

**Religion Policy in Bunscoil Rinn An Chabhlaigh**

Bunscoil Rinn An Chabhlaigh. is a co-educational Catholic primary school which is under the patronage of the Bishop of Cloyne.  Our vision, our ethos and our mission are Christ-centred meaning that we view and engage with each pupil in the school as a Child of God. This means fostering an environment of love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and resilience as well as one of person-centred education and care. Together with the Board of Management, the parents and the parish community, we strive to provide Religious Education for all pupils in accordance with and as a result of this particular framework. This is an approach to education that follows closely the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. We use the ‘Grow in Love’ programme for the reception of the sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation as well as to achieve faith formation goals throughout the school years.  We promote and encourage the formation of our pupils in the Catholic Faith in a way that is mindful of and welcoming to our pupils committed to other religious traditions. Our ethos, while firmly rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition is inclusive and welcoming to all.

Our Christian ethos permeates the school day through our actions, attitudes and practices with and towards each other:

* We provide opportunities for prayer in the classroom, the celebration of liturgy and the sacraments. We do this with the aim that children will take ownership of their faith.
* We strive to create and foster a learning experience where every child and adult is encouraged, enabled and empowered to develop to their full and unique potential as human beings.
* We seek to encourage the formation of pupils and staff who will organically and unselfishly share their gifts for the ‘common good’ and who are committed to working for a more just, fair and compassionate society.
* We offer a welcoming and inclusive community experience that is respectful, open and accepting of all religious traditions and beliefs.

**The Catholic School**

A Catholic School’s values, ethos and mission is framed by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Firmly rooted in and guided by the gospel teachings, it is a place that takes its lead and direction from that of Jesus Christ who saw each person as a Child of God and who met them where they were at. Therefore, a Catholic School is a place where children are seen as ‘made in the image and likeness of God’. As a result, it is a place of warmth, openness and belonging.

The Catholic School offers an educational experience that is framed by this sense of warmth, openness and belonging. It has an educational philosophy that seeks to offer and foster a sense of self, a sense of belief, a sense of faith to each child in the school. It offers an educational experience that is a trinity of the spiritual, the cultural and the personal. A Catholic school offers a values-based approach to education and encourages an overall integration of these values into all the many facets of school life as well as within the wider world in terms of justice and pastoral outreach.

As the Grow In Love programme is the core resource for the teaching of Religious Education in every Catholic Primary School in Ireland, we take our lead from this text in our teaching of Religious Education each day and develop it in a spiral-like fashion building upon the content explored in the previous year.This programme reflects one of the primary objectives of Religious Education, namely, to enable people to become fully alive in the presence of God in themselves, in their homes, in others, in the Church and in all creation.

The Grow In Love programme seeks to involve the home, the school and the parish in the task of handing on the faith to the children which is a key focus for our school too. We believe that a trinitarian approach of home, school and parish best serves the needs of our community here at Bunscoil Rinn An Chabhlaigh.

Each Class level has its own specific programme tailored to the age of the children. In each classroom the teacher creates a Sacred Space with a combination of a crucifix, statue, candle and appropriate religious pictures or objects for the time of the liturgical year (e.g. Advent etc.) or feast days in question. In addition to this class teachers are also afforded the opportunity to independently source their own materials to suit the individual needs of their pupils ie. powerpoints, art activities, guest speakers, use of local church etc.

**September** Celebration of Our Lady’s Birthday 8th , Mercy Day, Mass for the

beginning of the school year for 2nd to 6th and a prayer service for

infants to First Class.

**October** Month of the Rosary.

**November** Month of Remembrance

**December** Feast Of The Immaculate Conception Prayer service**,** Advent

Christmas

**January** Feast Of The Epiphany Prayer Service**,** Catholic Schools Week

**February** St. Brigid

**March** St. Patrick, Month of St. Joseph

**April.** Lent & Easter

**May** First Communion & Confirmation - month of Mary

**June** Feast of the Sacred Heart - Patron of the school

***Grow in Love Prayers***

*These are the prayers that are said at each level*

***Jnr Infants***

* *Sign of the Cross*
* *Morning Prayer*
* *Glory Be..*
* *Prayer to Our Guardian Angel*
* *Night Prayer*
* *Grace Before Meals*

***Senior Infants*** *[As above plus these]*

* *Our Father*
* *Grace After Meals*
* *Eternal rest grant onto them*
* *Hail Mary*

***1st Class*** *[As above plus these]*

* *The Rosary*
* *Act of Sorrow*
* *Our Father [with actions]*
* *Prayer Before Communion*
* *Prayer After Communion*

***2nd Class*** *[As above plus these]*

* *Confiteor*
* *Hail Mary [with actions]*
* *Sanctus*
* *The Stations Of The Cross*
* *Psalm 136*

***3rd Class*** *[As above plus these]*

* *The Apostle’s Creed*
* *The Joyful Mysteries Of The Rosary*
* *The Lord’s Prayer in sign language*
* *Mission Prayer*

***4th Class*** *[As above plus these]*

* *Prayers on opening & closing the bible*
* *Visio Divina*
* *The Angelus*
* *Lectio Divina*

***5th Class*** *[As above plus these]*

* *The Benedictus*
* *An Phaidir*
* *Act Of Love*
* *Doodle Prayer*
* *My Prayer Of Petition To Mary*

***6th Class*** *[As above plus these]*

* *Act of Sorrow prayer for forgiveness*
* *Act of Faith*
* *Act of Hope*
* *Prayer of St Francis*
* *Hail Holy Queen*

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| Key areas to work on this year: | **Action Plan 2022/23**  **NAME:** Jess Falvey | **Content: Vocabulary to be taught to support PLC/ OL if applicable** | **Time frame/ who is responsible** |
| Term 1   * Extend our SSE focus for 2023-2024 of ‘Oral Language -Exploring Language in a creative and playful manner’ through games into Religion. Engage in one lesson per term in relation to this topic and consult with teachers at the end of term and evaluate success (December 2023) * Prayer of the Month- focus on one prayer each month at each level to incorporate into daily classroom routine and ensure GIL prayers are memorised by end of school year * Children will continue to actively participate in local parish ceremonies by attending church services at the Sacred Heart Church. Children will develop a greater appreciation of prayers, responses and the structure of mass [Oct -June 2023] * Organise a visit from local priest to the infant classrooms to link with People Who Help Us so the children can recognise priest’s role and their place in the Christian community * Continue to liaise with LR of PA on school garden development * Set up Garden Focus group to plan for the year * Liaise with Student Council and Art AP to organise artwork ideas for garden | **Oral language games- barrier, story sequencing, who am I?, Heads Up**  **Follow list of prayers as above- jnr infants to revise once their 6 complete** | **How are you going to do this and by when ?**  **Share ideas of games with class levels via email early in Term 1**  **Share prayer through email/poster from Twinkl- start of each month** |
|  | Term 2     * Catholics Schools Week – children will creatively express their faith formation and development by contributing to the design of their class Sacred Space. This can be done through the creation of posters, poems ,prayers and assorted symbols. * Facilitate a Confirmation Retreat to enable children to identify christian and theological values in the wider world. This retreat will serve as a means for the children to recognise their role and place in the Christian faith. |  |  |
|  | Term 3  A moment of reflective prayer where the children as a whole class bring forward an object of personal importance from the academic year. Children can express their reflections through a poem, song, circle time or private meditation. |  |  |