



# Parteen National School

Kilquane, Parteen, County Clare, V94 EY64.

□ office@parteenschool.ie

□ (061) 340457



## Religion Policy

Parteen National School is a co-educational Catholic primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic ethos represents the norms of behaviour which have emerged and continue to emerge gradually from the repeated interactions and relationships between people in the school community. While Parteen National School is a school with a Catholic ethos, it has due recognition for pupils of other faiths or no faith.

Our Catholic ethos finds expression through the care values of our school and through our actions, attitudes and practices:

- The staff of this school strive to create a climate of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual safety for students, teachers and parents so that teaching and learning can occur within relationships of mutual valuing and respect.
- With this in mind, the teachers of the school see education not just as providing students with knowledge and skills but also as providing for the emotional, social, physical and spiritual development of students.
- In this school we want students to be self-motivated and to be at peace with themselves, others and the world. Achievement of these aspirations by the school requires the help and co-operation of students, teachers and parents.

### Religious Education and Faith Development

Parteen National School promotes Religious Education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith. Sensitivity is always shown to pupils of all

faiths and no faith. The school cannot, however undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith, nor can it provide supervision during the religious education period apart from the class. Efforts will be made to accommodate children of other faiths and no faith during religious instruction.

Parteen National School has adopted the *Grow in Love* Programme approved and recommended by the School Patron for use in Catholic Schools. A Christian ethos however permeates the school day and the life of the school. There is a spirit of prayer in the school. The major Catholic and local feasts are celebrated. Liturgical celebrations are held on occasions and the school celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation annually.

### Whole School Dimension

There is a spirit of prayer in the school not just imposed on the children, but is seen to be a value for the teachers. In each classroom there is an atmosphere of openness, forgiveness, and understanding. A sense of awe and wonder at the goodness, beauty and love of God is developed in the children. Meaningful icons, pictures and artworks are on display throughout the school building. The major Catholic and local feasts are celebrated. They are marked with the aid of signs and symbols displayed throughout the school: examples below

- Advent - the Advent wreath • Christmas - tree and crib
- Feast of St. Brigid - traditional crosses
- Feast of St. Patrick - depiction of story and shamrock
- Lent - symbols of repentance and ashes
- Easter - symbols of the new life of resurrection

Liturgical celebrations are held on some occasions e.g.

- The opening and closing of the school year
- Carol service at Christmas

- Times of trauma or crisis and for other occasions which from time to time are considered appropriate to celebrate or to mark.
- Incorporated into school assemblies

### Sacred Space and Symbols

Each classroom has a Sacred Space set up which is used during Prayer services, daily prayers and moments of reflection. This space also displays the children's work on current themes of the Grow in Love programme and changes throughout the Liturgical Year. Prayers recited throughout the day include;

- The Sign of the Cross
- Morning Prayer
- Evening Prayer
- Grace before Meals
- Grace after Meals
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory be to the Father (At times some classes will recite prayers in Irish.) Special emphasis is put on hymns for Christmas and liturgical & sacramental ceremonies.

### Spiritual Formation of Teachers

The spiritual nourishment of teachers is understood by the Board of Management to be an integral part of the religious education programme undertaken by the school.

### Other Religious Denominations

Subject to the terms of the enrolment and admission policy, we enrol pupils of other faiths or no faith in the school and accord due respect for their beliefs and practices. Each child is welcome to attend and benefit from the Catholic religious education programme. If parents have difficulty with this the class teacher shall meet with them

to see if an accommodation can be reached. Parents are welcome to view the religious programme taught - at its core is the commandment 'Love God and love your neighbour.'

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Parteen National School on:

23/4/24.

Signed: Janet O Sullivan Chairperson, Board of Management

This policy will be revised as the need arises.