intentions etc.

School Mass Kit

Artefacts and books linked to other Faiths / Religions

(These resources are constantly being added to and updated.)

Focal Prayer tables always reflect the topic being studied at the relevant process. Core vocabulary are added to the displays at the topic is studied.

We also have a focal table in the staffroom which staffs are responsible for. Staff are responsible for the table and add adult related resources to deepen our own faith.

Resources:

Resources for RE are kept in a centralised area and are accessible to all staff.

Resources (including artefacts, icons, books etc.) are constantly reviewed and updated and they reflect the multi-cultural nature of our school's intake.

The list of resources are always added to, upon recommendation by Religious Education Advisors from the Archdiocese.

Religious Education Co-ordinator

The Religious Education Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Attending termly co-ordinator in service meetings, topic and information days and then disseminating to staff at regular staff meetings
- Working alongside the Parish Priest to set dates for junior class masses, class assemblies and church mass dates and disseminating to staff and families.
- Courses, training days and topic days are available on a rota to ensure all staff are given opportunity to attend and to be updated.
- The R.E. Co-ordinator regularly views the Archdiocesan website for updated information which is then disseminated to the Executive Head Teacher and Staff as appropriate.
- The monitoring of planning, books, lessons, Collective worship, displays and assessment on a rolling program.
- Organising the teaching schedule for the year, setting dates for the allocated topics and allocating dates in the calendar for the teaching of other faiths.
- Supporting new staff members and NQt's with the teaching and delivering of the Come and See programme as well as Collective Worship.
- Ensuring that the allocated 10% of the teaching time table is given to Religious Education.
- Checking that Collective Worship is being carried out with all children every day, whether during Whole school assemblies or class teaching.

Sacramental Preparation - WITH YOU ALWAYS

Children in Year 4 receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation is provided by Holy Name catechists. Meetings are held in both school and Church each year and parents attend with their children. School supports this process by encouraging participation and reminding families of dates and times of meetings. Staff also attend the preparation meetings and sacrament services to offer support to the families and catechists.

The Religious Education Self Evaluation Document is reviewed each year initially by the RE co-ordinator and Executive Head Teacher and then overseen by staff to ensure that all developments and targets are agreed upon.

This policy will be monitored by the Executive Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator and will be reviewed by the Governing Body. Parents/carers will be consulted before any proposed changes.