

## Rationale for Religious Education

The aim of Religious Education in our Curriculum is to give shape and make links to the whole curriculum. Our aim is to permeate all aspects of education in our school with Gospel values creating a Catholic Christian community. The ethos of our school is of prime importance. The children follow and demonstrate our Mission Statement. 'Always treat others how you would like them to treat you.' (Matthew 7:12) We understand the importance of our Catholic faith and traditions, fostering a love for God and the Gospel where children can identify themselves as Christians more importantly value theirs and others' individuality.

We understand how important it is to explore and deepen our faith. Oracy is paramount in R.E. we emphasise to children the importance of contributing their views/opinions and validating them with evidence/background knowledge. Children will therefore discuss the key question at the beginning of a topic, footprint at the end of their topic of what they will take into their daily life; this helps to develop their questioning and probing of others' opinions. Moreover, pupils are becoming aware that others have different views and beliefs.

Our diocese follow the 'Come and See' programme of study. The Bishop's requirement is that 10% of teaching time is allocated to RE across the school. Foundation and KS1 2.15 hrs. KS2 2.30 hrs. The programme develops through three themes, which we gradually explore each time at greater depths. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. The Scheme of work covers an established focus throughout the year with teacher's notes, overview, explore, reveal and respond. Activities, which are planned, by RE leads across the diocese, incorporating story, drama, music, art, dance, experiences and questioning. In addition to this, children learn about two additional faiths where we have visitors and workshops for them to gain a deeper insight. It is important for children to develop a diverse understanding of others' faith and cultures therefore as a school, in the autumn term, we all study Judaism; then in the summer term each year group will study a different faith e.g Sikhism, Hinduism.

At the end of each topic, as a whole school, we share and celebrate children's work and their achievements with a Rejoice and Gather assembly. Children will receive a certificate of achievement and have the opportunity to read and discuss what they have been learning throughout a specific topic.

Learning in Religious Education is not limited to specific lesson times as meaningful connections are made throughout the curriculum for instance Music (learning new hymns); History researching and comparing similarities and differences. Collective Worship also takes place and older children are encouraged to lead through prayer and reflection.

We understand the impact adults and older children can have on younger children that is why our Faith Friends in year 6 are valuable in developing and promoting prayer and support to their peers and younger children. Year 6 Faith Friends support younger children with: collective worship; praying the rosary; leading assemblies, with the assistance of the RE lead and hymn singing. Therefore, this helps to develop the younger children's love and understanding of their faith.

Our school is not only part of a community of faith, but more importantly, we are a universal family in which each member participates, fully aware that all our work and aspirations derive from Jesus Christ. We strive to ensure that our children help those in our local and wider community through supporting projects such as: The Local Homeless Shelter, Corby Foodbank, Mary's Meals and Mission Together. In doing this, we are helping those in our local and wider community therefore identifying and relating to others' needs.

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