

Whole School Plan

For

Religious Education



Scoil Naomh Peadar
Droichead Átha

Ethos

This school is an urban school meeting the needs of the Church of Ireland and related Protestant communities within the parish of Drogheda and surrounding areas. It is a 4 teacher school. The school endeavours to promote the moral, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social development of all the pupils in its care.

The school reflects the ethos of the Church of Ireland and values of honesty, charity, kindness, patience and personal responsibility are encouraged. The teaching of Religious Education in this school will involve the beliefs, worship and witness of the Church of Ireland. Equally it encourages and practises respect for the traditions and teachings of other churches and spiritual communities.

The constitutional right of parents to withdraw their child from Religious Education is acknowledged. However, the attention of parents is drawn to the note on integration below. Due to accommodation constraints and the limited availability of staff, a child who is withdrawn from R.E. may have to remain in the classroom for the duration of the lesson.

The aims of Religious Education in this school are to enable children:

- To develop a knowledge and understanding of beliefs, worship and witness of the Christian faith, and in particular the Church of Ireland and other principal reformed traditions.
- To explore the biblical witness to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To develop their own religious beliefs, values and practices through a process of personal search and discovery.
- To develop awareness of, and sensitivity towards, those of other faiths and none.

The strands of Religious Education deal with the following areas:

- Celebrations, festivals, ceremonies and customs.
- Sacred writings, stories and key figures.
- Beliefs.
- Sacred places, worship and symbols.
- Moral values and attitudes.
- Personal search.
- Other world religions.

Parish/school links:

Parish/school links are promoted and valued by both school and parish.

- As per our Enrolment Policy, children of our parish group are given priority for admission to the school.

- The Rector is welcome to visit the school and involve himself in all areas of the R.E. Curriculum.
- School services are held in St. Peter's Church of Ireland at Christmas, Easter and the End of School Year.

Inclusion of other traditions:

As outlined in our ethos statement, our school caters primarily for the needs of the Church of Ireland community, while also encompassing other Christian traditions. Children of other faiths and none are welcomed and affirmed within the constraints of space (see Enrolment Policy).

The Follow Me Programme caters for children of the Church of Ireland together with those of other Christian communities.

All parents are made aware of the ethos and traditions of the school together with the educational programme at the time of application for enrolment.

Clergy and representatives of other traditions may be invited to the school at the discretion of the Principal and Chairperson.

Timetabling:

R.E. teaching is timetabled for 30 minutes each day. This time will be used for classroom based teaching and preparation for worship. Discretionary time may be used on occasion for Religious Education.

The school community inculcates a respect for those from other religious traditions or none while upholding the understanding of the Christian faith as practiced by the Church of Ireland. The ethos of the school will influence the entire school day and reference may be made to religious topics at any point and in any curricular area. This accords with the approach to integration in the Primary School Curriculum.

Approach in a Multi-Class Situation:

R.E. will be taught to the entire class group.

From Junior Infants to 6th Class: The appropriate books from the Follow Me Programme will be used in alternate years.

The teacher may decide to draw on other texts and resources. It is intended that a child proceeding through the school will have experienced the complete Follow Me Programme though it is not envisaged that any child would experience the entire content.

Resources needed:

Each pupil will have his/her own copy of the R.E. textbook from the Follow Me series (where applicable) and pupils from 4th to 6th Class will have the Bible available for use in the classroom. The Bible used in this school is the New International version.

- The Follow Me Programme comprising ; Here We Go, On Our Way, Stepping Out, Moving On, Log-On, On-Line and Fit for Life.
- Children's Bible.
- The Dramatised Bible.
- Great Big God CD.
- Big Blue Planet and CD.
- Junior Praise.
- Come and Sing.
- A Song in Every School CD.
- Sing to God.
- Irish Church Praise.
- Top 20 Assembly Hymns and Songs CD.
- Video.
- Posters.