



# ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

## DUBLIN

### Policy on Religious Education in Alexandra College Junior School

Alexandra College educates students in a Church of Ireland ethos, influenced by the Quaker values of our founder Anne Jellicoe. We welcome students of all faiths and of none. The council is the patron of the College. The chairman of the Council is the Archbishop of Dublin.

An inclusive atmosphere and education, moral guidance, spirituality and ethics are all part of this area, and need very careful and positive, even sensitive handling by all members of the community. There are expectations on the part of the parents as well as the students in this area, not just those reading it, and these expectations need to be congruent with the ethos of the College.

#### Aims and Objectives

*The Primary School Curriculum celebrates the uniqueness of the child, as it is expressed in each child's personality, intelligence and potential for development. It is designed to nurture the child in all dimensions of his or her life – spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical.*

Primary School Curriculum, Introduction p.6.

Religious Education has a particular role to play in the 'celebration' proposed for the education of children in primary school. The primary curriculum acknowledges this role for Religious Education and notes that it can enable the child to develop spiritual and moral values and to come to a knowledge of God (p.58). In Ireland, the provision of a curriculum in Religious Education is the responsibility of religious authorities; the programme prepared by the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church, and presented here, seeks to fulfil that responsibility for children and schools of that tradition.

The programme is constructed using the same framework of strand units found throughout the rest of the curriculum. This structure can facilitate the integration of Religious Education with the rest of the curriculum – connections can be made with other curriculum areas which can give Religious Education a place in the life of the school beyond the time allocated to it each day.

Promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, of confidence and trust, based on Christian principles, within which each pupil can feel happy and secure.

- **Textbooks:** All classes use the *Follow Me* series – each class has a 40 minute lesson or two 20 minute lessons each week depending on the age group. Copies of the Children's Bible are available in each classroom.
- **Daily Prayers:** These are student-led in assembly and the Lord's Prayer is said every day.

- **Daily Assembly:** All assemblies start with a hymn and can focus on a religious event like a saint's day, Advent, Lent etc.
- The **school chaplain** and principal of the college also lead assembly. The principal leads it once a week and the school chaplain once a term.
- **Learning about different faiths:** Learning about different religions is covered very well in the *Follow Me* textbooks. J6 do a class project on learning about different religions around the world (Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Muslim, Mormon, Hindu etc.)
- **Diocesan In-service in Christ Church:** A group from J4 participates in this annual event led by the Archbishop and all the Protestant schools are represented too.
- **Christmas Carol Service:** Annual event that includes Junior and Senior schools.
- **Christmas play:** (KGLr to J1) Students perform a nativity play for their parents most years.
- **Religious calendar:** All events are marked and discussed at assembly and in class – saints' days, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter etc.
- **Optional - Roman Catholic Programme:** This programme is taught after school to students from J1-J6. The sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation are facilitated through the Milltown Parish.