



Religious Education Policy

Introduction

St. Christopher's Primary School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. The school models and promotes a philosophy inspired by belief in God and traditional Catholic values. We promote religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church.

Rationale

This policy has been implemented in response to the necessity to accommodate the enrolment of increased numbers of children of other faiths and none, into the school community.

Relationship to school ethos

This school enrolls pupils of other faiths or no faith in the school, subject to full enrolment criteria and respects their beliefs and practices in accordance with the school ethos of inclusivity.

School Procedures

Every child is welcome into the school having satisfied enrolment procedures, but the school cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith. Arrangements are made within each class or year group to accommodate children who do not take part in the religious education programme.

The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the *Grow in Love* programme approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic schools. The programme is taught to each class. The programme is gradually being replaced by the new religious education programme: *Grow in Love*, with implementation commencing in September 2015 with Junior and Senior Infants classes.

All Catholic feasts are celebrated.

- Christmas – tree and cribs, Christmas Stories, Carol services, visit to local nursing homes to entertain patients.
- Feast of St. Patrick – depiction of story and shamrock, St. Patrick's Day Cards and art work, relevant hymns.
- Lent – Symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to school to distribute ashes/visit to church on Ash Wednesday.
- Easter – Easter cards, story of the death of Jesus and resurrection, artwork and workbooks.

- Observance of Holy Days of Obligation.
- Celebration of the closing of school year with graduation service, referencing elements of the Confirmation programme.

Liturgical Celebrations

The school celebrates the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. Children receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in St. Mary's Church. Children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of these sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school. The children and their families attend at least three preparation services.

Teacher input

In this school the following areas are covered.

- In-service on Grow in Love programme
- Prayer Services.
- Nativity plays.
- Carol Services.
- Sacred Spaces.

Success Criteria

- An acknowledged sense of God, Faith prayer and worship within the school community.
- Respect for all with in the school community.
- Parental interest.
- Recognisable links between home, school and parish.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff - Deliver Grow in Love programme.
- Cooperate with Chaplain/Parish and diocesan advisers.
- Avail of In-Service support.
- Actively support the ethos of the school.

Parents:

- Support the school during times of sacramental preparation and assist at home with Religious Education homework.

Principal:

- Facilitates supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the programme.