



O Connell Primary Religion Education Policy



An Edmund Rice School



O' Connell Primary School Religious Education Policy

Introduction and Rationale

O' Connell Primary School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. The school models and promotes a philosophy inspired by belief in God and in traditional Catholic values.

The schedule for Catholic Schools is displayed prominently in the school reception area. Parents who choose to send their children to a Catholic school have a right to expect that their children will be taught in line with Catholic Church teaching. In O' Connell Primary School this is done by following the Grow in Love programme.

While respecting all religions the primary aim of the staff O'Connell Primary will promote, support and develop religious education of the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church as portrayed in the Grow in Love Programme.

Relationship to school ethos

- This school is a Catholic school which promotes the Catholic faith through two and a half hours per week formal religious instruction following the Grow in Love programme. ,
- Parents and pupils are also supported in Sacramental preparation in cooperation with Parish of St. Agathas Sacramental teams.
- Participation, in other events in line with Ecclesiastical calendar will also form part of the Religious Education of pupils.
- Embrace a sense of fairness and good relationships with all other people.
- Foster deep respect and cherish all people equally.
- Speak to, react to and act towards others respectful of their dignity.
- That all children and staff experience a sense of belonging and contribute to the promotion of the Christian ethos of the school.

School Procedures

- The Board of Management has approved the following procedures.

- The Grow in Love programme as the only one to be taught to all mainstream classes.
- Pupils in the ASD unit will be exposed to a suitably modified and adapted programme of Grow in Love.
- The appropriate level of this programme is taught each day for the recommended 30 minutes to each class.
- All classes will have a Sacred Space in their classroom to support the Grow in Love programme and to reflect the Ecclesiastical Calendar.
- Whereas pupils of all religions and none are welcome to enrol in O' Connell Primary the Board of Management will ensure that all religious beliefs are respected, the only programme to be taught in O' Connell Primary will be Grow in Love

• Liturgical Celebrations

Many Catholic/Christian feasts will be celebrated such as

- November feast of all souls and remembering the dead.
- Christmas (focussing on the birth of Jesus) –Stories, Carol services, Nativity Play. Displays to include Crib in the school next to the Arts and Wellbeing Room.
- Catholic schools week.
- Feast of St. Brigid – making traditional crosses and the story of St Brigid.
- Lent- symbols of repentance and forgiveness.
- Feast of St. Patrick – depiction of story, St. Patrick's Day Cards Lent – Symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to distribute ashes.
- Various Marian feast days - Annunciation March 25th,
 - Birthday of Mary September 8th
 - Immaculate Conception December 8th,
 - Our Lady of Consolation. Month of May.
- Easter – Story of the death of Jesus and resurrection,
- Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice May 5th.
- Preparation of pupils for the reception of the Sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Such preparations may entail visits to the Church.
- Observance of Holy Days of Obligation which may entail the attendance at Mass by some or all classes during school times on days on which the school is officially open.
- Class teachers, with the approval of the school principal, may take their classes to the Church on certain occasions.

Parents and Pupils of second class in O' Connell Primary are supported in their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in cooperation with the parish Sacramental team in line with parish sacramental programmes and Grow in Love

programme.

Parents and Pupils in Sixth Class are supported in their preparations for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in cooperation with the parish sacramental programme and in line with Grow in Love programme.

Other Religious Denominations

Subject to the terms of the enrolment and admissions policy, we enroll pupils of other faiths or no faith in the school and accord due respect for the beliefs and practices. Consultation with parents of these pupils takes place on enrolment. Each child is welcome to attend and benefit from the Catholic religious education programme. If parents have difficulty with this the principal will meet them to see if an accommodation can be reached. Parents are welcome to view the religious programme taught. Sensitivity is always shown when pupils cannot participate in liturgical celebrations. The school however cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith, nor can it provide supervision in a separate class environment during religious education period.

