



Policy on attendance at Religious Ceremonies during school time

St. Brigid's N.S. Clonegal, is a co-educational Primary School under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. The school has a strong Catholic ethos but welcomes children of all faiths and none.

Rationale

This policy is drawn up by the Board of Management to give clarity to Parents, Teachers and Principal regarding the inclusion of children of other faiths in our school. It will be reviewed annually, or more frequently if necessary, to ensure it meets the needs of all concerned.

Religious Instruction

Religion is taught in all classes in mainstream and in the ASD classes. Teachers follow the recognized programme laid down for Catholic Schools ie Alive O from 3rd to 6th class. Grow in Love, the new Religious Education Programme for Catholic Primary Schools has been introduced in the Infant classes, will be introduced in 1st & 2nd class in September 2016 and will be introduced in the remaining classes as the programme becomes available.

Daily Prayer

Daily prayer is a feature of all classrooms – a prayer at the beginning of the day, grace before & after meals and a prayer at the end of the day. Senior classes may recite the Angelus. There may be religious objects or statues in classrooms or school corridors. At Christmas the traditional Crib is on display throughout the school.

Mass Attendance

On a number of occasions during the year, pupils from the school attend Mass in the local St. Brigid's Church. These occasions may include beginning of school year, Christmas, end of school year and other rare occasions if necessary. Children also attend a religious ceremony to mark Grandparents Day and may attend a ceremony if the school is open on religious holydays.

Sacramental Preparations

Pupils in the relevant classes are prepared for the Sacraments of Penance, The Eucharist and Confirmation. This instruction takes place during class time. The School choir, during class time, learns suitable hymns for Masses and Sacramental events.



Pupils of different Religions

Pupils of different religions are very welcome in our school. They are also very welcome to participate in all the religious activities of their classroom if their parents wish them to do so. They are not obliged to participate in Religion classes, choir preparation, daily prayer or Sacramental preparation if parents have informed the school, at enrolment or later if they so wish, that they do not wish their child/children to participate. These children are not obliged to attend Mass or other Religious ceremonies in the Church.

Arrangements for Pupils of different Religions

School Masses are always celebrated at the beginning of the school day. Parents are informed in advance and if they do not wish their child to attend they are requested to bring their child to school after the Mass. As we do not have any staff to supervise/teach children during Mass time any child who is in school during that time will be obliged to go to the Church.

During incidental daily prayer, the child may simply opt out of participation if parents have requested that they do not participate.

If parents have indicated that they do not wish their child to participate in Religion class, the class teacher will organize the timetable so religion is taught during the first class of the morning or the last class of the evening. Parents are welcome to bring their child to school after religion class or before it commences.

During Sacramental preparations, a child may go to another classroom and continue with work prepared by his/her teacher or, on occasions, join in with the work in the other classrooms.