

Good practice in RE/Chaplaincy in Le Chéile schools

1. All important occasions celebrated with a Mass/liturgy.
2. A moment of prayer every day over the school intercom, generally 10 minutes into the first class.
3. The chapel is used consistently throughout the year. As many opportunities as possible taken to mark the various events of the liturgical year, e.g. carol service at Christmas/ Distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday and a Stations of the Cross at Easter.
4. Strong sense of inclusivity in the schools.
5. Variety of pastoral care projects, e.g. peer to peer mentoring.
6. Strong commitment to bring out what is good in each student and celebrate it.
7. Clear Mission statement.
8. Staff engaged in training in relation to Restorative Practice.
9. Every student in the school surveyed each term about whether they are being bullied or if they know anyone who is being bullied.
10. A Meditation Room for students to pray and reflect in.
11. A range of liturgical events throughout the year.
12. Every year in the school has an annual retreat.
13. Survey of students on mindfulness and anxiety.
14. Range of extra-apostolic activities, e.g. a fundraiser for the *Walk in My Shoes* campaign as part of World Mental Health day.
15. A Graduation Mass for the sixth years.
16. A Commission Service for Senior Staff at the start of the year, e.g. a first year student presents the first year head with a candle.
17. A Weekly prayer organised by the chaplain at the Whole School Assembly.
18. A collection for Saint Vincent de Paul before Christmas and for Trocaire during Lent.
19. A May altar during May and a small procession for our Lady at an assembly.
20. The Liturgical year is reflected in Assemblies, e.g. a focus on the missions in October, Catholic School Week in January, Saint Brigid in February, Saint Patrick in March etc.
21. The chaplain is a member of the pastoral care team and has a 'pastoral accompaniment' role in the school – as part of an integrated pastoral care strategy.
22. The opening of the school year service draws on the theme of promoting peace and respect for difference – with actions and symbols to match, e.g. the 'Golden Rule' carried forward in a frame, images of rainbows which bring people together.
23. That most Christian of events the Nativity Play includes an element of inclusivity – with the 'people who visited Jesus from different countries' – so if there is a student from India in the school – she/he is one of the visitors to Jesus and she wears 'native' Indian dress etc.
24. A parish prayer partner – link in with the parish so that someone with no children doing the Leaving Cert prays sends a card to the student wishing them well and saying they will be praying for them during the exams a few days before the exam starts.
25. Podcasts of services in the school.