

# 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.