



CILL FLAINN

AG FÁS, AG FOGHLAIM, AG FORBAIRT

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

Scoil Treasa Naofa is a co-educational Catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop of Kerry and the trusteeship of the Kerry Diocese.

While the school educates pupils in the Catholic faith, however subject to the terms of the Enrolment Policy, the school also enrolls children of other faiths and of no faith and respects their beliefs and practices.

### RATIONALE

Scoil Treasa Naofa models and promotes a philosophy of life which has at its core Jesus' command to '*Love God and love your neighbour*'.

The school holds that **RELIGION IS CAUGHT AND NOT TAUGHT**, so consequently, the teachers commit to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own lives and to giving the pupils a sense of Gospel values in action.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Scoil Treasa Naofa aims to

- provide religious education for its pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- promote the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith in collaboration with the children's parents, the local parish and parish priest.
- nurture the spiritual and moral development of all its pupils by the daily practise of "*loving our neighbour as ourselves*".

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- The Board of Management and the teachers have adopted the ***Grow in Love Catechetical Programme*** approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic Schools.
- This programme incorporates the recommended approach to preparing pupils for the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation (Penance), Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- The programme is timetabled for one half-hour per day. However, a Christian ethos permeates the whole school day and the life of the school.
- In all classrooms prayer is a feature of each school day with teachers and pupils striving to create an atmosphere of openness, forgiveness and understanding.
- The *Do This in Memory Programme* is followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils and their families.

**Liturgical celebrations are held in school on the following occasions:**

- Feast of St. Teresa of Lisieux, Patroness of this school - October 1<sup>st</sup>
- November Prayer Service for deceased family members, friends and neighbours.
- Christmas Carol Service
- Catholic Schools Week/St Brigid's Day/Blessing of Throats to mark Feast of St. Blaise
- Distribution of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday
- May Prayer Service
- Times of trauma, crisis or other occasions considered appropriate.

**Visual Displays/Artwork**

The reception of sacraments is marked with the aid of signs and symbols displayed in classrooms, common areas of the school and in the church.

The following major Catholic feasts are also celebrated with visual displays: *Advent, Christmas, Feast of St. Brigid, Feast of St. Patrick, Lent, Easter, Pentecost,*

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board of Management in collaboration with the Principal, teaching staff, parents and parish are responsible for facilitating the smooth implementation of this policy.

However, the school's role is primarily one of supporting the parents and the parish in handing on the Catholic faith to the next generation of schoolchildren.

### **Role of Board of Management**

- The spiritual nourishment of teachers is understood by the Board of Management to be an integral part of the religious education programme undertaken by the school. To this end, all staff meetings and Board of Management meetings begin with prayer.

### **Role of Principal**

The Principal will:

- take an active role in encouraging the whole-school aspects of the religious programme and monitors progress of classes.
- Liaise with the Parish Priest in the organisation and celebration of school and parish liturgical events.
- Prior to admission to Scoil Treasa Naofa, meet with the parents of pupils who are of other faiths or no faith to discuss any concerns they may have with regard to the religious education provided by the school and present them with a copy of the *Grow in Love* programme should they wish to view/study it. These parents will also be made aware that during the daily religion class the school can only provide supervision for their children within the classroom.

### **Role of Teacher**

The class teacher will:

- Be familiar with the content of the *Grow in Love* teacher's manual.
- Deliver and teach the *Grow in Love* programme appropriate to their class.
- Employ drama, role play, interactive learning, music, song and memorisation in delivering the *Grow in Love* programme.
- Give pupils opportunities to perform music at liturgical ceremonies in school and in church.
- Co-operate with the Parish Priest and the diocesan advisers.
- Avail of any in-service support that may be provided.
- Actively support the spirit and ethos of the school remembering that **RELIGION IS CAUGHT AND NOT TAUGHT.**

### **Role of Parents**

The parents will:

- Co-operate with and support the work of the school in relation to sacramental preparation and the organisation of other religious events.
- Help with religious education homework.

- Help child/children to memorise the prayers printed at the back of each *Grow in Love* pupil textbook.
- Read the sections of the *Grow in Love* pupil textbook that is intended for them.

### **Role of Parish Priest**

The parish priest will:

- Support the work of classroom teachers in their delivery of the *Grow in Love* Programme.
- Visit the classrooms to discuss programme content and related matters.
- Participate in the preparations for the reception of sacraments.
- Participate in the preparation of liturgical celebrations held in the school and church.
- Liaise with the Principal and take the lead role in these celebrations.

### **EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The success of this policy will be evaluated using the following indicators:

- There is an acknowledged sense of *God, faith and prayer* within the school community.
- There are recognisable links between school/home/parish.
- There is a discernable atmosphere of respect, tolerance, forgiveness and support in the school.

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis and will be formally reviewed in 2018.

### **RATIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION**

This policy was circulated and communicated to members of the school community following its ratification by the Board of Management (BoM).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson BOM