

Religious Education

Intent

As a Catholic school in the Diocese of Westminster, we are committed to educating children in their Catholic Faith. The principle aim of Religious Education at Our Lady of Victories School is to teach the children to know and love God our Father through prayer and worship, through the life, words and actions of Jesus Christ as shown in the Scriptures.

We seek to give children the opportunity to come to know the joy given to those who come closer to God through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus, His son.

We aim to help each child to come to know Jesus as a friend for life; to become aware of themselves as a unique person, created by a loving God; to form meaningful relationships and to foster feelings of wonder, awe and mystery.

Through the Catholic life of the school- which includes liturgies, pastoral care, social teaching and living out the faith in community- as well as through religious education lessons we intend to:

*Promote an environment of mutual encouragement within the school community in which the unique worth of each individual is acknowledged and respected; and to transmit Christian values for daily living.

*Teach the children to understand and appreciate the Catholic Faith and its traditions. We share this responsibility with parents, the first educators of their children, and with the parishes where children and their families worship.

*Develop and extend links between home, parish and school. Together we must prepare the child for entry into the wider community, working together for the building up of God's kingdom, based on the Gospel values of love, peace and justice.

*Give worship, as an essential part of religious experience, a central place in the life of the school. Christ is the reason for our school and the children meet Him here in a rich variety of acts of worship, principally in the Eucharist, which is central to our school community's prayer life but also in daily prayer.

*Ensure that Religious Education is not confined to a time-tabled subject but is rather the central pillar of the whole school experience. The total curriculum should stimulate religious growth and development, along with academic and social progress.

*Promote and welcome links in the wider community, including inter-denominational groups of faith or those of no religious character and to ensure that the same ideals of respect and tolerance are offered to all, irrespective of traditions or backgrounds.

*Provide opportunities for the children to experience and practice showing love for others, particularly the disadvantaged, by participating in charitable work and coming to an understanding of the Christian responsibilities taught in Catholic Social teaching.

Implementation

There are two avenues by which these intentions are implemented: the Catholic Life of the school and Religious Education (RE).

The senior leadership and school chaplain are responsible for the first, the 'Catholic Life' of the school. This offers children, and their families, opportunities to prepare and to participate in liturgies, celebrations, prayer and reflection in a variety of settings. As an inner city school the children attend several different local catholic parishes; chief among these are Our Lady of Victories and Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock. The school and parishes work closely together to support parents in bringing their children up in the rich tradition of the Catholic faith.

The Religious Education is delivered using the programme: 'The Way, The Truth and The Life, from Reception to Year 6.

We deliver Relationships Education with the 'Life to the Full' programme developed by TenTen. The Intent Statement for Relationships Education is included in our PSHE statement.

Impact

Through the provision outlined above we expect the resulting impact to be:

*Parents, parishes and school staff working harmoniously together to ensure the very best teaching and experience in passing on the catholic faith to the children in our care.

*Teachers who are empowered to deliver curriculum content and key principles of the catholic faith to the high standards required

*Children who are religiously literate, able to explain their understanding about their own faith and of other faiths and knowledgeable about how faith is lived out through experience.

*The school will be a strong Community of faith, with Christ at the centre of all that we do, His guidance underpinning our relationships with each other, promoting understanding, respect and tolerance