



# **VITA ET PAX PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Reviewed September 2017**

## **AIM**

We aim at Vita et Pax Preparatory School to help all children to experience, understand, celebrate and, where desirable, to live the Catholic faith in ways suited to their age and development.

Our programme enables young people to achieve a knowledge and understanding of religion so that they are able to come to their own beliefs, and respect the rights of people to hold beliefs which are different from their own. We seek to support and develop the primary task of parents, who are the first educators of faith in their children. Our RE programme addresses all pupils in our classes, whether they are from committed Catholic homes or not. Vita et Pax admits non-Catholic pupils whose parents respect and accept the Catholic ethos of the school.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To follow the scheme of work based on the schools adopted Religious Education programme, Come and See.
- To follow the scheme of work based on the Bible.
- To strike a balance between knowledge of doctrine (teaching), response to God (worship) and the personal and social development of the child (values).
- To use the liturgical year as a framework to develop knowledge and understanding of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the central beliefs which Catholics and other Christians hold.
- To encourage respect for other faiths and their doctrines and traditions.
- To develop an awareness of multi-faiths and to appreciate cultural backgrounds and faith differences within the wider community.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by pupils, creating the foundation of the entire educational experience in the school.
- To develop appropriately an ability to listen and think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically.

- To help children recognise that prayer is about a personal relationship with God. To lead the children in a meaningful experience of traditional prayers and lead the children to feel free to pray with openness and spontaneity.

## **GUIDELINES**

To foster appropriate attitudes, for example

- a respect for truth
- a respect for views of others
- awareness of moral responsibility
- awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life
- awareness of the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society

To introduce pupils to a diversity of experiences of worship

- whole school and class assemblies
- celebration of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation
- whole school masses
- celebrations which reflect thanksgiving
- special days
- feast days
- opportunities to reflect silently on the word of God

Our teaching of RE, aims to ensure that our pupils' faith is:

**EXPERIENCED**      in relationships, where pupils of all faiths are welcomed and accepted.  
in sharing and reflecting on our experiences as part of a faith group

**EXPRESSED**      in scripture  
in Church doctrine and teaching  
in the lives of Christians and people of other faiths

**CELEBRATED**      in liturgy and sacrament  
in ritual and symbol in Christianity and other faiths

in prayer and meditation

LIVED OUT            in service and respect for all people  
                              in moral responsibility in dialogue with those of other faiths and  
                              traditions in work for justice and peace.

### **ASSESSMENT IN RE**

Teachers observe, assess and record knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes which have been taught and learned in RE lessons.

Teachers

- recognise the unique contribution of every pupil
- recognise and evaluate the whole range of skills, aptitudes and capabilities of every pupil
- offer an experience of education where children achieve success rather than failure
- encourage pupils to become active agents in their own learning
- recognise identifiable and achievable aims and learning intentions on RE and assess whether teaching styles and strategies have enabled these to be achieved
- promote collaborative learning

### **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

As a Catholic school, we remain committed to the individual needs of all our pupils. Those with particular learning difficulties or who are disadvantaged in any way are central to our care and concern and are integrated into the full life of the school. We recognise, affirm and celebrate the gifts and talents of all our children.