



# Religious Education Policy Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin, Cappoquin



## MISSION STATEMENT

Bunscoil Gleann Sidheain places the child and his/her best interests at the heart of our educational philosophy. In our school we endeavour to create a caring community where management, staff, parents and pupils respect, value and appreciate each other. We actively promote a happy, healthy and stimulating school environment where opportunities are provided for promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil; intellectual, physical, cultural, moral, emotional and spiritual. Every opportunity will be given to enable children to discover their talents and uniqueness and to develop into responsible and caring adults.

### **Introduction**

Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan. The school also has two special classes for pupils with A.S.D. The school models and promotes a philosophy inspired by belief in God and traditional Catholic values. We promote religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and ethos of the Catholic Church.

### **Rationale**

This policy has been implemented to co-ordinate and consolidate religious education and to accommodate the enrolment of increased numbers of children of other faiths into the school community over the coming years.

### **Relationship to school ethos**

This school enrolls pupils of other faiths or no faith in the school, subject to the enrolment criteria, and respects their beliefs and practices in accordance with the school ethos of inclusivity.

## **School Procedures**

Every child is welcome into the school having satisfied enrolment procedures, but the school cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith. Arrangements are made within each class to accommodate children who do not take part in the religious education programme.

The Board of Management and teachers have adopted the Grow in Love Programme approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic schools. The programme is taught to each class and will be implemented in 6<sup>th</sup> class as soon as it is in place. Pupils from the A.S.D. unit integrate with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class for religion.

The following feasts and ceremonies are also observed:-

- Christmas – crib and tree, Christmas Stories, Carol services, visit to local nursing homes to entertain patients.
- Annual talk for parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> class preparing for Sacrament of First penance and first Holy Communion by Primary Diocesan Advisor.
- Feast of St. Brigid – making traditional crosses.
- Feast of St. Patrick – depiction of story and shamrock, St. Patrick’s Day Cards, school choir sings at St. Patrick’s Day Mass.
- Lent – Symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to school to distribute ashes –Pupils in Senior classes attend Parish Mass.
- Easter – Easter cards, story of the death of Jesus and resurrection, artwork and workbooks.
- Observance of Holy Days of Obligation.
- Celebration of the opening of school year with school mass.
- End of year School Mass for 6<sup>th</sup> class and their parents.
- Parents & Pupils of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class participate in the “Do this in Memory” programme facilitated by members of the Parish Council.

## **Liturgical Celebrations**

The school celebrates the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. Children receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in St.Mary’s Church.

Children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of these sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic Schools Week is observed each year. 5<sup>th</sup> Class pupils and teachers host Grandparents Day.

### **Teacher Input**

In this school the following areas are covered.

- In-service on delivering Grow in Love programme.
- Morning & Evening Prayers
- Study of Grow in Love Teachers Guide.
- Sacred Space in each classroom
- Sacred Space in Entrance Hall
- Prayer Services.
- Nativity plays.
- Carol Services.
- School Choir participate in Liturgies at Mass on Christmas Day and St. Patrick's Day.

### **Success Criteria**

- An acknowledged sense of God, Faith prayer and worship within the school community.
- Respect for all within the school community.
- Parental interest.
- Recognisable links between home, school and parish.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Staff

- Welcome visits from local Priests of the Parish
- Welcome Diocesan Visits
- Deliver Grow in Love Programme.
- Cooperate with Parish and diocesan advisers.
- Avail of In-Service support.

- Actively support the ethos of the school.
- Welcome visits from local Priests of the Parish
- Welcome Diocesan Visits

**Parents:**

- Support the school during times of sacramental preparation and assist at home with Religious Education homework.

**Principal:**

- Facilitates supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the programme.

**Board of Mangement**

Facilitates and supports the implementation of the Religious Education Policy of Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin.