



Whole School Plan  
For  
**Religion**



AN ROINN  
OIDEACHAIS AGUS SCILEANNA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta  
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

Title
Whole School
Junior/Senior
1 <sup>st</sup> /2nd
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4th
5h/6th

<b>Whole School Religion</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	Presentation Primary School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. 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.
<b>Rationale</b>	This policy has been implemented in response to the necessity to accommodate the enrolment of increased numbers of children of other faiths into the school community over the coming years.
<b>Relationship to school ethos</b>	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
<b>School Procedures</b>	<p>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 Alive-O and Grow in Love programmes and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic schools. The programme is taught to each class. All Catholic feasts are celebrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas- tree and cribs, Christmas Stories, Carol Services, nativity plays</li> <li>• Feast of St. Brigid - making traditional crosses</li> <li>• Feast of St. Patrick- depiction of story and shamrock, St. Patrick's Day Cards, entry in St. Patrick's Day parade</li> <li>• Lent- Symbols of repentance, visit of local clergy to school to distribute ashes</li> <li>• Easter - Easter Cards, story of the death of Jesus and resurrection, artwork and workbooks</li> <li>• Observance of Holy Days of Obligation</li> <li>• Celebration of the closing of the school year with school mass</li> </ul>
<b>Liturgical Celebrations</b>	The school celebrates the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. Children receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in St. Michaels 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
<b>Sacred Space</b>	There is provision in each classroom for a religious corner or sacred space which changes in accordance with the liturgical cycle. The front hall also has a sacred space.

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<p><b>Prayer</b></p>	<p>Prayer is an integral part of every lesson in the Alive – O series. Every lesson has a time for prayer. Different forms of prayer are encouraged, silent prayer, meditation, reflections, bidding prayers, prayer services, use of the psalms etc. Teachers regard it as a great privilege to pray with the children.</p> <p>Each day begins and ends with a meaningful and appropriate time of prayer. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer decorated with children’s work e.g. prayers, drawings etc. The following prayers are recommended each day.</p> <p>Morning Prayers; Morning Prayer, Our Father , Hail Mary, Glory be</p> <p>It is recommended that some of the more common prayers are said as Gaeilge as the pupils get older.</p> <p>Evening Prayers: Evening Prayer “God Our Father I come to say thank you for your love to day.....</p>
<p><b>Teacher Input</b></p>	<p>In our school the following areas are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-service on delivering the Grow in Love programme</li> <li>• Delivery of the Alive-O programme and the induction of the Grow in Love programme throughout the school</li> <li>• Prayer Services</li> <li>• Nativity Plays</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment/Record Keeping/Evaluation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sacramental Preparation</b></p>	<p>The Sacraments are a celebration of the presence of Christ permeating every moment of our lives. Growing in understanding of the Sacraments is a complex interaction of a variety of experiences and celebrations in which the children take part during the years they spend in Presentation Primary.</p> <p>In the preparation programmes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation parents play a very vital and important role in supporting their children. We aim to enable parents, priests and teachers to work closely in unison. Parents are invited to attend a series of meetings during the preparation period. These meetings start in October in preparation for the Enrolment service (First Communion) and Commitment service (Confirmation) which take place</p>

