



The Religious Education Curriculum at St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. At St. Patrick's we use the Diocese's own curriculum strategy from Foundation Stage (Nursery) to Year 6. This is called 'Learning and Growing as People of God'. The strategy provided teachers with a range of suggested cross-curricular activities which they can use and adapt to suit the needs of the learners in their class. At St. Patrick's we strive to enhance the strategy with our own ideas, creativity and imagination, to make learning engaging for all the pupils.

As a diverse school community we value and respect the beliefs of people of different faiths to ours. Alongside the Diocesan strategy each class across the school studies a unit focusing on one of the main world faiths.

Learning and Growing as People of God

The strategy is divided into a number of units, usually 12, which cover four main areas of study:

Liturgical Seasons of the Church's Year

Children find out about the significance of the season, E.g. Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time. They explore the particular signs and symbols, and different services and celebrations linked to each season.

Scripture

The children study the Bible, both the Old and New Testament Scripture to give them familiarity and knowledge of the Bible as well as allowing them to understand how our Catholic beliefs are rooted in what the Bible reveals to us.

The Sacraments

There is a strong sacramental focus in each year group. Pupils prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Eucharist (Holy Communion) in Year 3. Pupils in Year 6 are prepared for Confirmation.

Living as Christians

The children learn about what it is to live as Christians today and how the church is organised from the global to the parish level. They learn about the opportunities which exist for them to participate in the life of the Church. We work in close partnership with the Parish of St. Patrick's with Father

Dawid supporting the teaching of the curriculum wherever he can. Pupils visit the church to find out about how the church is used as our place of worship. The school is proud to work with a variety of charities and community groups, providing opportunities for pupils to live out their faith in their day to day lives.

The spiral curriculum supports the children in building upon their knowledge and understanding year on year.

A key part of our R.E. curriculum is to link the learning with opportunities for prayer and reflection. Our pupils use music as part of our prayer and worship. Weekly hymn practice gives pupils the opportunity to learn new hymns to enhance our masses, assemblies and collective worship. We have an active choir who support local events e.g. Carol Concerts with a neighbouring church. Pupils are encouraged at all times to play their part in the Catholic Life of our school.

Multi-faith Curriculum

Every year group has one of the main world faiths to study alongside our Catholic curriculum. Faiths studied include Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism. Lessons are cross curricular, enabling pupils to look at the culture, music and art relating to the faith alongside the religious aspects. Pupils are taught about beliefs, places of worship, religious leaders, traditions and symbols linked to each faith. They are supported to make links between the Catholic Faith and the faith they are studying, to find out the similarities and differences.

The school is a member of the Wolverhampton Interfaith Network.

Educational Visits/ Visitors to school

We take our pupils on educational visits to give them first hand experiences to support their learning in class. Pupils visit St. Chad's Cathedral, St. Peter's Open Door Project and our Parish Church.

Where possible we invite speakers from charities and organisations to come into school to talk to pupils about their work.