

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
IN
ST. WINEFRIDE'S SCHOOL

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.
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- 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 life.
 - 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).
- ❑ To help them see God's offer of salvation in the sacraments and respond to it (Sacramental).
- ❑ To help them respond to God in prayer.
- ❑ To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer, and reflection in implicit ways.

PROGRESSION AND CONTINUITY

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ❑ We need to have a secure knowledge of Religious Education and the programmes in use – The Way, the Truth and The Life, (Veritas as appropriate)
- ❑ We will set high expectations so as to challenge pupils and deepen their knowledge and understanding.
- ❑ We must plan effectively.
- ❑ We must employ teaching strategies which match curricular objectives and the needs of all pupils including SEND.
- ❑ We assess through discussion, understanding and behaviour and their workbooks.
- ❑ By setting appropriate standards of behaviour we act in the best interests of the pupils at school.
- ❑ In EYFS, the children will be introduced to religious education through Understanding the World. EYFS also has The Way, the Truth and The Life Religious Programme.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

It is our responsibility to ensure that religious education in its fullest sense is accessible to all who come to St. Winefride's School. Children will be introduced to different world faiths throughout the year.

REVISED NOV. 2013

NOV. 2014

NOV. 2015

NOV. 2016

NOV. 2017

NEXT REVIEW DATE: NOV.2018

