



## **Teaching Religion Policy Corpus Christi Primary School**

As a Roman Catholic School, we are committed to the importance of formal religious education. We are dedicated to ensuring the moral, spiritual, social, physical, academic and personal development of our students. Our mission statement states:

'We see Corpus Christi Primary School as a Christian, caring, safe and happy environment. It is a centre of learning, where we strive through education, to develop the whole person. Our school will consistently promote a greater awareness of the roles, rights and responsibilities of all.'

The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by beliefs in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Corpus Christi Primary School provides religious education in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the development of the pupils in the Catholic faith.

### **Ethos:**

A Catholic ethos permeates the school. Co-operation, kindness, sincerity, acceptance and a strong sense of community within the school is encouraged and supported. The school strives to ensure everyone feels accepted and no one feels alienated, or marginalised. The sense of community and belonging is extended to all parents. The school continually engages in initiatives, to strengthen the bonds of partnership with parents.

Corpus Christi Primary School offers the hospitality of a Christian community to everyone in our school and to all who visit.

### **Vision:**

Teachers will actively nurture the moral, emotional, spiritual, aesthetic, cultural and creative capacity of each pupil. Corpus Christi Primary School endeavours to provide a safe, secure, inclusive learning environment for all children in our care, thus enabling them

to develop their full potential spiritually, morally, emotionally, socially, intellectually, physically and creatively.

**Admissions Policy:** (see Enrolment Policy).

Within the context and parameters of the Department of Education and Skills, the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act and the funding and resources available, Corpus Christi Primary School supports the following principles:

- Equality of access is the fundamental value determining the enrolment of children in Corpus Christi Primary School. No child is refused admission for reason of special needs, disability, gender, traveller status, asylum seeker/ refugee status, religious or political beliefs and values or social circumstances.
- Parental choice in relation to enrolment.
- Respect for diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

**Withdrawal from Religious Education:**

Although Corpus Christi Primary School is a Catholic Parish School, no child is discriminated against on the basis of religion. If parents request it, children are not required to participate in religion class. Arrangements are made to send the child to another class during religion time, or the child can do alternate schoolwork in his/her own class, during religion time.

**Religious activities:**

- The beginning of the school year is marked with a school mass in the church.
- The children are taken to visit the church as the need arises, as the school is ideally situated beside the church. Children from second to sixth class, attend mass on a regular basis.
- A Christmas Carol service is held in the church annually.
- The Nativity is performed by second classes during the Carol Service.
- Classes visit the school crib, which is displayed in the junior end of the school in December.
- Senior classes use the church for prayer services, Stations of the Cross and Confession.

- The tradition of the May procession continues in Corpus Christi Parish. First Holy Communion children participate in the procession.
- Each classroom has its own:
  - Sacred space.
  - Crib at Christmas time.
  - Advent wreaths or other sacred images at different times during the liturgical year.
- Christian symbols are displayed throughout the school, statues, crucifix, pictures etc.
- The religious education programme is taught daily for thirty minutes. (Alive O in fifth and sixth class, Grow in love from junior infants to fourth class).
- The school chaplain visits the school regularly.
- The Diocesan Advisors visit the school annually.
- Occasionally, missionaries visit the school to share their experiences with the children.
- In accordance with diocesan guidelines, pre Sacramental Programmes are offered to the parish, to help compliment and support the work of teachers in the school.
- Teachers of Sacramental classes (2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>), are actively involved in preparing the children for the sacraments. They work closely with the parish priest/school chaplain. Teachers are expected to attend meetings, enrolment services etc. and on the day of the Sacrament.
- Parents are invited to participate in pre Sacramental meetings, the purpose of which is to familiarise the families with the programmes to be followed, in order to prepare the children for the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  - A whole family response is encouraged.
  - Parents and children engage in class activities, as part of sacramental preparation.
  - Parents are encouraged to participate in enrolment and penitential services.
  - Parents are invited to attend mass once a week, with their children.