

Keyham Barton Primary Catholic School



Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy.

Reviewed September 2015

Our Mission: *(currently under review by school community)*

The Governors and Staff of Keyham Barton Roman Catholic Primary School acknowledge that the process of Catholic Education is a sacred task entrusted to them by the Lord for the formation of the children given into their care, that with them, they might grow in Christ and come to know their ultimate destiny in God, the Giver of all Life.

Recognising that parents are the prime educators of their children, Governors and Staff are committed to a partnership with them, based on mutual respect for their differing roles and responsibilities in meeting appropriately the needs of the children at their own stage of development and affording to each one the value and dignity which is their right as a child of God.

As a Community whose members seek to live by Gospel values, we are committed to supporting our children as they search for the meaning of life and to assisting them in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for a wholesome life in our society.

To this end we desire to create an atmosphere of Faith within the school where the principles of the Gospel permeate daily life and strive to foster the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social and physical development of each member of the school community.

Our School Community shares in the wider mission of the Church giving witness to the Light of Christ in our immediate community and beyond.

~ Religious Education ~

“Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. It is of prime importance, however, that sound educational and pastoral principles determine the ways in which these are explored in the school community. It is not sufficient to provide opportunities for such experiences; it is the task of the school to promote and develop an active participation in prayer, worship and liturgies.”

(Evaluating the distinctive nature of a Catholic School. CES 1994

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Since the total curriculum in our school embedded in the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in our school.

1. **Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education** - those opportunities which arise in the course of a school day to lead children through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implication. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.
2. **Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education** - those timetabled of planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the policy of this school to give 10% of the timetable at KS1 and KS2 to curriculum RE.

Aims of Religious Education:

The Religious Education curriculum will:

- Seek to help each person to live and grow in our community in a way that reflects human dignity and purpose;
- Make a significant contribution to the children's self-understanding as human beings, capable of responding in integrity and freedom to the invitation of God and the challenges to life;
- Promote a gradual opening of the mind and heart in the search for truth about God, respect for people of other faiths and a willingness to recognise goodness wherever it exists.

The Religious Education curriculum will provide a comprehensive and systematic study of the God Matters programme. This will allow children to:

- Grow in knowledge of and openness to the mystery;
- Become familiar with the person, life and teachings of Jesus;
- Grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Church, its life and teachings and its significance in the world today.
- Prepare for, participate in and appreciate Personal and Liturgical Prayer and Worship;
- Develop a moral and ethical awareness as they reflect on the human condition and on their own lives and the lives of others in the light of the Christian message.
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Through sound teaching which reflects children's and young people's capacity for learning and growing the Keyham Barton Catholic Primary School's Religious Education will:

- Be informed by a range of teaching styles and a whole variety of ways that children learn, and will enable teachers to select from or devise appropriate learning experiences;
- Affirm all pupils values and worth and build upon their own experiences;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to recognize, appreciate and develop their own talents and skills;
- Promote the development of independence so that children are encouraged to accept responsibility for their own learning and to make more full and informed responses and choices in relation to God, Faith and service of others.

Programme of Study (World Faiths):

10% of curriculum time is RE teaching and learning not including Masses, assemblies, class worship and prayer.

At Keyham Barton Catholic Primary School, we use the 'God Matters' curriculum strategy adopted by the Diocese. This approaches the teaching of RE in a cross-curricular manner which fits in with our whole school creative curriculum. A variety of methods are used to teach RE and make the Bible Stories and Catholic worship more meaningful.

These include:

- Whole class teaching

- Group work
- Individual study and research
- Role play and drama
- Use of ICT
- Videos
- Visiting speakers
- Visits to church
- Using pictures and artefacts to stimulate thought and discussion within the strategy there are opportunities to study other faiths with extra resources available to teachers in the RE resource area (staffroom).

Assessment and Monitoring:

The role of assessment in RE is not to assess individual children's personal faith or spirituality (AT2), but to feed back into planning and teaching to ensure teaching builds on children's knowledge and understanding (AT1) and children are encouraged in the development of their faith. The 'God Matters' strategy has an assessment element.

AT1: Learning *about* religion ('head')

AT2: Learning *from* religion ('heart')

The Headteacher and RE coordinator will review the planning and undertake work scrutinies in line with the school monitoring policy. Termly Learning Walks will take place and will include aspects of RE.

Role of the Subject Leader:

The RE coordinator leads the staff in developing their practice of Religious Education by;

- facilitating the sharing of good practice;
- by supporting staff and offering advice at staff meetings and in informal conversations;
- by ensuring that the resources needed are available to staff and children; by
- by providing training with regard to planning, record keeping and assessment.

The coordinator, with the support of staff

- develops and extends the Catholic ethos of the school in relation to Worship, Prayer, Scripture, Assemblies, the Mission Statement and the general life of the school.
- seeks to strengthen the links between Home, School and Parish and endeavours to build a truly Christian Community united in the love of God and the teachings of Christ.
- organises opportunities to celebrate children's achievements in Religious Education.

