

**DROM NATIONAL SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL POLICY PLANNING**

**RELIGIOUS**  
**EDUCATION POLICY**

## INTRODUCTION

Drom National School's Religious Education Policy was formulated by the school principal in consultation with the school staff, the parish priest, the Very Reverend Martin Murphy, and the Board of Management. It forms part of the Drom National School Ethos Development Plan which was formulated following completion of the St. Senan's Education Centre Annual Review of School Ethos.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE SCHOOL ETHOS

Drom National School, (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a Catholic school, we provide religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promote the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

## AIMS

The aims of the Religious Education Policy are:

1. To foster and deepen the children's faith through teaching the Catholic Religious Education programme.
2. To ensure consistency and continuity in the Religious Education programme.
3. To provide guidance to the school community on how to cultivate the Catholic ethos in the school and the wider community.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Diocesan Information

Drom National School is a co-educational primary school in the diocese of Cashel and Emly. The school is under the patronage of the Most Reverend Kieran O'Reilly, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly.

### **Diocesan Office**

**Address:** Archbishop's House, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.  
**Phone:** 0504 21512  
**Fax:** 0504 22680  
**Email:** office@cashel-emly.ie

### Parish Information

Drom National School is in the parish of Drom and Inch. There are two churches in the parish. These are St. Mary's Church in Drom and St. Laurence O'Toole Church in Inch.

Personnel:

**Parish Priest:** Very Rev. Martin Murphy  
**Address:** Drom, Templemore, Co. Tipperary  
**Phone:** 0504 51196  
**Mobile:** 086 3868877  
**Email:** dromandinchparish1829@gmail.com

**Priest-in-Residence:** Very Rev. Thomas F. Egan  
**Address:** Inch, Bouladuff, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.  
**Mobile:** 086 8199678  
**Email:** [thomasfegan74@gmail.com](mailto:thomasfegan74@gmail.com)

### School Information

**School Name:** Drom National School  
**School Roll Number:** 18322v  
**School Address:** Drom, Templemore, Co. Tipperary

<b>Phone:</b>	0504-51688
<b>Denominational Character:</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Name of Patron:</b>	Archbishop Kieran O' Reilly
<b>Total No. of Teachers:</b>	5 3 mainstream teachers 1 full-time special education teacher 1 shared full-time special education teacher
<b>Range of Classes Taught:</b>	Junior Infants – Sixth Class
<b>Gender Orientation of School:</b>	Mixed Gender
<b>School Opening Hours:</b>	9.20a.m. – 3.00p.m.

## MATERIALS

### Texts

- The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland is the foundation document for all Religious Education.
- The Alive-O Religious Education programme is currently being phased out and the Grow in Love Religious Education programme is being introduced in Drom National School.

Class	2017 – 2018	2018 – 2019	2019 - 2018
Junior & Senior Infants	Grow in Love: Junior Infants	Grow in Love: Senior Infants	Grow in Love: Junior Infants
First, Second & Third Class	Grow in Love: First Class	Grow in Love: Second Class	Grow in Love: Third Class
Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Class	Grow in Love: Fourth Class	Grow in Love: Fifth Class	Grow in Love: Sixth Class

- Each classroom has the applicable Grow in Love Teacher's Resource Kit. This includes a teacher's manual, a CD, a copy of the pupil's book & a flipchart of posters for the classroom's Sacred Space. The teacher's manual provides a nine-letter web access code to the Grow in Love website on which online resources linked to each theme & additional seasonal lessons can be accessed. Students bring home the pupil's book and complete the At Home page with parents / guardians on a weekly basis.
- There is a small number of bibles available in the senior classroom. The Board of Management of Drom National School identified the need to purchase a set of child friendly Bibles for the school as part of the St. Senan's Annual Review of School Ethos.
- The Grow in Love programme allows for the differentiation of the material given in each theme for SEN pupils or children who are gifted and talented.
- Resources for Catholic Schools Week are available to download on [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie)
- Additional Religious Education resources are stored in the school's store room and are available for use by all teaching staff.

### Symbols

- A Schedule for Catholic Schools is displayed in the reception area and in the staff room.
- Symbols pertaining to the Liturgical year will be displayed in the school reception area. Examples include:

Date	Symbol
November	Memorial Candle
November / December	Advent Wreath Crib
February	St. Brigid's Cross
March	Shamrock
Lenten season	Trócaire Box / Posters from Trócaire
May	May Altar

- A painting of the Holy Family is displayed in the school grounds each December.
- A Holy Water font is available to students inside the student entrance door.

### Sacred Space

Each class has its own designated Sacred Space arranged by teachers with appropriate symbols and the relevant Grow in Love poster on display. The Grow in Love posters reflect the themes of the Religious Education programme being taught. Pupils are encouraged to pray at this Sacred Space and add relevant symbols at various times of the liturgical year.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation is a collaborative process between home, school and the parish. Preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion is undertaken in 2<sup>nd</sup> class each year. Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is undertaken every two years in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class. The dates for First Confession and First Holy Communion are decided collaboratively between Drom National School, Barnane National School and the parish. The date for Confirmation is assigned by the Diocesan office to all three schools in the parish. Parents / Guardians are notified of the date of the First Holy Communion on the school calendar while the date for the First Confession and Confirmation ceremony are provided to parents / guardians as soon as they are agreed upon or assigned.

