



### **Mission Statement**

Together we will:

- promote a catholic ethos of caring and forgiveness;
- nurture the intellectual, spiritual, moral, social and physical development of each person;
- be free to express ourselves in a safe environment;
- share in the life of our family, school and community.

Express, Forgive, Care, Share, Nurture

# **RE Policy**

'All that happens in a Catholic School, the relationships, the priorities, the aims and the objectives, the pastoral care and discipline has the potential to speak of God's loving care for each individual in the school's life'.

EDN. C. I.

*(Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)*

### **Ethos**

We seek to proclaim the love of God through the teachings of Jesus, as shown in individual behaviour and friendly relationships, celebration and worship. We endeavour to live the Gospel by values of love, acceptance, forgiveness, prayer; concern for truth, freedom, justice and respect for all people, and appreciation and care of God's world. This is affirmed in our Mission Statement.

This atmosphere should be revealed through our everyday life in school, in our learning, our prayer and our sharing, where each child is affirmed and valued and in collaboration with Parents, the Parishes, and the wider community.

### **Context**

In helping the children to know, understand and appreciate the spiritual and religious dimensions of life as expressed in the Catholic faith tradition, teachers endeavour to respect and value the contributions of children, staff, parents, governors, priests, parishioners and the wider community. Teachers follow programmes of study in the 'God Matters' scheme and this now relates closely to the RE Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and the Broad areas of Attainment. Parents are welcome to discuss any concerns about their children, including the spiritual, academic and moral development. They are encouraged to share in the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Priests are welcome in the classrooms and the staff room, and to share with the children and staff the preparation of school liturgies to which parishioners and parents are also invited.

Throughout the term classes participate in a Class Mass – this is done on a rota basis when possible. Parents and parishioners are invited to share in assemblies, class acts of worship, in Carol and Easter services and the May and Harvest assemblies. Whole school Masses are held each term and there is a leavers' Mass in July.

Teachers are responsible for their own R.E. In the classrooms there are times set aside for prayer each day. The R.E. co-ordinator assists any Non-Catholic teacher with the planning of R.E. lessons for their class.

Msgr Bart Nannery is the school Chaplain and the main celebrant at Masses involving the school.

We recognise that the home has the greatest influence on the children; there is a wide cross-section of families, including committed and non-practising Catholics as well as families from other Christian and Non-Christian traditions, all of whom are encouraged to take an active part in all celebrations.

Children are exposed to Christian values in all areas of the curriculum through the nature of the school and the dedication of staff.

### **Aims and Objectives**

We aim to guide children towards knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, and encourage spiritual growth through the experience of a Christian caring community.

In deepening their own personal faith commitment children must be encouraged to respect those from other faith backgrounds and other Christian traditions.

God's loving kindness should be experienced in a community where children feel loved, confident and secure. Feelings of wonder, joy, care and understanding should be fostered through experience, liturgy and atmosphere.

Knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes should be developed. The ages, needs, abilities and experiences of individual pupils must be taken into account.

### **Content**

The important broad areas of study in relation to Catholic Doctrine and practice are:

Learning about Religion: Knowledge and Understanding of:

- i) Beliefs, teachings and sources
- ii) Celebration and ritual
- iii) Social and moral practices and way of life

Learning from Religion: Reflection on Meaning

- i) Engagement with own and others' beliefs and values
- ii) Engagement with questions of meaning & purpose

### **Skills**

Through the programmes of study pupils should develop a range of skills, including:

- investigation skills
- communication skills
- critical skills
- affective and social skills
- evaluation skills

leading to the development of attitudes:

- wisdom
- understanding
- right judgement
- courage
- knowledge
- reverence
- awe and wonder

Learning objectives are stated in the Broad Areas of Attainment. (Appendix 1)

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### **Planning**

Planning for children's learning is based on the 'God Matters' programme as a resource.

Learning Outcomes, teaching and assessment strategies, children's activities, differentiation and resources should be included on a weekly lesson plan.

Liturgical seasons and specific times of celebration are included in the long term planning.

God Matters planning is described in Appendix 2.

### **Prayer**

Prayer as communication with God is part of a special relationship with God as friend.

It is important for children to be familiar with traditional prayers but also to realise that prayer is appropriate at any time, in any place.

Atmosphere, stillness, music, focal points and experience should be considered in helping children to pray. We need to be silent before God and listen to Him.

Prayer should reflect the essence of our lives: joy and sorrow, belonging and loneliness, praise, thanksgiving, wonder, peace, celebration.

Formal prayers are introduced gradually, children becoming familiar with traditional prayers through hearing them and joining in, singing, and focusing on small phrases. They are introduced to gestures such as the Sign of the Cross, genuflecting, bowing, sharing sign of Peace, joining hands.

At the beginning and end of the school day, at lunchtime, during R.E. lessons and any other times there may be prayer. Children's individual and family circumstances and the wider world are remembered.

Prayers are listed in Appendix 3.

### **Worship**

Recognising the central place of Liturgy and worship in our Catholic tradition and respecting the needs and experiences of those taking part, we encourage children to be actively involved, ensuring a sense of belonging. We also welcome parents, priests and parishioners. The teachers prepare a weekly Act of Worship with the whole school.

In class Acts of Worship, children and teachers share their thoughts, feelings and experiences with the school community.

School or class Acts of Worship may reflect the liturgical year or a topic being explored by a class, appropriate to the age and needs of the children.

When there is no whole school or Key-Stage based Act of Worship, then an in-class Act of Worship takes place.

