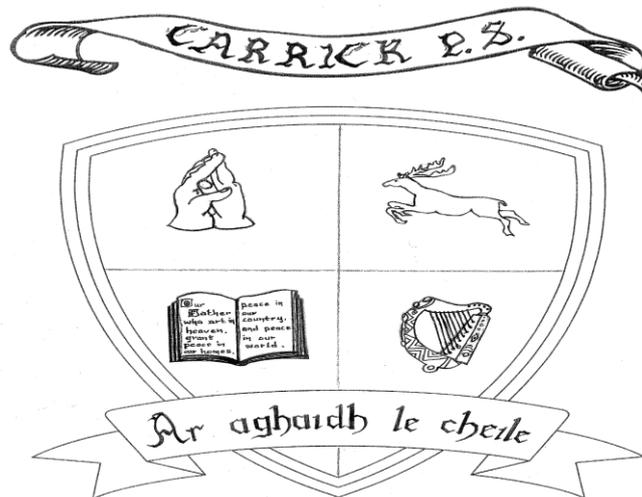


Carrick Primary School Burren



Religious Education Policy

September 2020

The Aims of Catholic Education

Providing effective education for all our children.

Developing effective Pastoral Care systems in our school.

Establishing links with the home, the parish and the wider community.

R.E Co-Ordinators

Miss B Fegan

Mrs E Harkin

Carrick Primary School

Vision Statement

Forward Together: Ar aghaidh le chéile.

Mission Statement

In Carrick Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, in order to realise and celebrate the academic and non-academic potential of all our pupils. We expect our pupils to work hard and encourage parents to assist us in helping children to learn and to become lifelong learners.

School Aims

We aim to:

- develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school;
- create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- encourage pupils to respect themselves and others and to support and care for one another;
- equip our children with the necessary life skills to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- Endorse the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention; and
- involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

Religious Education

Religious Education in Carrick Primary School is available for all children and extends beyond the requirements of the core curriculum agreed by the main churches. The school is committed to the aims, values and teachings of the Catholic faith which influences the whole curriculum and shapes the daily pattern of school life. It prepares each child for participation in the liturgy and Sacraments of the Catholic Church. There is regular corporate worship, instruction by class teachers, class assemblies and visits by the Parish Priest.

In Carrick Primary School Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic Faith and involves all members of our school community – children, parents and all other adults who contribute to the well being of each child.

We strive to create an atmosphere where God's love is experienced by all members of the school community, through their relationships with each other; where Christ is an example to all and where each child is helped to develop to his/her potential.

We believe that our Catholic School is not just an environment for providing a series of lessons; it stems from an educational philosophy which strives to meet the needs of the young people of today in the light of the Church's faith. As a result, all that happens in our school, the curriculum, discipline and our relationships, should speak to us of God's loving care for each individual.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

We, the staff of Carrick Primary School, endorse the Convention on the Rights of the Child and are working towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention.

Article 14

Every child has the right to choose their own religion and beliefs. Their parents should help them decide what is right and wrong and what is best for them.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) and Religion

The delivery of the RE Curriculum is greatly enhanced by the presence of PDMU as an area of study in the Curriculum. PDMU has much in common with religion, as it focuses attention on the children's emotional development, health and safety, relationships with others and development of moral thinking, values and actions. Both areas of study encourage each child: to become aware of their own unique existence; to become personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective; to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives; and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives

OUR AIMS

Our aims are directly related to our Mission Statement.

We strive to:

- Enable the spiritual development of each child;
- Facilitate a growth in knowledge of daily prayer;
- Reflect and affirm Christian values and teach the meaning of a Christian community;
- Help children to become familiar with the traditional forms of worship in the Catholic Church;
- Develop an understanding that there are other faith traditions;
- Create a learning environment in which every child is encouraged and enabled to develop to their full and unique potential as human beings, made in the image and likeness of God;
- Form pupils who will unselfishly use their gifts for the common good and are committed to work towards a caring society;
- Be a welcoming and inclusive community which is respectful and tolerant of all religious traditions and beliefs;
- Work in partnership with parents and with the parish community to keep the light of faith which was received at Baptism, burning brightly; and
- Provide opportunities for worship through prayer, the celebration of liturgy and the Sacraments.

The concepts we wish the children to develop include:

- Creation – the uniqueness of each of us and our role as caretakers of the earth;
- Family – community, the church community and the world family;
- Symbol – ritual, prayer, celebration and Sacrament;
- Gospel – bible stories, parables and religious language;
- The links between beliefs and values, between religion and life; and
- The importance of commitment.

The knowledge we wish to impart includes:

- The historical facts of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus;
- Some basic ideas of sacred scripture – Gospels, Revelation and Tradition;
- The value of the human person, loved by God, and loved by others;
- The value of the Sacraments; they enrich each child on his/her journey through life; and
- The call to be Christian involves a growing awareness of the rights of others and a sense of duty and commitment to the underprivileged and less fortunate.

Schemes of Work and Learning and Teaching Strategies

The principles of good teaching and learning experiences for children relate just as much to RE as to any other curriculum subject.

Children will study sometimes as a whole class, sometimes working in group situations and sometimes individually. Children can link their learning across subjects. They will be given the opportunity to discuss, question, debate and reflect in small groups. Sharing one's perspective with others is particularly important in Religion.

Our schemes of work are based on the Catholic Religious Education Programme Grow in Love. The schemes follow many of the same themes each year but at an appropriate level for each year group.

Collective Worship Policy

We believe that the Collective Worship undertaken in our school community helps to support the shared values expressed in our Mission Statement, those of care and respect for each other, thus deepening our understanding of God and his loving care for each one of us.

We value worshipping together as an integral expression of ourselves as a community.

Attitudes we wish to develop

Moral values and responsibility
Community spirit and belonging
Fairness
Respect
Empathy
Wonder and Awe

Skills we wish to develop

Listening
Reflecting
Enquiring
Sharing
Evaluating
Praying

Organisation

Daily Prayer takes place in all classes. Each class has a prayer corner/sacred space. Opportunities are given for participation through singing, reading, praying together and silent meditation.

Monday – Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two assembly in the school hall – Led by Principal

Wednesday – Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two assembly in the school hall – Class assemblies on a weekly rota basis. The assemblies include drama, readings, singing, dance and prayers.

School Masses

P4 and P7 pupils are involved in two Pre-Sacramental Masses each, in the second term. These take place in St Mary's Parish Church on a Saturday evening or a Sunday morning. Families of all the pupils are invited to attend with the pupils. On Church Holidays and Ash Wednesday P4-P7 pupils attend Mass in St Mary's Church. The P6 pupils are involved in a Christmas Mass.

Local Community and the Wider World

The Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education visits the school annually. The staff and pupils in Carrick Primary School welcome this visit and see it as an opportunity to share our knowledge of faith, prayer and the sacraments.

Parish links will be forged wherever possible through the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

The school is aware of the needs of the local community and supports local charities and organisations. Occasionally missionaries from the third world countries may visit the school and enlighten pupils about the needs of children in other parts of the world.

In Lent the school undertakes to raise money for those in need. Fund-raising is organised through various activities, to raise money for Trócaire. A cheque for the amount raised is presented to the Parish Priest before Easter.

Resources

The school's Religion resources are supplemented with text books, posters and other resources, as and when required.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read this Religion policy. It has been reviewed and updated in consultation with the staff, parents, pupils and Governors. Further reviews of the Religion Policy will take place every two years.

Signed: A Cassidy (Principal)

Signed: Mr G Murdock (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: _____

Review Date: _____