

# **St. Joseph's Primary School**



## **Religious Education Policy 2007**

## Religious Education Policy

### Mission Statement

The full staff of St Joseph's will serve the Crossgar community and its surrounding areas through the provision of a caring and effective Catholic Education which will enable children to maximise their potential for their whole development - Academic, Religious, Personal and Social.

### Aims

- To support parents in the education of their children in the Catholic faith
- To foster and deepen the children's faith
- To educate the children in the Liturgy
- To teach the children to pray
- To encourage children to develop their role in the Christian community.
- To promote and develop the Catholic ethos in our school, home and community.
- To help each child to develop a moral conscience
- To foster each child's personal and emotional development
- To prepare the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation
- To help the child to understand how the Holy Spirit has led people to an awareness of the needs of others.
- To help them to be prepared to respond to the needs of those in their own world.

## Curriculum

The Alive-O series plays a central role in the religious education of every child in the school. It has been introduced yearly and has now reached the Primary 7 class.

Each of our five teachers use the appropriate resources from Alive-O ie, class books, worksheets, posters and CD's, These are supplemented with art and craft materials and other curricular resources when necessary.

RE is taught for 30 minutes daily in all classes. In addition there are many times in the year when more time is devoted to religious education, eg preparation for the sacraments.

The staff of the school are committed to the Alive-O series but we also recognise that we can develop the faith of the child through our example and in how we treat others. Children throughout the school have Faith Friends and promise to look out for and care for these children. The ethos of our school is the basis on which the school is founded.

We also recognise the role of the community in the religious education of our children and strive to provide opportunities where school and community come together. These include our participation in 1<sup>st</sup> Friday masses, start of year masses, end of year mass, celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Other events are arranged during special occasions such as Christmas and Lent. Children from P5 to P7 regularly serve on the altar at different masses. St Joseph's actively links with charities such as Trocaire, Action Cancer, Legion of Mary and the Christmas Child Appeal.

Our Parish Priest and School Chaplain Fr McMullan also plays an important role as he joins the children, parents and staff in celebration and prayer throughout the year including regular confessions in the school. His regular pastoral visits are very worthwhile to both pupils and staff. Fr McMullan also leads the B.O.G. actively in his role as chairman.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is led by Mrs Forster with Mrs McGrath preparing the Primary 4 class for Holy Eucharist. Children are prepared for Confirmation by the Primary 7 class teacher. These teachers are fully supported by the other teaching and non-teaching members of staff to ensure that the children are prepared as fully as possible.

The Alive-O series uses a range of teaching strategies which stimulates the visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learner. It includes music, stories, and creative activities with opportunities for formal and informal prayer throughout.

As outlined above there are integral links with all areas of the curriculum, particularly literacy, and education themes. During the teaching of RE the classroom can be organised in a variety of different ways ranging from working individually, in pairs in small groups or as a whole class.

St Joseph's recognises the importance of prayer in the lives of children and endeavours to promote it through daily prayer services in class. Children have also written their own personal prayer to St Joseph and one is read out weekly in assembly.