An atmosphere conducive to prayer should be established. Optional Daily prayers are provided for each class to use as appropriate.

Focal Points are included in all classrooms. These are usually connected to the time of the Liturgical Year and to the Topic currently being studied. These points are a focus for both individual and collective prayer in the classroom.

**Celebration of Mass**

The children and staff take part in the celebration of Mass in church on Holy Days, certain other Feasts days, and important days in the school year, including the beginnings and end of the school year; usually twice a term in the Cathedral in addition to regular class masses. Children read the Word of God and prayers of Intercession. Singing is a major part of all our celebrations. Parents and parishioners are always welcomed. Children assist Msgr Nannery during mass by presenting the gifts, serving and reading. In addition, the school (with Holy Cross) leads the celebration of a Sunday Mass for First Holy Communion. Year 6 leavers have a special Mass during their final term at The Cathedral School.

**Scripture**

The Bible tells us the story of God’s love. We are God’s people created and called by Him.

Old and New Testament writers used stories, statements, songs and letters to convey a message about their experiences, understanding and relationship with God. Teachers must be sensitive to the Bible and to the children, be familiar with Bible passages, aware of their theological implications, meaning and context.

Material selected should be suited to the age and development of the children, and related to their life experience.

**Sacraments**

God’s love and presence are made real and celebrated in the seven Sacraments of the Church. Each of these takes hold of an important moment in life and helps people to appreciate more deeply who God is, what God is like, and what God is doing everywhere and for all.

Children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in Year 3, or at any time thereafter. Parents play an important part in the preparation by attending meetings and Masses, and by encouraging children with homework.

**Signed ~ Co-ordinator .....**

**Date.....**

**Signed ~ Governor**

**.....Date.....**

**Adopted:**

**To be Reviewed:**

## Appendix 1: Learning Objectives

	AT 1: Learning about Religion: Knowledge and Understanding of:		
	<b>i) Beliefs, teachings and sources</b>	<b>ii) Celebration and ritual</b>	<b>iii) Social and moral practices and way of life</b>
	Pupils	Pupils	Pupils
<b>1</b>	Recognise some religious stories	Recognise some religious signs and symbols and use some religious words and phrases	Recognise that people because of their religion act in a particular way
<b>2</b>	Retell some special stories about religious events and people	Use religious words and phrases to describe some religious actions and symbols	Describe some ways in which religions is lived out by believers
<b>3</b>	Make links between religious stories and beliefs	Use a developing religious vocabulary to give reasons for religious actions and symbols	Give reasons for certain actions by believers
<b>4</b>	Describe and show understanding of religious sources, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences: making links between them	Use religious terms to show an understanding of different liturgies	Show understanding of how religious belief shapes life
<b>5</b>	Identify sources of religious belief and explain how distinctive religious beliefs arise	Describe and explain the meaning and purpose of a variety of forms of worship	Identify similarities and differences between peoples' responses to social and moral issues because of their beliefs

	AT2: Learning from Religion: Reflection on Meaning	
	<b>i)Engagement with own and others' beliefs and values</b>	<b>ii)Engagement with questions of meaning &amp; purpose</b>
Level	Pupils	Pupils
1	Talk about their own experiences and feelings	Say what they wonder about
2	Ask and respond to questions about their own and others' experiences and feelings	Ask questions about what they and others wonder about and realize that some of these questions are difficult to answer
3	Make links to show how feelings and beliefs affect their behaviour and that of others	Compare their own and other people's ideas about questions that are difficult to answer
4	Show how own and others' decisions are informed by beliefs and values	Engage with and respond to questions of life in the light of religious teaching
5	Explain what beliefs and values inspire and influence them and others	Demonstrate how religious beliefs and teaching give some explanation of the purpose and meaning of human life

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## **Appendix 2: Planning God Matters**

Each module of work will have its own identified aim, key experiences, attitudes, skills, concepts and resources, and allow for varied modes of response through art, music, movement, a variety of spoken and written language styles and prayer. Knowledge, understanding of concepts and skills can be assessed, but judgements relating to personal faith should not be made.

**See Unit Planner and Planner for 2014/15 attached.**

### **Appendix 3:**

#### **Traditional Prayers introduced to the children:**

##### **Nursery/Reception**

Sign of the Cross

Morning and Evening Prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Responses at Mass (And with your spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God.)

Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Simple Litanies of thanks and praise

Prayerful reflection on the day

Prayers for the blessing of the Advent Wreath

Prayers for the lighting of the Advent Candle

##### **Key Stage 1**

All those listed above, plus:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father

Morning Offering

Grace at Meals

Simple Magnificat

Come Holy Spirit

Act of Sorrow

Prayers at Mass (Lord have mercy, Prayers of Intercession, Eucharistic Prayer)

Prayers used at Baptism

Prayer for Lent (This is the Wood of the Cross)

Simple examination of conscience

##### **Key Stage 2**

All those listed above, plus:

I confess

Angelus

Benedictus

Magnificat

Eternal rest

Act of Love

Act of Contrition (short and long)

The Rosary

Stations of the Cross

Prayers at Mass:

Penitential Rite

Glory to God

Creed

Offertory Prayers

Eucharistic Prayers

Holy Holy  
Lamb of God  
Rite of dismissal  
Litany of the Saints  
Prayers used for Sacramental Rites  
Prayers from the liturgy for special feasts  
Funeral Mass Prayers  
Blessing and giving of ashes  
Saints' prayers, e.g. St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis of Assisi