

St Clement's Catholic Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

“Growing Together in Love and Learning”

PRINCIPLES

In any Catholic School Religious Education should underpin the whole curriculum. The relevance of our RE depends on a profound concern for the development of the whole child – spiritually, morally, socially, intellectually, emotionally and physically.

It is the responsibility of all those who teach young children to assist them at the beginning of their search for some kind of meaning in life. It is the privilege of the Catholic School to help children to develop a deeper understanding of the sacramental life of the Church and its teaching.

In our school, RE takes place in the context of a community which seeks to live by and foster Gospel values, and provide opportunities for faith sharing and development. In this community environment these Gospel values will be evident in the conduct and example of Christian living among all staff and governors.

AIMS

- To present the Christian message and way of life in ways suitable to the age and stage of development of each child.
- To help children to reflect on their own experience and that of the Christian Revelation and so to help them make sense of life. In this way experience takes on deeper meaning and is a source of growth to develop a well formed conscience.
- To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection, and allow space for searching and questioning.
- To lead children to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- To develop the idea of belonging to a community – family, home, school, parish and the wider world.
- To develop a knowledge, understanding and respect of other faiths.

To achieve these aims we will provide:

- An appropriate Religious Education programme using ‘Come and See.’
- Differentiated teaching and learning activities designed to extend children’s religious understanding.
- Support for parish and home preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Relevant celebrations throughout the liturgical year (see Collective Worship Policy for details).
- An RE prayer focus area and display in each classroom.
- Opportunities for priests and other visitors to contribute to the building of a Christian community.

HOME / SCHOOL / PARISH

St Clement's is a Catholic community with Christ at the centre of our work. We believe that our ethos and curriculum are inseparable. We see ourselves as being in equal partnership with home and parish. We affirm the role of parents as the first educators of their children and seek to work in partnership with them to continue their child's faith development. We fully recognise the contribution of the parish and local community.

Home

In partnership with the school, parents share the task of encouraging their children. They provide support for St Clement's and have an important responsibility to inform the school of any difficulties they are experiencing with their children or as a family, so that the school can offer assistance, support and understanding.

Wherever possible, parents are invited to join their children for liturgical celebrations.

School

- We teach the children through the RE programme.
- We provide opportunities to participate in the celebration of Mass and non-Eucharistic liturgies on feast days and at other appropriate times.
- We provide opportunities for individual reconciliation.
- We support children and families in times of difficulty.
- We support the parish based sacramental programmes through RE teaching and liturgy.

Parish

The majority of pupils come from the parishes of St Clement's in Ewell and St Joseph's in Epsom. We also receive pupils from the parishes of Cheam and Worcester Park. The parish priest of St Clement's is a regular visitor to the school.

The parishes are responsible for the sacramental programme and the school supports this through the RE scheme, day to day relationships with the pupils and liaison with the parish catechists. Opportunities for individual reconciliation are provided in school during Lent.

ASSESSMENT

Attainment is measured through teacher assessment (using descriptors from the Diocese); supplemented and supported by other formal and informal assessment activities. We assess and record a 'Come and See' topic every term.

Attainment and progress is tracked allowing us to monitor progress of groups and individuals.