

## What does RE look like at our school?

From Nursery, up to Year 6 your child will be taught Religious Education based on the Gospel Values and the 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 and most importantly Catholic values which will guide them throughout their lives.



In addition, we aim to support the mission of the school through:

**Welcome:** The Federation of St Edmund's and St Patrick's warmly welcomes everyone to our school as Jesus welcomes us to the family of God.

**Word:** The Word of God is celebrated and guides us in all that we do. Christ's teachings are at the heart of every aspect of school life.

**Welfare:** Every member of our school community is unique, made in the image and likeness of Christ. We support all of our families and the wider community so that, together our children develop a deep understanding of God's creation and experience life to the full.

**Witness:** The Federation of St Edmund's and St Patrick's family will be a witness of a loving God. We bear witness to our Mission Statement to nurture and support each other as we strive to live out the Gospel values in our lives. Our 'Statements to Live By' provide us with a weekly focus for us to be witnesses to our faith.

**Worship:** We are a family that worships together. Our children, staff, families and Parish worship together often, strengthening our relationships with God. The prayer life of our school is nurtured and celebrated and this enables us to learn how to talk to and listen to God.

## **Assessment**

We assess children's work in Religious Education by making informal judgments as we observe them during lessons and through written tasks. We assess them orally, and through their own writing and drawings. Teachers attempt to elicit a personal response from children, so that knowledge of God will help them to understand themselves and the consequences of their actions. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and provide feedback as outlined in the school's Marking and Feedback Policy. Children's progress informs future planning. Children's progress is reported to parents twice a year at Parents' Evenings and in an end of year report.

The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in RE is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress. 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. Within the Federation we use SIMs to track levels of attainment and progress across the school.

The importance of continuity and progression is recognised through the choice of topics and discrete units that make up the scheme of work.

We follow the 'Come and See' programme as approved by Salford Diocese. We have adopted a fixed topic, whole school approach. The whole school explores each religious theme through the same topics at the same time, with links to the liturgical calendar made wherever possible. A minimum of 10% curriculum team is allocated each week to the teaching of Religious Education as stated by the Diocese of Salford.

Into our termly planning, we incorporate the Curriculum Directory and the subject specific skills taught in Religious Education.

### **Extra support**

Teachers deploy a variety of techniques to enable children to learn and to assess their progress. Whole class teaching, group work and when necessary individual teaching takes place. Teachers also communicate religious teaching by their everyday witness, based on their own faith commitment. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- Setting common tasks, which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty.
- Grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each ability group.
- Providing resources of different complexity, adapted to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

### **Other Faiths**

Other faiths are included in our planning as recommended by the 'Come and See' scheme of work. Teacher's long/medium/short term planning will be a collaborative process which assists continuity and progression. 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 all become familiar with the structure of the Church's year:

### Autumn Term

- Harvest
- Holy Rosary
- All Souls Day
- All Saints Day
- Advent – Advent Prayer Bags
- Christmas – Nativity and Liturgy in Church, Carol Concert

### Spring Term

- Epiphany
- The Presentation
- Ash Wednesday/Lent – Lenten Boxes, Almsgiving
- Holy Week – Mass in Church, Stations of the Cross

### Summer Term

- The Crowning of Our Lady
- Ascension
- Pentecost
- Trinity
- Corpus Christi
- SS Peter and Paul
- Transition to High School

## Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental part of our school life including formal prayers and children's own informal prayer. The prayers introduced during class lessons and assemblies follow the Diocese recommendations for prayer in Primary School. Additional prayers in EYFS, KS1 & 2 include prayers at the start and end of each day and prayers before meals.

## Informal Prayer

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

## 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. We also aim to develop an understanding of different forms of worship and to reflect the Catholic nature of our children in various acts of worship. We provide opportunity for different children are actively involved in planning and delivery. Members of the Chaplaincy Team will assist individual classes in various prayer and worship opportunities, where appropriate.



These are:

- Careful preparation of and involvement in class and school masses
- Class collective worship and special celebration Masses
- Special liturgical services to celebrate feasts of the Church's year
- Classroom worship supported by focal areas where the children can reflect and pray
- Weekly whole school musical worship.

The children may be involved in the design and content of the class focal area and are encouraged to make use of it throughout the day. Useful items for an attractive display include:

- Coloured fabric in accordance with the Church colours for the Liturgical year
- Artefacts
- Pictures
- Statues

- Photographs
- Scripture
- Candles
- Book Stands
- Bibles/Stories about God & Jesus
- Altar cloths

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



### **Safeguarding**

A child's welfare, well-being and safety is of the utmost importance to us. A child can't learn or make any progress in school if they don't feel safe and secure. We all know they need to be happy and we are here to ensure all of our children are nurtured to reach their full potential. Sometimes reading something in a book or learning in a lesson can trigger something to upset a child. We have a special programme in school to help any children who may be struggling with their emotions and well-being. If you have any concerns about your child or in fact another child, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads, who will be more than happy to talk through any concerns you may have.

