

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

**Religious Education Policy
Dungarvan CBS.**

Mission Statement

Our school aspires to being a caring Christian centre of learning, where the values of self-respect and respect for others are promoted. Added to that, honest endeavour and efforts to reach full potential are nurtured.

SECTION 1

The objectives of the policy

- To ensure the status of RE in the school.
- To promote the religious and overall development of the students.
- To appreciate the richness of religious traditions and to provide a framework to encounter these traditions.
- To lead to a greater degree of clarity in respect of aims, procedures and roles for RE in the school.

Inspiration

This RE Policy is inspired by the vision of Edmund Rice.

- We seek to live by Christian values.
- We recognise the dignity of each individual.
- We look with special concern to the under-privileged.
- We seek to promote the growth and development of the whole person –spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, emotional and physical.

Aims of Religious Education

- To contribute to the religious development of our students.
- To develop care for the vulnerable, foster justice and fairness towards all, and co-operation between pupils.
- To provide opportunities to deepen sacramental awareness.

SECTION 2

The RE policy will involve the whole school community.

Board of Management

To approve the policy and ensure its implementation.

Principal and Deputy Principal

To support the policy and ensure its effective implementation.

School Staff

To embrace and safeguard the Catholic ethos of the school.

Teachers of RE

To implement, review and monitor the policy and to ensure the effective delivery of Religious Education.

Chaplain

To assist in the faith development of students.

Pastoral Care Personnel

To monitor the effects of the policy and to provide support and guidance to the students.

Parents / Guardians

To support the RE Programme in the school and facilitate the faith formation of their children.

Students

To participate in the RE programme and to cultivate an openness to other religious traditions.

SECTION 3

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Department Meetings
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Opting Out

- **Staff Support and Development**
- **The Liturgical Year**
- **Parental Involvement**
- **Diocesan Advisor**
- **Monitoring of the Policy.**

Staffing

It is imperative that RE is given a status on a par with other subjects. This means:

- Looking at the appointment and selection of qualified teachers.
- RE's place on the school timetable.
- The allocation of class periods.

Department Meetings

R.E. teachers meet at the start of the year and from time to time to review the programme; also on occasions where a liturgy is required or where a crisis arises that concerns anyone/group in the school community.

Curriculum

- Three class periods are devoted to R.E. weekly.
- R.E. programmes in use at Junior and Senior cycle:

All students have non-exam R.E. classes.

- The programme follows the guidelines laid down by the Catholic hierarchy; standard text books are used.
- All senior classes are banded. This allows a rotation of teachers.
- Junior classes are not banded

Resources

Resources available for the teaching of R.E in the school:

- Prayer Room.
- Set of Bibles.

Opting Out

- Pupils whose parents request that their sons do not receive instruction in Religious Education.
- Pupils who are non-Catholic or of no denomination are exempted from participation in R.E. classes.
- Pupils who are repeating the Leaving Cert.

Such students are required to stay in the room under teacher supervision.

Staff Support and Development

- Resources requested by the R.E department are given favourable consideration.
- Outside support Services for RE teachers:
Chaplains, Diocesan Advisors.
- R.E.teachers are encouraged to attend inservice.
- Edmund Rice initiatives or trustee supports that the school are involved in are.....
- There is a budget for R.E.

Liturgical Year

The following services are held (with the Chaplin) during the year:

- A beginning of the year mass.
- A 6th year mass for the dead in November.
- A reconciliation service in individual classes before Christmas.
- A blessing and ashes on Ash Wednesday.
- A 6th Graduation mass with parents to mark the end of their time in school.
- A time is set aside for the Chaplin to hear the confessions of students who wish to come to him.

Parental Involvement

- Parents are encouraged to attend the beginning of year mass and the 6th year Graduation mass.
- Parents also are given an outline of the school's R.E. programme at the Open Day and in the School Prospectus.

Diocesan Advisor

- The Diocesan Advisor visits the school several times a year.
- Communication is maintained through regular e-mails offering advice, encouragement and ideas for class topics.

Monitoring of the Policy.

- The RE department will monitor policy implementation.
- At the end of each year, the RE department will meet to evaluate the success of the policy implementation.