

St. Brigid's N.S. Annacurra Religious Education Policy

Amended 18/2/09 - Staff Meeting Annacurra N.S

This policy was reviewed and updated by the Board of Management in September 2012 and February 2016

St. Brigid's National School, under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Ferns. The school models and promotes a philosophy inspired by belief in God and the culture of the Catholic Church. It provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church.

Rationale:

This policy aims to elucidate the manner in which the school discharges its responsibility for the religious education of its Catholic pupils in collaboration with the parents. The religious education of the pupil includes instruction (information) and values (formation) so as to provide for '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, with other people and with the environment' cf Board of Management Handbook, pg 8.

Relationship to school Admissions and Participation Policy:

This school enrolls pupils of the Catholic faith other faiths and no faith in accordance with the school's Admissions and Participation Policy.

Religious Education:

The School undertakes to provide religious instruction for its Catholic pupils. The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the Alive-O Programme, and the Grow in Love Programme, approved and recommended by the Catholic Bishops for use in Catholic Schools. This programme is delivered each day for the recommended duration and at fixed periods, in accordance with Rule 69. The scheduled time for religious instruction is 11.40 –12.10

The programme is taught to each class, including sacramental preparation for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the appropriate classes.

In addition to scheduled religious instruction periods St. Brigid's School is one where the philosophy and values of the Catholic Church inform the position taken in regard to ethical issues which arise in the teaching of other subjects.

In this way a spirit of mutual respect and esteem is inculcated and the ethos of the school is supported and allowed to permeate the broad spectrum of the school day.

Liturgical times and seasons are part of the rhythm of the school year and are given expression *inter alia* through:

Prayer in the classroom

- ❖ Age appropriate prayer is a feature of each classroom

Liturgical celebrations in the Parish Church and School

- ❖ Sacramental Celebrations
- ❖ Lent- Symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to distribute ashes
- ❖ Observance of Holy Days of Obligation (It is school policy to attend Mass on Holy Days when pupils are in attendance)
- ❖ Celebration of the opening and closing of school year with school Mass
- ❖ Family Masses throughout the year

Ancillary Activities

- Christmas tree and cribs, Christmas Stories, Carol services
- Feast of St. Brigid- Making traditional crosses
- Feast of St. Patrick- depiction of story and shamrock, St. Patrick's Day cards.
- Easter cards, story of death of Jesus and resurrection, artwork and workbooks
- Regular visits to classrooms by the Parish priest and other Catholic visitors and the Diocesan Religious Advisors.

Success Criteria - We can judge the success of our work through:

- 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
- Feedback from Diocesan Advisers

Roles and responsibilities

Staff- Implement Alive-O Programme and Grow in Love Programme.

- Co-operation with 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

Principal – Facilitates and supports interaction between all parties in implementing the programme

Children of all faiths and none are welcome in Annacurra N.S. They may participate in activities and ceremonies in the local church. Notwithstanding the rights of parents to withdraw their children from formal Religious Instruction, the ethos of the school shall be preserved. Arrangements will be made for the supervision of children in another room, with assigned work, during Religious instruction time. During Mass a teacher will remain in the school to supervise or instruct children where appropriate. Children are welcome to attend Sacraments even if they are not of Catholic Religion.

Reviewed and Updated 23 February 2016
Updated September 2020

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Fr John-Paul Sheridan