

PRIMROSE HILL NATIONAL SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Ethos

Primrose Hill School is an urban school, meeting the needs of the Church of Ireland and related Protestant communities within the parish of Celbridge. It is a six teacher school. The school endeavours to promote the moral, spiritual, emotional and 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. Equally it encourages and practices respect for the traditions and teachings of other churches and spiritual communities. The teaching of Religious Education in this school does not involve religious formation of specifically confessional teaching as this is a matter for each family and their church.

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 Due to accommodation constraints and the limited availability of staff a child who is withdrawn from RE will have to remain in the classroom for the duration of the lesson.

The aim of RE in the school is to enable children:

- To develop a knowledge and understanding of beliefs, worship and witness of the Christian faith, and in particular of 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.

The Strands of Religious Education deal with the following areas:

- Celebrations, festivals, ceremonies and customs
- Sacred writings, stories and key figures
- Beliefs
- Sacred writings, stories and key figures
- Beliefs
- Sacred places, worship and symbols
- More values and attitudes
- Personal search
- Other World Religions – 5th and 6th classes. (This is under consideration by the Religious Education Curriculum Committee).

Parish/School Links

Links between Primrose Hill School and Christchurch, Celbridge are promoted and valued by both school and parish.

- As per our enrolment policy, church of Ireland children of our parish are given priority for admission to the school.
- The rector, the Reverend Sandra Hales visits the school each Wednesday to lead our school assembly.
- A Worship based assembly takes place in the school each Friday morning. Children are encouraged to take part in both assemblies.
- A school Carol service is held in the church every December.

- Many children from the school attend Sunday School in the Church and are invited to take part in a number of other services during the 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.

The Follow Me Programme caters for children of the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist communities 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.

Timetabling

RE teaching is timetabled for 30 minutes each day. This time may be used for classroom based teaching, preparation for worship and weekly assembly. Discretionary time is also 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 the sponsoring community and related churches. However 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.

As our school has multi classes Re is taught to the entire class group. The appropriate books are used in alternate years. For example a junior and senior infant classroom would rotate Here We Go and On Our Way on alternate years. Similarly a first and second classroom would rotate Stepping Out and Moving On. 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.

In the senior room topics from Primary RE (Middle and Senior standards are selected each year. Third to sixth classes receive monthly issues of Bible Time which form the bases of the RE content. These are sent away for correction and an annual prize giving is held to which teachers, pupils and parents are invited.

Resources in the school

- Each pupil (Junior Infants to Second class) has his or her own copy of the RE textbook from the Follow Me series. These remain the property of the school and are loaned out to the children.
- The senior classes have the use of Bibles in the school. The Bible in use in the school is the Good News Bible (The Bible Societies). These Bibles remain the property of the school.
- The Follow Me Programme comprising Here We Go, On Our Way, Stepping Out and Moving On.
- Primary RE – teachers' books for the senior standard.
- Children's Bibles (Used in senior rooms).

The following are used in praise throughout the school:

- Sing and Pray
 - Church Hymnal
 - Big Blue Planet
 - Junior Praise
- (For assembly words are on overhead)

Resources needed in the school:

- More children's Bibles – a copy per pupil from 4th to 6th classes.
- Music tapes for the Big Blue planet
- Kidsource (Songs and Hymns)
- Sing and Pray – copies for the children
- Church Hymnal CD
- Posters such as those from Alive O!

Signed

Signed

Chairperson, Board of Management

School Principal

Revised: April 2008