



Christ The King Federation

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St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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St Francis RC Primary School

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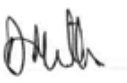


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

FEDERATION MISSION STATEMENT

Christ The King Federation is a community called by God to work collaboratively for the common good; providing an environment that nurtures and inspires pupils to realise their potential, as we journey together.

This federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment

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1. Introduction

We begin by echoing those questioning words of invitation, which are the first words of Christ to his disciples in the Gospel of St John: 'What do you seek?' (John 1:38).

We seek to foster in our children a true understanding of the Catholic faith, a reverence for God and a sense of love and respect for one another. Viewed in this context, Religious Education permeates every aspect of school life.

2. Aims Of Our Moral Education Related To God

Our children learn that:

- Creation is a gift from God.
- Jesus is a model. He is someone who tells us that if we are to find life, we must love God with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves (Lk 10: 27-28).
- The Holy Family is sacred.
- St Joseph is the patron of our school.
- Our Lady is the mother of Jesus and ourselves.
- The apparitions of Mary fill us with hope.
- Comfort is found in the Holy Spirit.
- The saints are called by God to be holy.
- The mass is a celebration of our faith.
- Knowledge and tolerance of other religions is the key to social harmony.

3. Implementation

To achieve our aims we use the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* coupled by the *Come and See* programme of Religious Education. "Come and See" is developed through three themes based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council. These are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living." This is achievable through strict adherence to our Mission Statement: 'Through our loving God we follow in the footsteps of St Joseph who helps us to be gentle, caring and hardworking. As we learn together, we love, value and welcome everyone'.

Jesus said '*Love one another as I have loved you*'

St Francis is a loving community, respecting every child and adult and caring for God's World, as we help each other to do our best and grow together in Christ.

a) Overview of Content

(i) Foundation and Focus

Each term, the mystery of life is explored within the Catholic faith tradition.

Autumn:	God, Creator	Life – Creation.
Spring:	God, Saviour	Dignity - Incarnation
Summer:	God, Spirit	Purpose - Redemption

(ii) Themes

The basic question/belief for each term is explored through three kinds of themes:

Community of Faith– Church Themes

Autumn:	Domestic Church	Family
Spring:	Local Church	Community
Summer:	Universal Church	World

Celebration in Ritual – Sacraments

Autumn:	Baptism/Confirmation	Belonging
Spring:	Eucharist	Relating
Summer:	Inter-relating	Reconciliation

Way of Life

Autumn:	Advent/Christmas	Loving
Spring:	Lent/Easter	Giving
Summer:	Pentecost	Serving

(iii) Topics

Four topics are provided for the exploration of each theme

b) The Process – Skills and Attitudes

The process for delivering the ‘Come and See’ programme has seven elements: Recognise, Reflect, Respect, Relate, Rejoice, Remember; and Renew. Reference to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* enables the development of skills and the fostering of attitudes. The topics outlined above cultivate a variety of skills and attitudes appropriate to the age and ability of each child:

(i) Skills

The skills we aim to address are:

- Reflective skills
- Interpretation skills
- Critical skills
- Evaluation skills
- Questioning skills
- Communication skills
- Social skills

Attention to the above is consistent in all stages of the curriculum ie Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

(ii) Attitudes

Through programmes of study and the skills developed, it is our intention to help pupils develop:

- A respect of God
- A respect for oneself
- A respect for other
- A respect for our environment
- A clear sense of right and wrong
- A sense of personal responsibility.

4. World Religions

Two other world religions are taught following the Come and See Guidelines during two designated terms. These are Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism and are taught on a rota basis.

5. Planning

The RE Co-ordinator generates a term overview of topics and distributes it to each class teacher. This denotes topics to be planned, taught and assessed. The short term planning of teachers is in accordance with the following:

- Objectives to be taught
- Main Teaching Activity
- Differentiated activities appropriate to age/ability and learning styles
- Plenary activity
- Evaluation of lesson
- Resources used

Teaching of the *Come and See* topics takes place in the classroom through a selection of differentiated activities including storytelling, role play, painting, discussion, hot seating, reading, independent research and assembly. Past planning is catalogued in RE class folders to assist with evidence, monitoring and pupil assessment.

