Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust

Religious Education Policy:

January 2023

Our Vision:

We are a community of Catholic schools together aspiring to give children an all-round education rooted in Christian values in a nurturing environment where they flourish, become lifelong learners and fulfil their potential.

Our Mission:

TOGETHER WE LOVE, WE LEARN, WE LIVE

Our Values:

- Curiosity
- Stewardship
- Resilience
- Forgiveness
- Respect
- Love

Aims

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic Faith and Life.
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice, including having knowledge and awareness of other faiths.
- To promote the Gospel Values and how they are applied in everyday life whilst providing opportunities for children to develop a personal relationship with God.

Objectives

- To create a school community where Christian values inform every aspect of social life and promote respect and understanding of other faiths.
- To develop awareness, appreciation and the understanding of Catholic beliefs and provide children with experiences of scripture, liturgy and real life context.
- RE is for all. It is a collaborative activity that respects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.
- Every child is supported to express and foster appropriate attitudes; respect for truth; respect for views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral, responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday lie and especially the challenge of living in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society.

Guidelines

- 10% of teaching time is to be given to RE (in line with the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales).
- Clifton Diocese scheme of work supported by God Matters will be taught according to the guidance given in the syllabus, which is relevant to the age group of the classes. RE will be taught through direct teaching, integrated lessons, visits, visitors, and prayers. The topics for the year are fixed and represent a whole school approach. However, the Diocese may request that changes be made to the order of the units in order to accommodate special events or celebrations.
- The School will follow the Liturgical year, alongside God Matters, with emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, as well as specific feast days linked to the schools in the Trust.
- The children will be encouraged to see themselves as part of a wider community of God's World. They will be encouraged to consider others through outreach activities, which will range from those set on a yearly bases, those which arise out of the children's own ideas, world events and school and Diocesan initiatives.

Delivery of the RE Curriculum:

- At St Joseph & St Teresa's, we are predominantly using the Clifton Diocese scheme, which is supplemented using the 'God Matters' scheme of work.
- All topics link to the liturgical seasons plus two other faiths a year are studied throughout the school. Progression is built into the scheme, which encourages learning through encouragement, exploration and experience.
- All pupils partake in all RE teaching and learning activities in the school. Any parents with concerns about their child's participation are invited to discuss this with the HeadTeacher / RE Lead.

Staff Development

- All members of the Trust are encouraged to develop their own confidence and expertise through training with Clifton Diocese and in-service training that maybe led by individual schools or by the Trust.
- Provision will be made through release time for each RE Leader to monitor assessment throughout the relevant school and liaise across schools

Prayer and Liturgies

See separate policy

The Role of the RE Leader in each school

- Formulate and maintain the RE and Prayer and Liturgy policy
- As part of the Trust and School Development Plans, there will be an area that is focussed on Prayer and Liturgy as well as RE.

- Ensure that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.
- Organise themes for Worship, Assembly Rotas and to ensure that staff have the resources they require.
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of the policy and support them in its implementation.
- Assist the governors, Head Teacher and CEO in carrying out their legal responsibilities in regard to Collective Worship and RE.
- Maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation.
- Observe RE lessons and Acts of Prayer and Liturgy.
- Lead and organise staff training.
- Attend in-service courses and report back to staff.
- Keep up to date with Diocesan developments/initiatives.
- Monitor standards in RE through work scrutinies.
- Engage pupils in discussion through pupil conferencing.
- Evaluate existing resources.
- Budget efficiently.
- Facilitate liaison, moderation and sharing of expertise across the Trust.

Monitoring:

Religious Education will be monitored once a term through pupil conferencing, book looks and lesson drop ins. Feedback will be given to staff and staff will be supported by the Religious Education Lead to ensure actions are being completed and moved forward.

There is a document that has been put together by the Trust to support RE leads with monitoring.

Recording of Learning:

Learning will be recorded in a variety of ways: every pupil should have an RE book to record their learning in. Classes may have floor books which will hold whole class discussions. Photos may be taken and annotated by the pupils to record their understanding of the learning that has taken place.