**Introduction**

Galbally NS is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Cashel & Emly. 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 ethos of the Catholic Church.

**Rationale**

This policy has been implemented in conjunction with our enrolment policy .It outlines how we deal with religion at Galbally NS and the enrolement of increased numbers of children of other faiths & none into the school .

**Relationship to school ethos**

Galbally NS enrols 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 Religion programme approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic schools.  The programme is taught to each class.  All Catholic feasts are celebrated.

• Christmas – tree and cribs, Christmas Stories, Carol services, visit to local active retirement group.
• Feast of St. Brigid – making traditional crosses.
• Feast of St. Patrick – depiction of story and shamrock, St. Patrick’s Day Cards, entry in St. Patrick’s Day parade.
• Lent – Symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to school to distribute ashes.
• Easter – Easter cards, story of the death of Jesus and resurrection, artwork and workbooks.
• Observance of Holy Days of Obligation.
• Celebration of the opening / closing of school year with school mass.

**Mass Serving**.

Children from 3rd class to 6th are facilitated to train as Mass servers .They can join the serving rota once parents have signed parental consent forms which are provided by the parish group. Similarly they are facilitated to serve at morning mass , funerals , etc once they have parental consent.

**Liturgical Celebrations**

The school celebrates the sacraments of Confirmation , Penance and First Communion. .  Children are prepared thoroughly in all aspects of these sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.

**Sacred Space** There is provision in each classroom for a religious corner or sacred space which changes in accordance with the liturgical cycle.

**Assessment/Record Keeping/Evaluation**

Recording of children’s work takes many forms – pictorial, written, wall displays, etc. Wall displays can be seen in each classroom around the focus of the lessons and centered on the prayer area.

Reports to parents are clear and informative, giving details of the child’s progress in religious education. Progress Reports are issued in end of year report to all pupils.

Teachers endeavor to ensure that all children have equal access to the Religious Education curriculum and plan so that the activities are differentiated to meet the needs of the class

**Teacher input**

In this school the following areas are covered.
• In-service on delivering Grow in love / Alive-O programme.
• Study of Teachers Guide.
• Prayer Services.
• Nativity plays.
• Carol Services.

**Success Criteria**

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

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Staff -  Deliver Alive-O / Grow in Love programme.
-  Cooperate with Chaplain/Parish and diocesan advisers.
-  Avail of In-Service support.
-  Actively support the ethos of the school.

Pa**rents:**• 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.

**Success Criteria**

 • An acknowledged sense of God, Faith prayer and worship with the school community

• Respect for all within the school community

• Parental Interest

 • Recognisable links between home, school and parish

**Implementation**

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**Staff :**

• Deliver Alive-O and Grow in Love programme

• Co-operate with Chaplain/Parish and diocesan advisers

• Avail of In-service support

**Parents**

• Actively support the ethos of the school

• 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

**Review:**

Ongoing

**Ratification and Communication:**

This plan has been communicated to the BoM for ratification..