### Sacrament of Penance and Sacrament of First Holy Communion

In Drom National School, the students are prepared for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion by their teachers in association with the parish priest, the Very Reverend Fr. Martin Murphy. The students of Drom National School receive their First Confession and First Holy Communion with the students of Barnane National School. The schools work collaboratively to prepare the students for these sacraments and to help them to participate in both ceremonies. The school music teacher assists with the preparation of ceremonial music. Teachers and students follow the preparatory lessons in the relevant Religious Education programme.

A meeting for parents / guardians of First Holy Communion children is organised each year by the parish priest and facilitated by an expert speaker. Parents / guardians of Communicants are invited to participate in parish liturgies by reading at weekend masses in Term 2 and 3 each year.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

In Drom National School, the students are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation by their teachers in association with the parish priest, the Very Reverend Fr. Martin Murphy. The students of Drom National School receive their Confirmation with the students of Barnane National School and Inch National School. The schools work collaboratively to prepare the students for these sacraments and to help them to participate in the confirmation ceremony. The school music teacher assists with the preparation of ceremonial music. Teachers and students follow the preparatory lessons in the relevant Religious Education programme.

A meeting for parents / guardians of Confirmation children is organised every two years by the parish priest and facilitated by an expert speaker. Confirmation children are invited to discuss making their confirmation with their parents / guardians and are provided with a choice in relation to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The students attend a Confirmation retreat in The Pastoral Centre on the De La Salle Complex in Castletown, Co. Laois. They are also invited to participate in parish liturgies by reading at weekend masses in Term 1.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Religious Education classes take place daily from 12pm. The formal Religious Education class is 30 minutes in duration, but additional time may be assigned to sacramental preparation from discretionary curriculum time. The teachers follow the appropriate Grow in Love / Alive O' programme and ask students to complete the 'At Home' page with parents / guardians on a weekly basis. These programmes allow for integration with other areas of the curriculum including:

English	Oral Language; Reading; Writing
Irish	Éisteacht; Labhairt; Léitheoireacht; Scríbhneoireacht
History	Local studies; Story; Early people and ancient societies; Life, society, work and culture in the past; Continuity and change over time
Geography	Environmental awareness and care
Science	Environmental awareness and care
SPHE	Myself; Myself and Others; Myself and the Wider World
Music	Performing
Visual Arts	Drawing; Paint and Colour, Print, Fabric & Fibre; Construction; Clay
Drama	Drama to explore feelings, knowledge and ideas, leading to understanding

Prayer forms an integral part of school life in Drom National School. The Morning Prayer is recited at the start of the school day while students recite the Night Prayer at home-time. The students recite Grace Before Meals and Grace After Meals at break times. The Angelus is recited in the senior room at noon during May. Formal prayers are learnt

over a two-year period in the Infant classroom and over a three-year period in the First, Second and Third Class and the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class classrooms. (See Appendix 1)

Mass responses are taught as part of the preparatory programme for participation in the First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

Other activities that support the Religious Education programme:

- Students attend mass in St. Mary's Church, Drom for Ash Wednesday and for the 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Mass.
- Students participate in the Christmas Eve liturgy. They are invited to sing a Christmas carol at this liturgy. A child from the Holy Communion class is also chosen to play the part of Mary or Joseph during the liturgy.
- A Carol Service is held in St. Mary's Church, Drom every three years.
- The parish priest facilitates confession for students from Third to Sixth class in the school.
- Catholic Schools' Week is celebrated each year at the end of the January.
- Drom National School supports the annual Trócaire Lenten campaign and teachers can access educational material from Trócaire's website to further support awareness of the work of Trócaire during Lent.
- Drom National School participates in the Team Hope Shoebox appeal each year and supports Daffodil Day for the Irish Cancer Society.

## **PARTNERS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Drom National School recognises that parents / guardians are the primary educators of their children and seek a number of opportunities to involve them in the Religious Education programme:

- The Grow in Love Religious Education programme provides weekly 'At Home' pages to be completed by parents / guardians and their children together. These pages link directly with the theme being taught to the pupils.
- Parents / Guardians are invited to preparatory meetings for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Parents / Guardians are invited to attend school masses.
- A Carol Service is held in St. Mary's Church, Drom every three years. Parents / Guardians are invited to attend this event.
- The school newsletter and school website provide information about sacramental preparation in the school.

## **ACCOMMODATION OF PUPILS OF OTHER FAITHS AND NONE**

- Drom National School welcomes students of other faiths and none. The school must be notified in writing if parents / guardians do not wish their child / children to participate in the Religious Education programme. These students will remain in their classroom and complete curricular work independently during religious instruction time.
- Where feasible, the school will arrange for these students to be supervised by a teacher in another class during church visits. Parents / Guardians will be asked to provide written instruction to the school on how it should proceed where it is not feasible for these students to be supervised by a teacher in another class. Parents / Guardians may choose to allow their child / children to accompany the other children to the church or can remove their child / children from school for the duration of the church visit. Parents / Guardians who choose to remove their child from school for the duration of the church visit should collect their child / children from the classroom. For safety reasons we cannot allow children to wait unsupervised at the school gate. The student is the responsibility of their parent / guardian while away from the school. Parents / Guardians will be notified as soon as possible of church visits to allow them adequate time to make suitable arrangements.

## **RATIFICATION**

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Drom National School at its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and will be reviewed and updated where necessary. It will be implemented following ratification. The policy will be available to view on the school website or in hard copy upon request from the school office on (0504) 51688.