

## **SAINT ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUXTON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY 2016**

### **Mission Statement**

In accordance with the wishes of the Roman Catholic Bishops of England and Wales that schools set out clearly what they are attempting to achieve with their pupils, the Governors and staff of St. Anne's Catholic Primary School believe that the following statements represent the overall mission of our school:

**The mission of Saint Anne's Catholic Primary School is to lead our children to be like Jesus .....  
wise, caring, honest and fair, today and everyday.**

**We aim to achieve this by:**

- 1. Recognising the needs and talents of our children in our teaching;**
- 2. Ensuring our appreciation of all the staff;**
- 3. Celebrating our thanksgiving through Mass, assembly, work and play;**
- 4. Welcoming and valuing all people and respecting all property;**
- 5. Looking to the needs of those both near and far;**
- 6. Using our time and efforts well;**

**We embrace Catholic tradition but recognise that we are part of a multi-cultural and multi-faith society.**

**In teaching our children, we value the support given by staff, parents and governors and the direction provided by the Diocese of Nottingham and the Local Education Authority.**

By our adherence to these statements, we believe that our school will have that distinctive ethos that shows we try to live by, and promote, the teaching of Our Lord and His Church, welcoming, caring for and respecting all in its community.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Through our religious education, we aim to address the needs of all our pupils, whatever their religious backgrounds or starting points. We aim to do this by:

- using the framework provided by the 'Come and See' (Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme.)
- collective worship and class assemblies, class celebrations of topics and R.E. lessons;
- developing an awareness of the spiritual and moral issues;
- leading pupils to a deeper understanding and knowledge of Catholic tradition and strengthening their personal faith commitment;
- raising awareness and respect for other world faiths in Britain and abroad;
- encouraging children to think of their Christian compassion and support for those less fortunate than themselves;
- allowing children to reflect upon their own experiences and develop a personal response to 'life questions';
- Professional Development opportunities for all staff.

## **School Ethos**

We continually strive to support an atmosphere of love, care and acceptance by welcoming all who enter our school, reflecting Jesus' commandments to us. This ethos involves all staff, pupils, parents and the parish community.

We endeavour to extend this ethos when we are involved with the wider community in Buxton and elsewhere.

We aim to support the needs and development of all, both personal and spiritual. We encourage children to recognise R.E. as highly valued and celebrated, which permeates all areas of the curriculum and school life. We use language relevant to the understanding of the children in prayer, worship and scripture, giving them the opportunity to grow and develop at their own pace.

Children participate in a wide variety of religious celebrations including Masses in school; whole school assemblies; class-led assemblies; and celebration assemblies at Key Stage level, class level and whole school level. Parents are always welcome at school Masses and class-led assemblies.

Parents are kept informed termly about teaching and learning through the 'Come and See at Home' leaflet sent out termly.

## **Scheme of Work**

R.E. is taught through the National 'Come and See' Programme for Primary Schools. This is enriched by other materials deemed suitable by staff. We adopt a whole school approach to our teaching from Foundation Stage to Year 6, ensuring a cohesion and a topic focal point in the Hall and in classrooms.

We do this by learning about other faiths and cultures through R.E. and other areas of the curriculum. Children will therefore recognise that we belong to a multi-faith society and this understanding will help to overcome prejudice and misunderstanding from an early age.

## **Teaching and Learning**

R.E. is given a high priority within the school curriculum, taking place through time-tabled slots, cross-curricular opportunities and through general life at St. Anne's. We employ a variety of teaching and learning strategies, adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. We allocate 2 hours a week at KS1 and 2½ hours a week at KS2 for R.E.

By following the 'Come and See' programme, children are able to explore themes with a religious dimension at their own level, building on personal experience and extending their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions and scriptures.

We support and complement the 'Come and See' themes through:

- a variety of liturgy and prayer;
- exploring experiences throughout liturgical seasons and feasts;
- focusing on the needs of others e.g. CAFOD, Night stop etc.

## **Special Needs**

We ensure all children have equal access to the R.E. curriculum, regardless of their ability. R.E. forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all children. Through our teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress by ensuring that tasks are differentiated in order to meet all children's needs. Children who are exceeding the levels of expectations for their year group will be given extended work to help them reach their full potential.

## **Assessment and Record Keeping**

We make informal assessment judgements on children's work as we observe them in lessons. Formal and informal assessments on children's learning are ongoing throughout the year. Following Diocesan guidelines, we make a summary judgement based on levels of attainment agreed by the Bishops' Conference on completion of each unit of work. Children also complete formal assessments set by the diocese on a termly basis, ensuring that every child has 3 levels assessed and recorded during each academic year.

These levels are used as a basis for assessing the progress of each child, for setting new goals and for passing information on to the next teacher at the end of the year. Progress is reported to parents at the end of each academic year.

The R.E. Co-ordinator keeps samples of work in a portfolio, demonstrating what the expected level of achievement is for each year group, and assessment levels are placed on a tracking grid and monitored carefully.

## **Worship**

Worship takes place on a daily basis, either at class, key stage or whole school basis. Parents are warmly invited to our Masses, prayer services and class-led assemblies.

## **Resources**

The school has a wide range of resources which are regularly reviewed. These include multi-cultural artefacts and publications. Each class keeps a selection of resources in their classroom, relevant to the needs and age of those children.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The R.E. Co-ordinator, with the Headteacher, is responsible for monitoring the children's work and the quality of teaching in R.E. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of R.E., keeping informed about curriculum developments and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject within the school.