



Our Lady of the Wayside N.S.

Religious Education Policy

Introduction:

Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. is a Catholic School under the Patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. We promote religious education for the pupils of our school in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church.

Mission Statement:

At Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. we work at creating a Christian atmosphere that promotes the dignity and individuality of each pupil enabling him/her to reach his/her full potential in a happy, learning environment.

Aims of the Policy:

- To foster and deepen the Faith of the children and to develop this active Faith.
- To develop a respect for all in the whole school community.
- To enable the children to be aware of the wonder and presence of God around them and to respond to this awareness.
- To enable a sense of God and Prayer within the school community.

General Information:

Diocesan Information:

- Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. is in the Dublin Diocese
- The Patron is **Archbishop Dermot Farrell**
- The Director of Education is **Mons. Dan O' Connor**

Parish Information:

- Our Lady of the Wayside is in Sandyford Parish
- Our parish priest is **Fr. John Delany**
- Our Sacramental Co-ordinator is **Ms. Gillian O' Dwyer**

School Procedures:

This school enrolls pupils of other faiths or no faith, and respects their beliefs and practices in accordance with the school ethos of inclusivity.

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. Arrangements are made within each class to accommodate children who do not take part in the religious education programme.

Children of differing religions will remain in the classroom and engage in an alternative task/activity if they are not participating in the religion class. If there is a child in any class with a conscientious objection to attendance at any specific Religious event the option is in place for the parent to come and supervise the child during that time while the rest of the class participate. No special place is set aside for this supervision.

Symbols:

A number of symbols are displayed constantly and at different times during the school year – statues, crucifix, St. Brigid's Crosses, Crib, and Sacred Spaces are in evidence throughout the school.

During the Month of May statues of Our Lady are in the Sacred spaces in classrooms.

Materials:

The Board of Management and the teachers have adopted the Grow in Love Programme approved and recommended by the Irish Catholic Hierarchy for use in Catholic Schools. This programme is delivered each day for the recommended 30 minutes. The programme is taught to each class.

There is a set of Bibles available for Class use. Additional Religious Resources including Diocesan information sheets are also available to teachers.

Catholic feasts are celebrated:

- Advent
- Christmas – crib and tree, Christmas stories, carol services, class plays, charity work and donations
- Feast of St. Brigid – making crosses etc
- Feast of St Patrick – story, shamrock, cards, etc
- Lent – distribution of ashes, Stations of the Cross
- Easter – Story of the Death of Jesus
- May- Month of Mary

Prayer:

Prayer is an integral part of the day in our Lady of the Wayside with prayers being said in the morning and at going home time and also at lunch times.

The children are brought on visits to the Church.

Parents are encouraged to pray with their children.

Throughout the year events are organised for Charities e.g. Goal, Trócaire, The Shoe Box Appeal.

2nd and 6th classes are brought to a school mass, during school time, two or three times a year.

Fr. John Delany is a welcome visitor to the school and will regularly visit classrooms and speak to staff and pupils.

The main Prayers taught are:

Morning Prayer and Night Prayer
Grace Before and After Meals
Our Father
Glory be to the Father
Hail Mary
Act of Sorrow,
The Apostles' Creed
Prayer to Guardian Angel

Sacramental Preparation:

The school celebrates the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation and during their period of Education in Our Lady of the Wayside, the children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of these sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.

Reconciliation:

Children in Second class are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation each year. Children may also take part in the "Do This in Memory" Programme with assistance from the Church, Parents and Teachers when it is running.

First Holy Communion:

Children in Second class are prepared for First Holy Communion each year. The "Do This in Memory" team organise meetings and Masses throughout the year in preparation for First Holy Communion where it is running. Communion ceremonies are prepared and organised by Second Class Teacher in collaboration with the Priest, Parents and Sacramental Coordinator. A celebration is held after the First Holy Communion Ceremony in the school hall. All children in 2nd class are invited to attend the party in the school afterwards.

Confirmation:

Children in 6th class are prepared each year for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the religious education of their children. Each year a meeting is organised where the Parish Confirmation Team introduce parents to specific aspects of the Programme. Several Masses are organised through the year geared specifically towards children making Confirmation. There is an Enrolment Ceremony and a Service of Light which are all linked into the preparation for Confirmation.

Implementation of Religious Education:

- In accordance with Rule 69 from Rules for National Schools and composite rules 54.1 and 54.2, religion is taught daily for 30 minutes.
- Religious Education and Ethos are integrated into all areas of the curriculum, especially in SPHE and the school acknowledges Catholic Schools Week.
- Throughout the year events are organised for Charities e.g. Goal, Trócaire, The Shoe Box Appeal.

Partners in Religious Education:

Home/School

- First and foremost, it should be noted that Parents are the Primary Educators of their children and entrust their children to Our Lady of the Wayside NS.
- New prayers are sent home as they are taught at all class levels.

Religious Education Policy – December 2023

School/Parish

- Parents of First Communion children are involved in the “Do This in Memory” programme where it is running.
- The Parish organises mass throughout the year for 2nd and 6th classes.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Everyone involved in the development of the children in the school has an important role to play in their religious development. Parents are made aware of the Religious Education Policy through meetings and through the school website.

Staff

Deliver the Grow in Love programme
Co-operate with Parish and Diocesan Advisers
Actively support the ethos of the school

Parents

Support the school during times of sacramental preparation
Assist at home with religious education homework

Principal

Facilitate supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the religion programme

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

Review:

The Religious Education Policy will be reviewed every two years by the whole school staff.

Ratification and Review

Drafted	2019
Revised	December 2023

Signed:  Date: 6/12/23
Chairperson

Signed:  Date: 4/12/23
Principal