School and Community:

- Parents and Parishioners are invited to participate in School Masses and Assemblies. Copies of the Parish Newsletter are available in our reception area and on our website, and the school newsletter is available in the Church. Children are prepared for First Holy Communion within the Parish with the support of the school and the RE Leader.
- We try to develop in the children a sense of care and concern towards other people in the community. We do this by involving the children in charity fundraising events throughout the year. At Harvest time the children bring gifts of food, which are then donated to the Plymouth Food Bank after the Harvest Mass. The school supports local and international charities as part of our Lent and Advent preparations.
- Through these and other activities the children become aware of the needs of other people both near and far and develop sensitivity, generosity and a sense of responsibility towards their neighbours.

~ Collective Worship ~

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities for:

- Contemplation of the mystery of God
- Reflection on spiritual and moral issues
- Exploration of belief and deepening faith
- Response to and celebration of life
- Experiencing a sense of belonging and developing a community spirit
- Developing a common ethos and shared values
- Enrichment of religious experience
- Growth in liturgical understanding
- Reinforcement of traditional Catholic prayers
- Reinforcement of positive attitudes
- Experience of 'wonder and awe', 'coming to terms with' life, 'giving worth' to others

Collective worship is at the heart of our role as a Catholic School. Keyham Barton is fortunate to have access to the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer. All classes are encouraged to use the church for individual or collective worship. We worship together as a school and as Key Stages; as classes around a focal point and with our Parish in school or church Masses.

Mass

The celebration of the Eucharist is the 'Source and Summit' of the Church's life, and the highpoint of our worship here at Keyham Barton. Those who form any part of our Catholic school community rightly celebrate Mass together weekly, usually on Wednesdays or Holy Days, either with the whole school, or in class groups. These celebrations are open to the parish community, parents and carers and friends of the school. The school also serves children from other denominations and faiths and this is respected appropriately.

Children attend Mass regularly as a whole school or in class groups. The Mass schedule is agreed by the RE coordinator and the Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Parish at the start of each school year. Mass themes follow the agreed sequence of 'God Matters' as well as the Liturgical Year. Children participate actively in school/class masses, taking responsibility for the readings, prayers and for the offertory. Adults support the younger children at the beginning of the year. In the week preceding a Mass, the children involved present their parents/guardians with personalised invitations. They are also invited to play an active role.

Acts of Worship:

- Whole school acts of worship are led by the headteacher or the deputy headteacher on Monday afternoons. These acts of worship are linked to the 'God Matters' units or to the liturgical year and often focus on the Sunday Gospel reading. Due to the restrictions of our hall, we are unable to accommodate parents at these acts of worship.

- There is a 'Prayer and Praise' act of worship on Wednesday afternoons (unless there has been a whole school Mass that day) led by the deputy headteacher.
- Class acts of worship take place on Tuesdays and Thursday with partner classes coming together at least twice termly.
- Each term there is an opportunity to parents to join their children for Class Acts of Worship. These take place in classrooms, in the school hall or in the church.
 - Autumn Term:
 - Year 6 and EYFS - Christingles
 - Year 5 and Year 2 - The Advent Wreath
 - Year 4 and Year 1 - Crib Figures
 - Year 3 - Reconciliation
 - Spring Term:
 - Year 1 - The Temptations in the Desert
 - Year 2 - The Last Supper
 - Year 4 - Palm Sunday
 - Year 5 - The Agony in the Garden
 - Year 6 - The Stations of the Cross
 - Year 3 - Easter
 - Summer Term:
 - Class liturgies held in classrooms and led by the Parish Priest or the class teacher.

(Themes to link with God Matters.)

Daily Act of Worship

A further important experience of our school community is the daily act of worship. This is organised in terms of grouping, times and places by staff in order to suit the needs of all. It is important that the purpose of these gatherings is clear in the minds of those who organise them and those who participate in them. Due sensitivity to the nature of worship and its setting, and to what is appropriate to such a wide range of ages and stages of development, must be shown.

The Sacraments

Baptised Catholic children in Year 3 and upwards are encouraged to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Parents who request the sacraments for their children need to be prepared to attend the Parish Sunday Mass regularly with their child, and also bring them to the weekly sessions of catechesis, with the group which meets in the parish each week during term time, and is led by two parish catechists. The school has a supportive role in the process, reminding the children of the meaning of the sacraments and encouraging the children to be reverent at Mass.

Prayer

Children are taught a range of formal prayers which are said at key times during the day. They are also encouraged to offer their own personal prayers at assembly or to record their prayers in the prayer book/box in the foyer. Teachers offer a range of opportunities to develop prayer in their classrooms during their class acts of worship. Music and silence are important to foster the reflective sense as well as the learning of the main Catholic and school prayers and hymns. We encourage children to take an active part in both planning and leading collective worship at Keyham Barton

Policy reviewed: Autumn 2015

Signed: Head teacher: _____

Signed: Chair of Governors: _____

Next review: Autumn 2017

Appendices

Children will be expected to know the following prayers by the end of their time at Keyham Barton Catholic Primary School.

New arrivals to the school will be given opportunities to learn the Sign of the Cross and The Our Father.

Foundation and Key Stage One:

- The Our Father
- Morning prayer
- Grace before Meals
- Hail Mary
- Grace after Meals

Key Stage Two (all of the above):

- Act of Contrition (First Holy Communion group)
- Glory Be
- Eternal Rest

They should also be familiar with the following prayers:

- The Creed
- The Confiteor
- The Rosary

Mass Timetable attached