



ST. WINEFRIDES' SCHOOL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Catholics believe that Religious Education is not a subject among many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It should provide context for the school curriculum and offer living experience of the life of faith in its practical expression. Religious Education is not simply a body of knowledge coterminous with Religious Studies, merely to be fitted in after time and resources have been allocated to the core subjects. Rather it stamps the Catholic school in every aspect of its operation with its distinctive Catholic character. (Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 1998.)

Our Religious Education Policy continues to reflect British Values.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bearing in mind our school Motto "Soli Deo" (Only God) and the Catholic Ethos of our school, the aims of the school are:

- To educate the whole child in a caring and Christian atmosphere.
- To encourage our children to reach their full potential, mentally, physically, socially and morally.
- To emphasise kindness, care and mutual respect.
- To promote an awareness of the needs and religious beliefs of others. This will enable them to become responsible citizens and an asset in any community.

Implementation

- At St. Winefride's we accept the descriptions of Catholic Education and Religious Education as set out by the Diocese of Shrewsbury in June 1997.
- Christian Education is a privileged means of proclaiming and revealing the life of Jesus to people so that they may have life and have it to the full. We believe that the Christian vision can enable human beings to be more human and to discover purpose and meaning in their lives.

- A Catholic school strives to be a community in which the Gospel spirit of freedom, justice and love permeates its life and work.
- The religious character of the school is not something that can be restricted to R.E. in the classroom, but must be presented as giving shape to every aspect of school life, especially the spiritual and moral development of its pupils. This also encompasses social and cultural aspects.
- An effective curriculum is based on sound educational principles. It is concerned with the development of the whole person.
- Religious education helps to recognize and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life in a way appropriate to the children's age and maturity. It allows and encourages opportunities for searching and questioning in an open manner. It seeks to challenge pupils about their own beliefs and encourages them to respect others in their own quest for meaning.
- In a Catholic school, Religious Education, while taking account of the diversity in belief and commitment, seeks to promote a deeper knowledge, appreciation and understanding of the Catholic Faith. At the same time, it respects other traditions and the ways in which they express the significance of human life.
- At St. Winefride's, our children develop an understanding of their own faith and an awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as a basis for understanding and respecting them.

AIMS

- To instil knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and life.
- To have a R.E. programme that takes into account the religious and educational needs of the children:
 - Those from Catholic homes
 - Those for whom the school may be their first and only experience of religion
 - Those from other Christian traditions
 - Those from other Faith backgrounds.

We hope to provide a moral framework within which children can acquire and develop a sense of right and wrong.

We aim:

- To help children to become more aware of and reflect on their experience of living in the world and with others (Experimental).
- To reveal to the children some aspects of God's plan for our salvation (Doctrinal).
- To help them to respond to God's love in their lives (Moral).