Teacher input

All teachers appointed to O' Connell Primary have appropriate qualifications to facilitate the teaching of the Religious Education programme.

All mainstream class teachers are required to expose pupils to the appropriate Grow in Love programme for the agreed period equating to 2 hours and 30 minutes per week 2nd to 6th class.

The Grow in Love programme requires that there be weekly communication with parents and resources are provided to facilitate this.

All teachers working with pupils in the ASD classes are required to expose pupils to the appropriate approved adapted programme based upon Grow in Love programme each day. The agreed O' Connell Primary prayer list (**Appendix 1**) will be taught in all classes and will form part of regular school assemblies.

Meditation, personal prayers and hymn singing will be encouraged and practised in each class in accord with the appropriate Grow in Love programme.

The Principal, Deputy Principal and all non-mainstream teachers will actively support the pupils in participating in school assemblies and prayer services in line with Grow in Love programme and will support the pupils by promoting the school prayer list. (**Appendix 1**)

The Parish Chaplain/Parish Faith Development/ Sacramental Preparation Team will actively support the teachers in nurturing and promoting the Catholic ethos in this school.

Special Educational Needs

The special Religious Education curriculum is aimed at meeting the needs of students with a moderate learning disability who have a very individual set of learning needs. These guidelines deal with presenting meaningful religious experience for young people at the foundation stages of learning. The programme is guided by the NCCA curriculum content

and is presented in three bands: Attending, Responding and Initiating. Children from the special classes are enabled to participate in sacramental preparation with 2nd and 6th class. Some pupils may need to prepare for sacraments using programmes with a visual rich approach, practical teaching and learning activities such as the Adaptive First Eucharist Preparation Kit.

Success Criteria

- An acknowledged age and ability appropriate sense of faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
- Participation in daily prayer and worship within the school community.
- Respect for all within the school community.
- Parental support and interest in Religious Ed life of the school.
- Recognisable links between home, school and parish.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff

- Delivery of Grow in Love programme inc daily use of O' Connell Primary Prayer List.
- Active support for and promotion of Prayer list ... (All non MCT)
- Support for individual pupils to access Rel Ed programme in receipt of SNA assistance. (SNAs)
- Cooperation with Chaplain/Parish and Diocesan Advisers.
- Supportive attendance at Liturgical celebrations attaching to Sacramental preparations.
- Avail of In-Service support provided by patron.
- Actively support the ethos of the school.
- School Choir to learn hymns/carols and sing at mass attended by school community, carol service etc.

Parents

- Supporting the Grow in Love programme by encouraging participation in home links e.g. praying with children, completing worksheets, colouring and talking with children.
- Attending meetings/ Liturgical ceremonies organised to support Sacramental preparations.
- Attaching to the Participation in class Support the school during times of sacramental preparation and assist at home with Religious Education homework.

Principal: / Deputy Principal

- Facilitation of supportive interaction between all parties involved in pupil's education in implementing the Grow in Love programme.


- Regular promotion of programme at assemblies /class visits etc.

Board of Management

- Purchase religious resources to ensure the successful implementation of the religious programme within the school.
- **Should any parent wish to have their child excluded from Rel Ed class they are invited to write to the school and to come to discuss potential arrangements which would facilitate this.**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on Feb 1st 2024 and the last revision took place in .


Signed:



Date: January 2024

Chairperson BOM .

NEXT REVIEW DATE ...January 2026.

 1/2/24



Title of Prayer	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Sign of the Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glory be to the Father	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morning Prayer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Night Prayer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grace Before Meals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grace After Meals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer to Guardian Angel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Patrick's Breastplate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hail Holy Queen		✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer to Mary		✓	✓	✓	✓
Our Father	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hail Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer to Jesus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confiteor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title of Prayer	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Act of Sorrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer for Forgiveness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer after Forgiveness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mass Responses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gloria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayers before Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayers after Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Comhartha na Croise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer of Blessed Edmund Rice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

