

Religious Education Policy



Dunboyne Senior Primary School

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Principal: Mr. J.J. Brennan
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Introduction

Dunboyne Senior Primary School is a Catholic School under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Meath. The school models and promotes a philosophy inspired by belief in God and traditional Catholic values. We promote religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church.

Our School Charter

‘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.’

Ethos

This school enrolls pupils of all faiths and none subject to full enrolment criteria as outlined in our admissions policy. Our ethos is expressed in and through faith formation, spiritual development, the development of the full potential of the human person, inclusiveness, and the relationship with God, the world, self and others. The school respects the beliefs and practices of all in accordance with the school ethos of inclusiveness.

General Information:

Diocese: Meath

Bishop: Most Reverend Thomas Deenihan

Parish: Ss Peter and Paul, Dunboyne

Parish Priest: Fr. Patrick O Connor

Curate: Fr. Warren Collier

Religion Programme:

The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the Grow in Love programme approved and recommended for use in Catholic schools. A full outline of the religious programme can be found at; <https://www.growinlove.ie/en/growinlove/>

This programme corresponds with the Catholic Religious Education Curriculum.

All teachers have a Grow in Love kit for their class. Each child has a Grow in Love textbook.

Confirmation pupils use worksheets from the Confirmation workbook from Veritas along with other approved resources.

School Procedures:

Every child is welcome into the school having satisfied enrolment procedures, but the school cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith. The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the Grow in Love Programme which is approved and recommended for use in Catholic schools. This programme is delivered each day for the recommended 30 minutes.

The programme is taught to each class. Non Catholic children are not required to participate in the Religion class and the teacher allows them to undertake other schoolwork. If, however, parents do not wish their child to be present during the religion class they must make their own arrangements for the supervision of their child during this time.

All Catholic feasts are celebrated.

The whole school celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is celebrated in the Church of Ss. Peter and Paul, Dunboyne. Parents, priests and teachers play a significant role in the liturgical and sacramental initiation of children. The experience of parish liturgy and the practice of parents and of the faith community are vital elements for the liturgical and sacramental formation of children. Without these, little can be achieved at school. Children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of the Sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school. We also allow time for the main events in the liturgical year.

- Advent
- Christmas
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Feast days e.g. St. Brigid's Day and St. Patrick's Day

We encourage children to attend Daily Mass particularly during the Lenten period.

Sacred Space and Symbols

Each classroom has a Sacred Space set up which is used during Prayer Services, daily prayers and moments of reflection. This space also displays the children's work on current themes of the Grow in Love programme and changes throughout the Liturgical Year. Each classroom has a crucifix while around the school symbols of our faith communicate our school's Catholic ethos. A statue of our Lady adorns the Welcome Area. At Christmas an Advent wreath and crib are displayed in the Welcome Area.

Prayer

Children's faith in God is fostered through prayer and they can learn to express this faith in prayer. Teaching prayer begins by making an effort to foster certain attitudes in the children.

Prayers recited throughout the day include;

- The Sign of the Cross
- Morning Prayer
- Evening Prayer
- Grace Before Meal
- Grace after Meals
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory be to the Father

(Senior classes may recite prayers in Irish.)

Spontaneous prayer in the classroom is also encouraged.

Partners in Religious Education:

Home/School

Parents are encouraged to support their child's religious education through the following;

- Prayer at home
- Homework
- Parent/teacher meetings
- Sacrament celebrations
- School Mass at beginning and end of school year
- Joining community at Mass on Holy Days of Obligation
- 6th class Graduation Mass in Church
- Supporting the Catholic ethos of the school

School/Parish

The priests of the Parish visit the school regularly. No specific arrangements are in place but in general the priest visits the school weekly.

He may visit all classes but spends additional time with the sacrament classes.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Staff

- Deliver Grow in Love Programme
- Cooperate with Chaplain/Parish and diocesan advisers
- Avail of In-Service support
- Actively support the ethos of the school

Parents

- Support the school during times of sacramental preparation and assist at home with Religious Education homework
- Avail of support at information meetings throughout the year
- Actively support the ethos of the school

Principal

- Overall responsibility for maintaining and strengthening the Catholic ethos in the school
- Facilitate supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the programme
- Facilitate the formulation of the Religious Education Policy
- Facilitate the prayer life of the school throughout the liturgical year, e.g. prayer at assemblies, special feast days and important days in the school calendar e.g. beginning of school year and graduation.
- Encourage the use of sacred spaces in classrooms and in school common areas, and to ensure the prominence of religious symbols and icons.
- Provide input on religious education at staff meetings, in order to maintain a conscious profile of the subject
- Facilitate links with chaplains and parish personnel
- Enable parents to take an active role in the Religious Education and formation of their children, e.g. use of home links in Grow in Love
- Liaise with Diocesan Advisers
- Distribute resources, e.g. Lenten and Advent resources, Bible Society material, Trócaire boxes etc.

Success Criteria:

- An acknowledged sense of God, Faith prayer and worship within the school community
- Respect for all within the school community
- Parental interest
- Recognisable links between home, school and parish
- An outward-looking care for those less fortunate in society

Review

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____
Chairman, Board of Management.

APPENDIX 1

USEFUL WEBSITES

- <http://www.dublindiocese.ie> – the website for the Archdiocese of Dublin contains a comprehensive section on Liturgical Resources with materials available in both English and Irish
- <http://www.ress.ie> – Religious Education Support Service
- <http://www.antobar.ie> – a religious education resources site compiled by An Tobar, Coláiste Mhuire, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin
- <http://www.glencree.ie> – for information on the Glencree Centre for Peace Education Programme
- <http://www.theresite.org.uk> – an extensive range of resources relevant to religious education
- <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org> – a listing of all the major religious events and dates
- <http://www.adherents.com> – up-to-date statistics about numbers and distribution of major religions
- <http://www.faitharts.ie> – arts resources for religious education in Catholic schools in Ireland
- <http://www.religion-online.org> – a collection of essays and books on topics of theology by reputable scholars
- <http://www.cpsma.ie> – Catholic Primary School Management Association
- <http://wellsprings.materdei.ie> – a programme to deepen the awareness and appreciation of the identity and ethos of Catholic primary schools
- <http://www.catholicireland.net> – a registered charity set up to promote and support the work of the Catholic Church in Ireland and abroad on the World Wide Web
- <http://www.catholiceducation-ni.com> – Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education
- <http://www.staffroom.ie> – advertises posts for principals and teachers. Supported by CPSMA and the Irish Episcopal Conference
- <http://www.ceist.ie> – the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of five religious congregations
- <http://www.lecheiletrust.ie> – the Le Chéile Trust represents the educational responsibilities of twelve religious congregations
- <http://www.desplaces.ie> – represents the educational association of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)
- <http://www.loreto.ie/education> – represents the educational responsibilities of the Loreto Sisters