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	<p>in Advent in St.Michael's Church at Sunday Mass. Meetings are held in preparation for First Communion and four meetings for Confirmation. They are held to ensure that that all are fully informed and to enable the priest, teachers and parents to share knowledge, experience and faith together appropriate to the Sacramental experience of their children and their own lives. The meetings begin well in advance of the reception of the Sacraments indicating the importance of the preparation period.</p> <p>“You Shall Be My Witnesses “ (YSBMW) programme led by parents who act as mentors, has been very successfully used in preparing the pupils for Confirmation. Likewise the “Grow in Love” programme is in use for preparation for First Holy Communion families.</p> <p>Parishioners support the preparation through prayer. Parishioners are involved as the preparation of liturgies take place in the parish church for Sunday Masses.</p> <p>At sacramental preparation meetings parents are invited to take part and express their views Openness about the difficulties parents experience in passing on the faith is welcomed. Parents are encouraged to take their children to Mass on Sundays and those who find this difficult are continually encouraged to begin again.</p> <p>Children are prepared well in all aspects of these sacraments by the individual class teachers in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.</p> <p><b>Enrolment Ceremony / Commitment Ceremony</b>                  The Enrolment Ceremony (First Communion ) and the Commitment service (Confirmation )take place in the parish church during Advent. Parents, teachers, and members of the whole community attend the ceremony. The ceremony is linked with the Alive - O/ Grow in Love programme.</p> <p><b>First Penance and First Holy Communion</b>                  First class is the first year when children follow a more specific course of instruction in preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Parents are asked to take part in the preparation alongside their children. Children receive the Sacrament of Penance in the parish church during Lent of 2nd class and the Sacrament of the Eucharist on a Saturday in May.</p>
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	<p><b>Visits to the Church</b>                  ‘The First Communicants are brought to the church for a number of visits in the weeks leading up to the First Communion .The are shown the Vessels that are used on the Altar ,the vestments etc.</p> <p><b>First Communion Day</b>                  Our First Communion service is very beautiful. A lot of work goes into preparing the pupils for their very special day. A lot of thought and practice goes into the preparation of the liturgy for the day. Each child participates actively in the ceremony- reading, bidding prayers, dramatizing the Gospel, Offerty procession, sign of peace etc.                  The pupils receive First Holy Communion in their school uniform.                  The First Communicants sit with their families in the body of the church after processing to the church from the school.</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b>                  Sixth class is prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are again involved through “ You Shall Be My Witnessess” .</p> <p><b>Graduation Mass</b>                  Graduation Mass for the 6th class pupils is celebrated during the last week of June.</p>
<p><b>Success Criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An acknowledged sense of God, Faith prayer and worship with the school community</li> <li>• Respect for all within the school community</li> <li>• Parental Interest</li> <li>• Recognisable links between home, school and parish</li> </ul>

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<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Staff :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Alive-O and Grow in Love programme</li> <li>• Co-operate with Chaplain/Parish and diocesan advisers</li> <li>• Avail of In-service support</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively support the ethos of the school</li> <li>• Support the school during times of sacramental preparation and assist at home with Religious Education homework</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Principal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates supportive interaction between all parties in implementing the programme</li> </ul>
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## **Ratification and Implementation**

This school plan will be ratified by the Board of Management.

It will be reviewed each June.

Ratified By BOM:

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

Board of Management

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

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

Principal

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

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Title of Prayer	J.Inf	S Inf	1st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
Sign of the Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glory be to the Father	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morning Prayer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Night Prayer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grace Before Meals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grace After Meals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer to Guardian Angel		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Patrick's Breastplate			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hail Holy Queen					✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer to Mary					✓	✓	✓	✓
Our Father		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hail Mary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer to Jesus			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Confiteor			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Title of Prayer</b>	<b>J. Inf</b>	<b>S. Inf</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
Act of Sorrow			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer for Forgiveness				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayer after Forgiveness				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mass Responses			Some	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gloria				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayers before Communion				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prayers after Communion				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comhartha na Croise			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
An Paidir			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
‘Sé do Bheatha a Mhuire			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glóir don Athair			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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The Angelus (old version)					✓	✓	✓	✓
The Apostles Creed					✓	✓	✓	✓
The Memorare				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Magnificat				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mysteries of the Rosary				Some	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicene Creed							✓	✓

**All Classes Celebrate:**

Advent  
 Lent  
 Christmas  
 Easter  
 Feast of St. Michael 29th September  
 Presentation Day 21st November  
 Feast of Immaculate Conception 8th December  
 St. Brigid's Day 1st February  
 St. Patrick's Day 17th March

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