



# THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*With God as our Guide we will value each other and work together to achieve our best*

## RE Policy

Policy compiled by:	Juliette Kelly, Leader of RE
Responsible committee:	Full Governing Body
Approved by Governing Body:	May 2015
Review Date:	May 2016

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

### Our Mission Statement

*The Marist School is a place of teaching and learning:*

- *Where we promote the Christian growth of children in a caring environment.*
- *Where everyone is valued not just for what they do or give, but for who they are, a traveller on the way to Christ.*
- *Where children are encouraged and stimulated to achieve their full potential spiritually, academically and socially; where talents and successes are shared and celebrated.*
- *Where all staff work and grow together as a team, giving of their best and supporting each other.*
- *Where all members of the community are made to feel welcome and encouraged to take an active part in the life of the school.*

### PREAMBLE

The Marist Catholic Primary School, in partnership with the Parish and Parents, will provide quality Catholic Education. Through the love of God, we will foster individual pupils, spiritually, socially, culturally and academically, by encouraging each child to strive for personal achievement and an awareness that their contribution is necessary for the good of the community.

### AIMS:

- ❖ To deliver a curriculum which is grounded in the teachings of the Catholic faith.
- ❖ To help the children to deepen and develop their relationship with God, to their full potential.
- ❖ To help the children to develop a sense of love and responsibility, for themselves, one another, and the world around them. So that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life.
- ❖ To help children recognise and celebrate moments of awe and wonder.

- ❖ To help children foster attitudes of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgement, courage and reverence.

## **FOUNDING PRINCIPLES:**

We believe that in order to achieve our aims, it is necessary to:-

- ❖ Affirm the uniqueness of each individual.
- ❖ Provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is relevant and differentiated to the needs of each child.
- ❖ Ensure that Religious Education has its due priority as a Core subject, as accorded in Law, and to be resourced accordingly.
- ❖ Draw upon the wealth of our Catholic Heritage in both Scripture and Tradition. “Come and See” will be used as a main resource.

## **LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES:**

Religious Education is taught in line with our Learning and Teaching Policy. Within their planning, teachers will ensure there are opportunities for the development of the child through:

**INVESTIGATION** – The ability to find and record information, and ask relevant questions.

**INTERPRETATION** - The ability to recognise metaphors and symbols when studying religion, and the ability to explain significance.

**COMMUNICATION** – To develop an ability to describe and explain religious ideas and practices, and their own personal views and feelings about religion, in a variety of ways.

**CRITICAL THINKING** – The ability to compare and contrast ideas and practices, and explain their own views and opinions.

**EMPATHY** and **REFLECTION** – To develop an ability to empathise with other religious beliefs, and to participate in community prayer and celebration.

**EVALUATION** – The ability to distinguish between rules and principles, opinions and beliefs, and to make reasoned judgements and responsible choices.

**Within Religious Education lessons and through the religious life of the school, children will be offered the following experiences:**

**Scripture**      **Scripture is the story of God’s love for his people.**

We will enable the children:

- To explore stories, relate to characters and experiences, and make connections with their own lives.
- To gain a knowledge of God’s dealings with his people as shown to us through the Old and New Testaments.
- To gain a knowledge of Jesus through the stories of the Gospels.

- To become familiar with the variety and the richness of the literary forms that are found in the Bible in Psalm, Myth, Allegory/Parable and Poetry.
- To recognise that the Bible is respected and revered in the Christian Community.

**Tradition**      **Tradition is the passing on of all that God has shown about himself.**

We aim to introduce the children to, and develop their understanding of:

- Who God is (Father, perfect parent, creator.....)
- How He has dealt with us through history (creation, sin...)
- Jesus. Who He is and what He did.
- The Holy Spirit, as active in the Church today (including the sacraments and the Communion of Saints).
- What other people believe and hold sacred.

**Way Of Life**      **Christian living is our response to hearing God's Word.**

We aim to:

- Introduce children to Jesus as the perfect example of living.
- Present Jesus' Command to Love e.g. The Beatitudes, the 10 Commandments.
- Foster self-respect and personal responsibility for their own lives.
- Develop respect for others and the world around us.
- Foster a sense of service towards others.

**Prayer**      **Prayer is our reaching out to God with our whole selves.**

We will enable the children to gain the attitudes and skills of Prayer by:

- Providing a setting that is conducive to Prayer.
- Developing knowledge and understanding of the Prayers of Catholic Tradition and familiarity with them.
- Developing the language of different types of Prayer i.e. adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.
- Providing regular opportunities for Formal and Informal Prayer, times for quiet reflection and stillness, throughout the life of the school and the school day.
- The appropriate use of music, particularly the singing of traditional and modern hymns, chants and songs.
- Linking Prayer to the activities of their day and events in their lives.
- Providing opportunities for Liturgical Prayer.

**Worship**      **Worship is the ritual celebration before God of the whole of our lives.**

We will enable the children to gain the attitudes and skills of Communal Worship and liturgy by:

- Worshipping together both as a School and as a Community in Parish/School/Year/Class groups.
- Participating in the planning and celebration of Acts and Worship and Liturgies.

## **LINKS WITH OTHER FAITHS**

Children at The Marist School will learn about the beliefs, historical links, customs and festivals of Judaism and the Muslim Faith, as a key aspect of the "Come and See" programme. As with other aspects of Religious Education, this will have due regard for the age and stage of development of the children involved. Initially, we will focus on similarity rather than difference as the key to

understanding other faiths, for example identifying Symbols, common beliefs and values of Christians, Jews and Muslims.

## RESOURCES

1. All classes have a “Come and See” Teachers Book appropriate to their age group and login details for the supporting extranet resources.
2. All classes have a copy of “Listen” and/or “Praise” and several copies of the Bible or Bible Stories appropriate to the abilities of the different children.
3. All classes have a particular Focal Area in their classrooms, to aid in class prayer and worship.
4. Additional resources mentioned within the “Come and See” programme will be purchased where appropriate.
5. A centrally held store of resource material and artefacts is to be found in the RE cupboard along with collective worship resources.

## CPD OPPORTUNITIES

- For staff to develop their own religious and spiritual life.
- To improve the teaching and learning of Religious Education.
- To enable the staff to level and moderate attainment.
- To increase and develop the knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and Traditions.
- As Induction for new staff.

## ASSESSMENT

On-going RE assessment is managed through the use of levelled targets to support each topic focus.

Formal assessment takes place once a term, as per Diocesan guidelines, to identify progress and attainment and to assess the developing understanding of our pupils. Class teachers enter the results onto Pupil Asset for tracking purposes by the R.E. Leader. Class teachers will provide evidence of assessment and achievement, to be kept in a portfolio of work compiled by the RE Leader.

Staff will meet to level and agree pieces of work to update the school portfolio as and when required. (See Assessment Policy)

Written reports to parents are made once a year through the end of year report.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The RE Leader will monitor and evaluate the provision of Religious Education throughout the school by:

- Being aware of the planning process – long, medium and short term.
- Monitoring the teaching of R.E. to evaluate its implementation.
- Looking at the ‘Come and See’ programme, it’s delivery and implementation.
- Work scrutiny.

- Ensuring the prayer corners and focal areas are interactive.
- Co-ordinating, collating and moderating assessment.
  
- Working with deanery partners for consistency of practice.
- Liaising with outside agencies as appropriate, i.e. Diocese Education Service etc.

## **REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

This policy was reviewed following consultation with all staff and governors. It will be monitored annually for effectiveness and updated in the light of experience.

Policy reviewed and updated: May 2015

Date of next review: May 2016

J Kelly  
RE Leader