

Religious Education Policy

St. Patrick's National School Ughtyneill



St. Patrick's National School

Ughtyneill, Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath A82 VW95

Telephone: 046-9244704

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www.ughtyneillns.com

Roll No: 12897T

Charities No: 20201805

Religious Education Policy

Introductory Statement

St. Patrick's National School's Religious Education Policy was formulated by the Principal and staff in line with the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*. This policy is an updated version of previous school practices in Religious Education and integrates the 'Grow in Love for Mult-Class Situations' supporting document which outlines a progressive scheme of work in multigrade settings. This scheme of work has now been rolled out from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. St. Patrick's National School is a co-educational primary school with 2 mainstream classrooms, Junior Infants to Second Class and Third Class to Sixth Class. St. Patrick's N. S. is located in the parish of Moynalty in the Meath Diocese. The school Patron is the Catholic Bishop of Meath, Very Rev. Tom Deenihan. The Parish Church is within short proximity of the school and Fr. Joseph McEvoy is the current parish priest. Two patron nominees sit on the Board of Management. St. Patrick's National School provides Religious Education for Catholic pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Non-Catholic pupils are welcomed into our school community and respect for all religions and for people of no faith is an important part of the school culture.

The Catholic Church and Primary Education

A certificate in Religious Education, or its equivalent, is held by teaching staff in St. Patrick's N. S. and Teachers are provided with opportunities for continuous professional development in Religions Education. The Schedule of a Catholic School is displayed in the reception area of our school and the School's Mission Statement is also in place.

Aim of Religious Education in St. Patrick's National School

The aim of Religious Education is to foster and deepen the children's faith through teaching the Catholic R.E. programme and through the cultivation of the Catholic Ethos of the school. From the outset, the experience of a pupil in a Catholic school is characterised by respect for both faith and reason. In St. Patrick's N. S, we teach children all aspects of the curriculum. We want to cherish each person as Christ would do, and we seek to work in partnership with parents in nurturing the children toward fulfilment in life and in preparing them to take their place in the world according to the gifts they have been given. In St. Patrick's N. S, pupils are helped to understand that the world is infused with the loving presence of God. Throughout the R.E. curriculum and the 'Grow in Love' programme, pupils are given an opportunity to notice, accept and celebrate the loving presence of God in their lives.

Religious Education Resources used in St. Patrick's National School

- The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland is the foundation document for all Religious Education. There is a copy of this document available to all in the school office.

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- The 'Grow in Love' Programme has been rolled out across the school. Our two mainstream classrooms have a Religious Education yearly plan, 'Grow in Love' teacher resource manuals and access to any online/interactive resources.
- The 'Grow in Love' programme allows for the differentiation of the material given in each theme and the use of additional resources is encouraged.
- Children use a 'Grow in Love' journal to document their faith journey through the school.
- There are children's bibles and Bible stories available in each classroom.
- Resources for Catholic Schools Week (CSW) are circulated to staff.

Religious Symbols in St. Patrick's National School

A 'Schedule for Catholic Schools' is displayed in the reception area.

Sacred Symbols are displayed in the school entrance area, particular symbols pertaining to the Liturgical year such as a Crib or a St. Brigid's Cross are also displayed.

Classroom Prayer Space

Each class has its own Sacred Space. Pupils are encouraged to pray and each school day begins and ends with prayer.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation is a collaborative process with home, school and parish working together to prepare pupils for the sacraments. First Penance and First Holy Communion preparation is undertaken in Second Class with Confirmation Preparation undertaken in Fifth/Sixth Class.

A general guide of the schedule for the celebration of the sacraments is as follows:

Second Class: First Penance in March /April & First Communion in May

Fifth/Sixth Class: Children receive written communication from Bishop Deenihan inviting them to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation in October/November. Confirmation ceremony in February/March.

School Based Preparation:

In St. Patrick's N. S, pupils are prepared for the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion (Second Class) and Confirmation (Fifth/Sixth Class) by their teachers. Teachers and pupils follow the preparation lessons as presented in the Grow in Love programme. Parents are notified of the dates of the sacraments early in the school year, once the dates have been agreed.

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Parish Based Preparation:

Rehearsals for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are organised by class teachers and facilitated by Fr. Joseph McEvoy in the parish church.

Partners in Religious Education

Home/School: The pivotal role of parents as primary educators of their children is recognised. The 'Grow in Love' Programme provides opportunities for the themes taught to be discussed at home. The school communicates updates on aspects of Religious Education and sacramental preparation in the school.

School/Parish: The school has close links to Fr. Joseph McEvoy PP and takes part in parish activities such as Christmas Concert, Easter hunt.

Parents' Association: The Parents' Association of St. Patrick's N. S, kindly support a reception after the First Holy Communion ceremony for the families and pupils involved.

Accommodation of Pupils of Other Faiths and None:

St. Patrick's National School welcomes pupils of other faiths and none. Pupils of other faiths and none who are in the sacramental classes are invited to partake in any organised celebrations with their classmates.

Graduation Ceremonies in St. Patrick's N. S, include prayers.

Ratification and Communication

Ratified by Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Fr. Joseph McEvoy, Chairperson

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Gráinne Flanagan, Principal

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Schedule of a Catholic School

A Roman Catholic school (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people.

The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.