

'To walk hand in hand with God, loving Him, loving each other and loving ourselves, doing our best with the gifts He gave us to make the world a richer place.'



St Peter's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Waterlooville,

Religious Education Policy

Document Control Box

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Committee	n/a	Responsibility	R.E. Manager, Headteacher & Full Board of Governors

Introduction

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is first and foremost a Catholic school. It follows from this that the ethos of our school should reflect the values proclaimed by Christ in the Gospels and recognises the unique value of each individual. Religious Education (R.E.) is an integral part of school life and central to Catholic practices and tradition being concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. The religions of the world are classic expressions of this search and, for many people, provide the context within which the experience is to be understood. This is maintained in our commitment to the important partnership between school, home and the parish, in opening children's hearts and minds to the teachings of Jesus.

Aims

The Aims of R.E. in St Peter's School include:

- To develop children's knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life through an understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ;
- To lead the children to a living and active Catholic faith;
- To inspire children to grow spiritually and morally through developing their knowledge and understanding of Catholicism;
- To develop their knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ;
- To foster enjoyment of R.E. and study it with confidence and a sense of achievement;
- To develop the skills required to explore and reflect upon religious belief and practice;
- To encourage the development of religiously literate young people, aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life;
- To involve parents in the spiritual development of their child.

Rationale

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School we believe that "Religious Education is not one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire education process, and it should inspire every aspect of school life." (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 1988). In order that these aims can be translated into workable objectives St Peter's teach the revised Portsmouth Diocesan Scheme; "God Matters, as the Religious Education scheme of work.

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We believe that R.E. is important because the school is committed to the values of the gospel, where all are appreciated and helped towards achieving their full potential. We acknowledge that R.E. is a lifelong process where the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children. We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and faiths and that our teaching of R.E. should reflect this cultural richness and an understanding of other religions. Furthermore we recognise the importance of the partnership between home, school and the parish in opening children's hearts and minds to the teachings of Jesus.

Time

R.E. teaching will consist of 10% of the weekly teaching timetable. For KS1 this will be two hours per week and for KS2; two and one half hour per week.

Religious Practices

These are followed in order that purpose and meaning may be experienced in prayer and worship as well as ensuring that the cherished religious traditions of the Catholic Church are upheld. These practices take the form of:

- **Liturgical Celebrations** – The school marks the Liturgical Year and celebrate feasts throughout the church's year. This is further supported by Year group masses and non Eucharistic liturgies which are planned to take place once per term and are celebrated by local parish priest and supported by Ministers of Holy Communion;
- **Daily Prayer** - Children are taught daily prayers and also various prayers and responses of the Mass as appropriate to their age and stage of development (based on Diocesan guidelines). A prayer is always said before lunchtime and children pray together with their teacher at the beginning and end of the day;
- **Displays** - Displays within our school reflect our Catholicity. Year teams will take responsibility for displays relating to the God Matters units in the hall and front entrance on a rota basis. Other R.E. work will be displayed in the hall on a class rota basis;
- **Classroom focal points** - Each classroom has its own religious focal points; an R.E. corner, display board and prayer table that is covered with a cloth in the colour of the liturgical season. Appropriate artefacts that aid prayer and reflection are placed there;
- **Other** - Teachers will use those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to support children's R.E.

Planning for R.E.

R.E. is taught throughout the school and we will aim to use a variety of styles to deliver it. The Portsmouth Diocese scheme of work "God Matters" is the basis of all R.E. teachers' planning providing continuity and progression in year teams to meet the needs of the children. Planning will account for progression through the Attainment Targets from level 1 through to level 5 during children's time at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School dependent on attainment.

Assessing R.E.

Children's learning is assessed according to our school Assessment policy and using using the diocesan Attainment Targets and Levelling document. Children's attainment will be recorded on target tracker each half term. A level for attainment in R.E. is recorded and reported annually to parents. It is each class teacher's responsibility to record assessments carried out and these will be used to inform planning and to produce necessary reports.

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Monitoring R.E.

R.E. is monitored within St Peters by the R.E. Manager, Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers and governing body. Progress is monitored through lesson observations, pupil conferencing, book scrutiny on a regular basis and planning scrutiny.

Resources

Class teachers have a copy of 'God Matters' planning relevant to their year group, planning pro-formas and assessment guidance on the school system and access to all material online through the Diocese website. A range of resources are available to support the curriculum strategy.

Roles and Responsibilities

The R.E. Manager will work in close consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and the Parish Priest.

The R.E. Manager will:

- be available to individual teachers for guidance and support and keep staff informed of current thinking in R.E. and any new materials / publications;
- attend courses and encourage other members of staff to do so. Information gained from such courses should be shared with other staff;
- facilitate any training to meet needs of staff;
- in combination with the Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers will monitor progress through lesson observations, work sampling on a regular basis and through pupil conferencing.

The Head teacher will:

- Monitor the implementation of the policy;
- Establish that staff have the necessary expertise and support;
- Make certain that staff have access to relevant documentation, updates and advice.

All Teaching Staff:

- are to develop opportunities to learn through a cross curricular approach;
- are responsible for promoting R.E in the school and for daily collective acts of worship within the classroom;
- are responsible for developing R.E. through opportunities that naturally arise and for seeking opportunities to assess the children's knowledge and understanding;
- should seek to attend available courses and inform the R.E. Manager if they feel further development is needed;
- are responsible for implementing this policy and consultation of current guidelines as necessary;
- are to deliver R.E. through a range of teaching styles and have access to a range of resources in the teaching of the R.E. curriculum;
- are to mark the Liturgical Year and celebrate feasts in the Church's year and, using the Multicultural Faith calendar as a guide, teach about practices of other world faiths;
- are to provide opportunities to children regardless of race, gender, class, culture and disability to develop their knowledge and understanding of religions;

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- are to teach about other faiths and fostering an understanding of them utilising 'God Matters' as a starting point.

Governors will:

- Approve and discuss the policy and review it every three years
- Receive and discuss reports concerning the implementation of the policy

Parents are expected to:

- Encourage and support their children and the school in delivering the R.E. curriculum.

Children are expected to:

- Participate in R.E. lessons showing respect and value for all religions.

Equal Opportunities/ Special Needs

The fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of race, gender, class, culture and disability to develop their knowledge and understanding of R.E. is central our school mission statement. All children are given equal access to the R.E. curriculum developing their knowledge and understanding. A variety of teaching and learning strategies, including ICT, are employed to try to meet all children's different needs.

Policy Links

This policy is linked to the St. Peters Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy.

Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed every three years by R.E. manager, Headteacher and governors. Next review to be in January 2019.