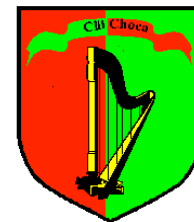


# *Scoil Uí Riada*



An Bhanóg, Cill Choca, Co. Chill Dara  
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**Príomhoide: Séamus Ó Muirithe**

## **Polasaí Oideachais Reiligiúin**

Scoil Uí Riada is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese. Scoil Uí Riada is an inclusive school which is subject to the terms of its enrolment policy, enrolling children of all faiths and none and respecting their beliefs and practices. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by a belief in God.

A Christian ethos permeates the school and the life of the school. There is regular prayer in the school and prayers are taught as Gaeilge and are appropriate to class level. (Clár Beo go Deo). Religious Education is taught in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church and promotes the formation of pupils in the Catholic Faith. Children of other or of no faith may use prayer time for reflection. The children learn about other religions as part of SESE and SPHE lessons. Children of other faiths and no faith may be facilitated in their classroom to work on other activities during religion time, preparation for sacraments and other Catholic celebrations.

We try to give our pupils a sense of Christian values but we recognize that it is primarily the role of parents/ guardians to guide their children in matters of faith and religious belief. Children are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation as Gaeilge within the school, in their respective classes.

### Vision;

The school seeks to ;

- create an inclusive community in service of the common good
- recognize the dignity of each individual
- nourish the mind through a varied academic curriculum, involvement in the arts, physical education and sporting activity, and a commitment to moral development and personal responsibility

### Aims of Religious Education in our school;

- to contribute to the religious development of our students.
- To provide opportunities to deepen sacramental awareness

- To teach a curriculum that develops and challenges growth in moral awareness and commitment to the search for justice, integrity the care of others and the care of the earth

### Teaching of Religion

The Bord Bainistíochta and the teachers have adopted the ‘Beo go Deo’ Catechetical Programme, approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic Schools.

The programme incorporates the recommended approach to religious education for reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

The programme is studied each day for one half hour.

### Whole School Dimension

Art works of Christian significance may be displayed in the school and in our ‘Pobal Chreidimh’ area. The Pobal Chreidimh represents a Christian theme every month in which one class group takes responsibility for that month. The major Catholic and local feasts are celebrated with the children in class.

Such celebrations and feasts are;

- Feast of St. Brigid; traditional crosses
- Feast of St. Patrick- depiction of story and shamrock
- Lent- symbols of repentance and ashes
- Easter- symbols of resurrection and new life.
- Advent- the Advent wreath/ Christmas tree and crib
- Feast of Naomh Coca- 6<sup>th</sup> June
- Remembering the deceased

Liturgical celebrations ;

- Feast Days
- Carol service at Christmas
- Blessing of Ashes
- Times of trauma or crisis and for other occasions, which from time to time are considered, appropriate to celebrate or to mark.
- At the celebration of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation
- Family Masses throughout the year.

### Teaching Methodologies Used To Achieve Aims

- *Alive – O/ Beo go Deo* Teacher’s Guide
- Pobal Chreidimh
- Giving children prayer experiences that are meaningful
- Sacramental and non-sacramental liturgies

- Use of imagination in prayer
- Drama and role play on the theme of Christian Values
- Questions and answers helping children to use their own words
- Vocal prayer

### Success Criteria

We will know this policy is working in our school if:

- There is a sense of Faith, Prayer and Worship in the school community
- There is a sense of Faith, Friendship & Family in our school community
- There is a school community where respect for all is evident at all times
- There is an outward-looking care for the less fortunate in society
- There is evidence of parental interest in the religious education programme
- There are recognisable links between parish/home/school
- Children can speak confidently of their faith

### Teachers and Staff:

- Inform themselves through studying the *Beo go Deo* teacher's manual
- Deliver and teach the *Beo go Deo* programme appropriate to their class .
- Liaise with the priests / Parish and the Diocesan Advisers
- Avail themselves of in-service support provided.
- Actively support the spirit and ethos of the school .

### Parents:

- Parents / guardians are asked to co-operate and support the school in its efforts especially at times of sacramental preparation and at other school events to which they are invited.
- Parents are also asked to help with religious education homework and to read the parts of the *Alive-O* programme that are intended for them.
- Parents are asked to understand that they are the primary educators in matters of faith and religion .

### Principal:

- The principal and Catholic Schools Facilitator (CFS) play an active role in encouraging the whole school aspects of the programme and monitors progress throughout the school.
- The Principal, CSF and all staff discuss the progress of religious education at in school management or staff meetings as appropriate.
- Liaises with the parish priests and the parish representatives.
- Helps to facilitate supportive interaction of all parties in implementing the programme.

### Responsibility For Implementing This Policy

The Board of Management in consultation with the Principal ( Séamus Ó Muirthe ) and the Catholic Schools Facilitator ( Maria Ní Chorrduibh ) are responsible for facilitating the smooth implementation of the policy. The teachers teach the programme appropriate to their class. Parents support the policy and consult with the principal where they are of another faith or none and will require alternate arrangements.

Review:

This policy and its contents will be reviewed every two years or when an Bord Bainistíochta may deem appropriate.

*A copy of this policy is available on our school website for all prospective parents or interested parties from community or dioceses. Hard copy is available on request .  
The school is under the patronage of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese.*

*Deireadh Fómhair 2014*