

St James the Great School RC  
(VA) Primary and Nursery School



**Religious Education Policy**

Autumn 2007

## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Introduction**

St James the Great is a Roman Catholic Primary and Nursery School serving the parishes of Norbury and Thornton Heath, which forms part of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

### **Mission Statement**

Our school, as a place of learning, belongs to the parish communities of Thornton Heath and Norbury and exists to educate the children of the community with the Gospel values, traditions and beliefs of the Catholic Faith at the centre of its ethos, while recognising and understanding and individuality of the “faith journey”. Taking account of National Curriculum requirements, the School will provide a framework within which all pupils are enabled to develop the highest possible level of achievement, fulfilling their academic, moral, physical and spiritual potential. The school will foster a respect for self and others in a climate of tolerance of individual differences, whilst recognising the importance of striving for excellence and enhancing children’s transition to responsible adulthood.

Our school Mission Statement has been re-worded to make it more meaningful for the children.

- Foundation Stage

At St James the Great, we always try to do our best in everything we do. We learn about God and how He made us and loves us. He teaches us how to love others in the same way. We belong to the churches of St. Andrew’s and St. Bartholomew’s. We know that we are all special in our own different ways.

- Years 1 and 2

Our school is a place where the children from St. Andrew’s and St. Bartholomew’s work, play and pray together. As Catholics, we learn to treat each other and ourselves with respect, following in Jesus’ footsteps.

- Years 3 and 4

This is our schools. It is where we come to learn. We are on our way to learning more about the kind of person Jesus wants us to be. Every day we will practise friendship towards others. We will try to understand and enjoy the ways in which we are all special. Our teachers will help us to know more about our God-given talents so that we can work towards doing our best in everything. We rejoice in each other’s successes, we make the most of every opportunity because we all have a part to play in God’s world.

- Years 5 and 6

We come to school to learn. We learn to live and grow as Jesus taught us. Our school is part of the Catholic communities of St. Andrew's and St. Bartholomew's. Our school is a community too, where everyone is valued and encouraged to do their best in their work and in their play. Our school helps us to understand that each one of us is special and shows us how to use our gifts and talents for the good of ourselves and our community and that we should respect each other for being different.

### **Aims**

- Develop respectful and reflective attitudes towards prayer, worship and liturgy.
- To recognise the important contribution that everybody in the school makes.
- Develop the children's understanding of and participation in Catholic celebrations
- Develop the children's involvement in the preparation of Catholic celebrations as they progress through the school.
- Maintain strong links with the parishes of Saint Andrew's and Saint Bartholomew's.
- To ensure the children have the opportunity to participate in a daily act of worship.
- To facilitate children to move from an inherited faith to a personal faith.
- To ensure that religious education is integrated into all aspects of school life

### **Objectives**

- All children will have access to daily worship
- All children will be involved in whole school, Key Stage and year group liturgical celebrations.
- Each child will be actively involved in an annual class Mass, prayer service and assembly.
- Parents and members of the parish will be invited to liturgical celebrations.
- Member of the clergy will be welcomed to participate in all aspects of school life.
- Enable the children to be confident in the use of religious vocabulary
- Integration of religious education into school life will be facilitated through a diversification of teaching materials and methods.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Teaching and learning of religious education is central to all aspects of school life and learning. The pupils will have opportunities to expand their knowledge, understanding and skills through direct teaching, collaboration and discussion. In addition to the whole school approach the children will study specific aspects of the Catholic faith through the use of the 'Here I Am' programme of study and our programme of worship.

We will develop the children's knowledge of other faiths and willingness to empathise with people who hold beliefs that are different to our own. The pupils will have the opportunity to study the faiths of Judaism, Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism.

### **Planning**

'Here I Am' is used to develop long term plans and runs through a four year cycle.

### **Assessment**

Assessment in 'Here I Am' is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what the pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. Teacher assessment and pupil self-assessment tasks take place at the end of each of the nine topics each year.

In addition the children will be assessed against attainment targets at the end of each academic year. Assessments are based upon AT1 – Learning about Religion and AT2 – Learning from Religion.

### **The Role of the Coordinator**

It is the coordinator's responsibility to ensure:

- Development, monitoring and evaluation of whole-school policy
- Colleagues are supported in the teaching of Religious Education
- Continued professional development is available for all colleagues of all faiths
- Appropriate systems are in place for the assessment of RE
- The school is aware of developments, through establishing links with fellow RE co-ordinators throughout the Deanery, the Diocese and by liaising with the school's Chaplains
- Resources are developed and maintained
- Smooth organisation of the programme for Collective Acts of Worship, including assemblies, prayer services and Masses.

### **The Role of Governors**

- To liaise with the coordinator
- To monitor the policy and provision for Religious Education
- For a nominated Governor to access appropriate training

### **Involvement of Parents**

Our school recognises parents as the first educators of their children and sees the involvement of the school as being an on going partnership with parents. Parents have access to the RE policy. They are made to feel that they have an important part to play

in teaching their children about the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic faith as well as helping their children to develop a personal faith.

### **Inclusion**

Children with special educational needs, those that require extra support to achieve national targets and those with exceptional ability, will be identified through assessment and tracking.

Individual Educational Plans, the use of appropriate resources and Learning Support Assistants, will support children who are not achieving set targets.

Appropriate resources will be available to support the more able.

Policy is to be reviewed autumn 2009