6. Assessment

The RE- Co-ordinator distributes to class teachers assessment forms that provide for pupils own self-evaluation. At the end of each topic, children are assessed on what they have learned by the teacher. This is in line with the revised standards for RE Assessment. Assessment is then catalogued in RE class folders to assist with evidence and monitoring.

7. Journey in Love

The Journey in Love programme is used to teach relationships and sexual education. The children realise that their own sexuality is a gift from God. Approved by BRES, the programme centres on respect for self, for others and ultimately - God the Creator. St John says that God is love (1 John 4:8) and the whole purpose of Christianity is to live it as fully as possible in and

through love. This means that we have to link every aspect of our being, from birth to death, with love. In the words of Dr Jack Dominian who forwards the *Journey in Love* syllabus:

‘The whole purpose of education at home, in the primary school is to connect every aspect of growth, physical, emotional, intellectual and social with love’.

8. Prayer

A prayerful atmosphere is integral to our school life. Our school day begins with a prayer of hope and ends with thanksgiving. Religious icons are in situ in all classrooms and children actively participate in religious assemblies. A personalised prayer book is distributed to every child on entry to our school. At different times throughout the year, children elect to attend lunchtime Rosary group and offer their private intentions.

Class masses are held throughout the academic year. In addition, the school regularly attends Mass with the wider parish community. Children of all ages and ability participate in the following services:

Feast of All Saints; Christmas Mass; Education Sunday; Ash Wednesday; Feast of St Joseph; Corpus Christi; Feast of St Peter and St Paul; Going Forth Mass; Leavers Mass; End of Term Mass.

Whole school assemblies are convened to mark days/events specific in the Catholic Calendar.

9. Saints

St Joseph's Saints

In order to celebrate the call to holiness of our saints, each class studies a particular saint:

- St Joseph – Reception Class
- St Catherine of Siena – Year 1
- St Christopher – Year 2
- St Bernadette of Lourdes – Year 3
- St Thérèse of Lisieux – Year 4
- St Francis of Assisi – Year 5
- St Padre Pio - Year 6.

St Francis Saints

- St Francis – Reception Class
- St Christopher – Year 1
- St Bernadette – Year 2
- St John Bosco – Year 3
- St Patrick – Year 4
- St John Payne – Year 5
- St George - Year 6.

10. School and Community

We celebrate parents as the primary contributors to our children's moral growth. We warmly welcome parents, guardians and other interested visitors to our school masses, and class assemblies. In addition, a term newsletter of topics is generated and distributed to parents. This provides an opportunity for further exploration of skills in the home environment.

Children are made aware of their social responsibility to assist those less fortunate than themselves. As part of our development strategies, we involve the children in charity fundraising events throughout the year. This is particularly evident during Harvest, Advent and Lent.

11. RE Co-ordinator

The RE Co-ordinator attends regular meetings organised by BRES and reports back to the rest of the staff. At the start of each term, the onus is on him/her to provide a reflective overview of each topic to teaching staff. A termly overview is presented to each class teacher to ensure consistency throughout the school.

The RE Co-ordinator is available to support members of staff not of the Catholic faith. In addition he/she arranges for staff inset/retreat days throughout the year.

Masses are planned in conjunction with the schools' Parish Priest who assumes an active role in school life.

12. Resources

A range of material resources, including music and artefacts of the Catholic faith and other religions are used to supplement the syllabus. Each class teacher has a copy of the *Come and See* folder. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is available for reference.

St Joseph's School is committed to developing the use of on line resources (*Come and See Website*) in Religious Education.

As the Church building and school are situated together this provides an ideal opportunity for prayer and celebration.

13. Conclusion

Our Mission Together prayer sums up the holistic dimension of Religious Education in our school:

May all the children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship, and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. Amen.