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RE & Collective Worship Policy

Policy Reference:	RE1
Responsibility:	Curriculum and Standards Committee
Reviewed by:	Anne Mulholland
This Review:	April 2018
Next Review Due:	April 2020
Cycle:	Two Yearly
Ratified by Full Governing Body on:	21 May 2018
Signed:	
Gerard Owens	Chair of Governors

***With Christ as our guide and example we celebrate the uniqueness of the individual.
Together we will try to:
Learn from Jesus;
Love like Jesus;
Live like Jesus.***

The RE and Collective worship in St Patrick's School, supports the mission statement. Therefore all members of the school community strive to create an environment in which the young are enabled to be the people that God intended them to be and to grow in faith, with a strong sense of Jesus as their example.

Aims

- Teach the main principles of the Catholic faith.
- Provide opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God.
- Assist parents in their role as the first educators of their children.
- Build on the experience of belonging to a faith community and to complement the work of the parish.
- Enable children to become familiar with religious language, symbols, and different styles of worship and prayer.
- As a Rights Respecting School, offer a knowledge and awareness of other faiths, including those in our school community, as stated in article 30 of the UNCRC.

Objectives

- Encourage children to learn more about God through their understanding of Scripture.
- Enable every child to express their views with confidence.
- Provide well organised good quality resources for teachers and staff.
- Ensure that RE teaching and worship is regularly monitored and assessed.
- Encourage and maintain close links with the parishes from which members of our school community come.
- Maintain close links with parents through the RE newsletters, questionnaires, collective worships and assemblies.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of other faiths.

Guidelines

- 10% of teaching time is to be given to RE (in line with the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales). This is two and a half hours in the Juniors and two and a quarter hours in the Infants.
- God Matters will be taught according to the guidance given in the syllabus, which is relevant to the age group of the classes. 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.
- RE will be taught through direct teaching, integrated lessons, visits, visitors, and prayers.
- Collective worship is to take place either as a whole school, Key Stage or in individual classes, on a daily basis.
- The School will follow the Liturgical year, alongside God Matters, with emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
- 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.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in Mass, Collective Worship and Assemblies and to discuss the faith development of their children at mutually convenient times.
- The school supports the parish Sacramental programmes of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for both its feeder parishes. Holy Day and Feast Day Masses are celebrated by the Parish Priest in School and the Leavers' Mass in July takes place at the local Church of Our Lady Help of Christians. Parish and school initiatives are encouraged through reciprocal advertisements and contact is made with the Parish Pastoral Council to help maintain this continuity.

Staff Development

- All members of the school community are encouraged to develop their own confidence and expertise through in-service training.
- Provision will be made through PPA for the RE manager to monitor assessment throughout the school.

Collective Worship

- The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship in this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.
- There is a legal requirement that a daily act of Collective worship is provided for all pupils, with assemblies being a distinct activity, therefore it takes place outside the time allocation for RE.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective worship.

The purpose of Collective Worship is to allow all staff and pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Explore beliefs more deeply

Therefore all the Acts of Worship in St Patrick's will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school
- Be based on Scripture, provide an opportunity to reflect on that scripture and make a personal response to it.
- Provide positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to the age and aptitude of the children as well the Church's seasons, Diocesan scheme, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Develop pupil's skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

Recording

Evidence of Collective Worship will be through the planning, resources, displays, prayers, reflections and photographs.

The Role of the Manager is to:

- Formulate and maintain the RE/Collective Worship policy
- Ensure that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the School development plan.
- Ensure that Collective Worship 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 and headteacher 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 Collective Worship.
- 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.
- Develop resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters.
- Budget efficiently.