

Religious Education Policy

St. Molaga's School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Dublin . 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.

Rationale :

This policy has been implemented to acknowledge that this is a Catholic School, teaching Catholic faith while accommodating children of other faiths or no faith into the school community.

Relationship To School Ethos :

St. Molaga's School enrolls pupils in the school in accordance with its enrolment policy and respects the beliefs of all, in accordance with the school ethos.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Each child is welcomed into the school having satisfied enrolment procedures, but the school cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths. The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the Alive-O Programme, approved and recommended by the Irish hierarchy for use in Catholic schools. While formal religion classes take place for 30 minutes each morning at 11:50 to 12:20 in each mainstream class the school recognises the rights of children guaranteed under the Education Act(1998) not to attend instruction in any subject which is contrary to the conscience of the parent of the student. Parents should notify the school of any such request.

As the school curriculum is cross curricular, school practice will involve integration into other subject areas- Gaeilge, English, SPHE, Visual Arts, Choir/Music, History, Geography etc. and will recognise the importance of developing each child's potential while at the same time making provision for individual differences. The integration of intercultural themes in the school curriculum will provide opportunities for children to appreciate the great diversity of other ethnic culture and religions (in accordance with Intercultural Guidelines NCCA) SLD pupils will be integrated into mainstream classes for religious instruction.

Catholic Feasts will be celebrated.

- Feast of St. Molaga -history, story and artworks.
- Catholic School Ethos week and associated activities.
- Feast of St. Brigid and St. Patrick-depiction of stories and shamrock, crosses, cards, competitions.
- Lent-symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to distribute ashes.
- Easter-Easter cards and artwork, story of the death of Jesus and resurrection.
- School Mass for the opening of the school year.
- Christmas.
- Observance of Holy Days of Obligation in accordance with Diocesan recommendations.

Confirmation

The school celebrates the sacrament of confirmation. Confirmation is celebrated in the church of Ss. Peter and Paul. Children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation by the individual class teachers, in consultation with the Parish team and in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.

The service of Light and Commitment take place in the Parish Church and children must apply in writing to the parish team to be confirmed in the Parish Confirmation Services.

Teacher Input :

- In- Service on deliverance of Alive-O programme
- Study of the Alive-O Teachers Guide
- Prayer Services
- Study of scripture from Bible
- Daily Class prayer and Sacred Space in each classroom
- Carols
- Nativity and plays/dramas with religious themes
- Choral music for Confirmation

Success Criteria :

- Respect for the dignity of all in the school community
- Parental interest.
- Recognisable links between home parish and school
- An acknowledged sense of God, Faith and worship within the school community.

Responsibility

- Parents - Assist children at home with religious education, homework and support the school in preparation for Confirmation.
- Principal- Facilitate supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the programme.
- Teachers- Actively support the ethos of the school, deliver the Alive-O Programme, avail of In-service support and cooperate with Chaplain/Parish team and Diocesan advisers.
- Pupils- Support their parents, teachers and Parish team in the implementation of this policy and respect and support the ethos of the school.
- This policy has been formulated with the cooperation of the entire school community.

DATED: ___ March 2009 _____

Signed: _____ Paula O Toole _____