



Religion Plean Scoile

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School
Drumfinn Road
Ballyfermot
Dublin 10

January 2014

Introductory Statement

St. Louise's Primary School, founded in 1958, is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. The school promotes a welcoming, loving, compassionate, forgiving, respectful, hopeful and enabling culture in the tradition of St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac, co-founders of the Daughters of Charity. It is linked to the Parish of St. Matthew's, Ballyfermot.

Rationale

This policy has been reviewed in response to the necessity to accommodate children of other faiths in our school community.

Relationship to School Ethos

The school enrolls mainly Catholic pupils. Pupils of other faiths or no faith are enrolled subject to our Enrolment Policy. Their practices and beliefs are respected in accordance with the school ethos of inclusion.

General Information

Diocesan Information:

Name: Dublin Diocese

Patron: Archbishop of Dublin

Director of Education: Education Secretariat, Dublin Diocese

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/>

Diocesan Advisors: Primary Diocesan Advisers

Parish Information:

Name: St. Matthew's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe McDonald

Area Bishop: Bishop Ray Field

School Information:

Our school is called St. Louise de Marillac Primary School.

Our chaplain is Fr. Joe McDonald

Board of Management Members: Sr Claire McKiernan, DC (chairperson), Fr Joe Mc Donald, Kathryn Crowley, Vincent Jackson, Jason Cleary, Alma Quinn, Anna Gibbons, Marion Kelly

Religious Education Representative: Aileen Conaty

School Procedures

Having satisfied the enrolment policy, every child is welcome into the school. However the school cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own religion. The school uses the Alive-O! Programme, as recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic schools. This programme is delivered in each class for 30 minutes daily.

Aims of Religious Education

In the “General Directory for Catechesis” the fundamental tasks of catechesis are stated to be:

- Promoting knowledge of the faith
- Liturgical education
- Moral formation
- Teaching to pray
- Education for community life
- Missionary initiation

Implementation of Religious Education Throughout the School

Prayer

Prayer is a regular feature of the school day. Teachers say the following prayers with their classes daily:

- Morning Prayer
- Prayer Before Meals
- Prayer After Meals
- Evening Prayer

The Hail Mary is said daily during May and when appropriate within the classroom. Other prayers are taught in accordance with the Alive-O programme.

Mass

Children are taught some of the Mass rituals within the classroom. All classes are welcome to attend morning Mass in St. Matthew’s Church. Second and sixth classes should attend regularly to practice for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Depending on the availability of a celebrant, the school may celebrate Mass and several prayer services throughout the year. Children can also watch Mass on the RTE Player.

Materials

The Alive-O programme is being used in the school. The resources include:

- Teacher's Book
- Child's Book
- Child's Workbook
- CD and DVD
- Posters
- Resource packs
- RTE Player
- A website recommended by the Diocesan Advisors:
 - www.education.dublindiocese.ie includes the following:
 1. Powerpoint presentations in English and Irish
 2. Words of all prayers in Alive-O! Programme
 3. Words of songs in Alive-O! Programme
 4. Prayer Services

Symbols/Sacred Space

We have two areas in which we display religious pictures, posters and artefacts relevant to the Liturgical year. Each classroom has a sacred space appropriate to the class level. We have on display, a statue of St. Louise in our entrance area. A large crib is set up in December.

Catholic Feasts

The staff and children celebrate the feast days in a variety of ways, from learning about them within the class, to celebrating as a whole school. The school chaplain is regularly invited to help us celebrate these events.

- Feast of St. Vincent de Paul - 27th September
- Feast of St. Catherine Laboure/ Miraculous Medal - November 27th - children receive medal
- Immaculate Conception-December 8th
- Advent - Advent wreath and calendar
- Christmas - large Nativity crib displayed, carol singing
- The Epiphany January 6th
- Feast of St. Brigid - February 1st
- Feast of St. Louise - March 15th
- Feast of St. Patrick - March 17th
- Lent - Ashes received on Ash Wednesday
- Easter- at class level

Sacramental Preparation

First Confession and First Holy Communion

The children begin learning prayers in Junior Infants. Second class children take the Alive-O! books home and parents are asked to help them learn the prayers needed for First Penance and First Holy Communion. The Doctrine associated with the Sacraments is taught in accordance with the Alive-O! programme. Second classes attend Mass/ visit the church more often before the First Penance and First Holy Communion. They also participate in the parish *Do This In Memory* programme. If resources allow for the purchasing of the workbook, they may take home "My First Holy Communion Book".

Confirmation

The sixth class girls are encouraged to learn the following:

- The Apostle's Creed
- The Ten Commandments (modern format)
- The Seven Sacraments
- The Gifts
- Symbols of the Holy Spirit
- Be familiar with Mysteries of the Rosary

The Doctrine associated with the Sacrament is taught in accordance with the Alive-O! programme. The girls compile a scrap book that outlines their growth in the Catholic community. They participate in a Service of Light ceremony some weeks prior to the Confirmation ceremony.

Partners in Religious Education

Home/ School

- Textbooks/ Workbook sent home regularly
- Letter from Alive-O! Resource pack to be sent home termly
- Invited to any meetings held about preparation for Communion and Penance and Service of Light and Confirmation
- Encouraged to take the children to Mass
- Encouraged to view the aforementioned website

School/Parish

- *Do This In Memory* Programme – once a month for 2nd class
- Visits from Chaplain
- Mass visits
- Confession

Pupils of Other Religious Traditions

We welcome children of other or no faith in accordance with the school's Enrolment Policy. Unless parents have made other arrangements with the school principal, children remain in class while religion lessons take place, and teachers may provide other activities for those children. Parents are informed of this arrangement at enrolment.

Evaluation Criteria

- An acknowledged sense of God, faith and prayer 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 through observation and staff and parent discussions. As per our agreed systematic cycle of review, it will be reviewed after three years. Having been ratified by the Board of Management, it will be available for viewing by staff and parents on the school website/blog and in the school office.

The above policy was discussed and ratified by the B.O.M on _____

Signed on behalf of B.O.M. by Chairperson _____

The Board of Management reserves the right to add to or amend this policy from time to time as deemed necessary.