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**Catholic Primary Religious Education**

Our Catholic vision of education is rooted in its ‘Christian concept of life centred on Jesus Christ; he is the One who ennobles people, gives meaning to human life, and is the Model which the Catholic school offers to its pupils.’ *The Catholic School (*Congregation for Catholic Education 1977)

**Agreed Schedule for a Catholic Primary School – Republic of Ireland** A Roman Catholic school (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and 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. The Catholic school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith. Catholic Primary School Managers’ Association, Deeds of Variation for Catholic Primary Schools’, *CPSMA Members’ Handbook, p.19*.

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Primary Schools in our diocese provide religious education as an integral part of their curriculum. While parents are the primary educators of their children, it is also the responsibility of every Christian community to pass on its Christian faith and experience to its children. Therefore, religious education and formation of children requires close co-operation between home, school and parish.

Teachers as religious educators seek to support, extend and clarify the faith which children live at home and in church. The children’s faith grows and develops each year as they are introduced by their teacher in an ever deeper manner to the sources of Christian revelation and helped to relate the faith to their present lives and experience. At school they are also assisted in expressing their faith and nourishing it through prayer, liturgy and the sacraments.

