

DIATHEMATIKON PROGRAMMA
CROSS-THEMATIC CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. Teaching/learning aim

Religious education has been internationally acknowledged as having a significant role in pupils' moral, spiritual and intellectual development and is therefore of major social significance. Although religious education can be provided to children by out of school agents (eg their family, the church), school can provide further opportunities for the pupils' well-balanced and holistic development, creating an environment conducive to learning and thinking. Religious Education is one of the subjects included in the national curriculum and is in accordance with the broader statutory aims of school education.

In compulsory education, Christianity is studied as biblical history and biblical word, as Christian Orthodox tradition, cultural expression, a movement through history, a quest for truth, having an active presence in the modern world. Pupils are also introduced to other Confessions, including Judaism and Islamism, which are studied in greater detail in Senior High school.

In kindergarten and the first two grades of elementary school where Religious Education is not part of the school curriculum the subject of Social Studies can give pupils opportunities to develop their religious awareness through the study of certain religious topics. Social studies can be linked to Religious Education since the two subjects share common aims, including the pupils' personal development, the cultivation of universal values and the development of national and cultural awareness.

The aim of Religious Education can be placed within the general scope of education which is the development of citizenship awareness. More specifically the aim of Religious Education is to give pupils opportunities to do the following:

- acquire knowledge of Christian faith and Eastern Christian Orthodox tradition;
- develop religious awareness;
- promote Orthodox spirituality as an individual and collective experience;
- develop an understanding of Christian faith as a means of interpreting and attaching meaning to the world and to life;
- become involved in religious inquiry and speculation;
- consider the role of Christianity in Greek and European history and culture;

- develop an understanding of religion as a means for the development of culture and spirituality;
- develop an awareness of the different expressions of religious feeling;
- develop the ability to deal with social problems and major modern dilemmas;
- develop critical thinking and communication abilities;
- appreciate the role of Christianity in improving human life quality.

2. Content Guiding principles, General Goals, Indicative Fundamental Cross-thematic Concepts

I. Primary School

Grade	Content Guiding Principles	General Goals (Knowledge, skills, attitudes and values)	Indicative Fundamental Cross-thematic Concepts
3rd	God in Our Life		
	God is with us.	Pupils should: be taught that God loves Man and the world, accompanies, sanctifies and blesses life.	Tradition Civilization
	The gift of life	realize that the world is a miraculous creation of God, enjoyed by Man and that Man, in turn, thanks God for it; realize that God is a loving Father and that He cares for all of His creations.	Individual- Society- Community Organization System Interaction Similarity- Difference Collectivity
	Life requires love and effort	realize that God honored Man by granting him gifts greater than any of His other creations and has established him	Equality Development- Growth

		as His co-worker; realize that God accompanies Man in his struggle for survival and improvement of his life and calls him to Church to find refuge and peace.	Communication Organization
	Christ changes life	be taught that the prophecies about the coming of Christ, liberator of the World, were fulfilled through Virgin Mary.	Culture Tradition
	The joy of life	realize how religious festivals related to Christ and the Saints seal our personal, family, parish and school life and foster community feeling and joy; realize the significance of Baptism and Communion sacraments.	Culture Space-Time Communication Community
	Life with other people	become familiar with the terms and realize the significance of living together (symbiosis) through their participation in Church community life; realize that love must be expressed towards all people.	Organization Equality Interaction Similarity- Difference Individual- Communion
	The Passion and Resurrection of Christ	be taught that in life good and evil are expressed in diverse ways and that the Passion of Christ represents both the culmination of evil, and the grandeur of sacrifice for the sake of good.	Culture Tradition Space-Time
	Religious festivals following Easter.	be informed about the Ascension and feasts following Easter.	Space-Time Culture Tradition
4th	Our Course in Life		
	Basic Principles	recognize concepts, images and princi-	Space-Time

		<p>ples that are related with the spiritual life of Christians;</p> <p>become familiar with the goal, method, means and rules pertaining to Christian life.</p>	<p>Evolution-Development</p> <p>Equality-Law</p> <p>Interaction</p> <p>Individual-Society</p>
	<p>Those who have shown the way and trodden the path</p>	<p>be taught about the life of the prophets who have trodden the right path;</p> <p>realize the significance of Christ’s words saying: ‘I am the Way’ and that the Gospel is the compass in our spiritual life;</p> <p>realize Christ’s interest in and care for all those who suffer through His relationship with people.</p>	<p>Tradition</p> <p>Conflict-Change</p> <p>Evolution-Development</p> <p>Equality-Law</p> <p>Communication</p>
	<p>A new way, a new course in life</p>	<p>realize that the Holy Spirit enlightens unifies and guides people in their new route in life;</p> <p>be informed about and appreciate the way of living of the faithful in the first Christian communities;</p> <p>become familiar with the Saints who imitated Christ’s way of living.</p>	<p>Tradition</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Space–Time</p> <p>Organization</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Interaction</p>
	<p>We walk on our course all together</p>	<p>appreciate that the Church is the meeting place of the faithful;</p> <p>be taught about the history, art and life in the monasteries and the correct way of conducting Divine Worship.</p>	<p>Space-Time</p> <p>Tradition</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Evolution-Development</p>

	In our life course we overcome obstacles	recognize the obstacles encountered by the faithful in their life course; realize which is the right way of dealing with deviation from the way of God.	Communication Conflict-Change Dependence Individual-Community
	The Church is spreading all over the world	realize the significance of missionary work, the goals and activity of missionaries.	Society-Communion Organization Culture Interaction
	Religious festivities	become familiar with the significant religious festivities and events from the liturgical life of the Church and begin to experience them.	Tradition Culture
5th	Life Requires Struggle		
	Struggles in our life.	be introduced to the Ten Commandments and realize that following them gives meaning to life and encouragement to cope with difficulties and continue the struggle.	Space-Time Conflict-Change Communication Interaction Individual-Communion Equality Organization Collectivity
	Saints and Martyrs.	realize that Christ's struggle continues in the Church with the Apostles, the Martyrs, the Saints and all Christians to this day.	Conflict-Change Evolution-Development Collectivity Individual-Communion

	The struggle for personal change	be taught that encountering Christ can radically change the way of life of fallen Man, as long as our hearts are open and we repent.	Conflict Change Evolution Development Individual-Communion
	Creating a pleasant world	realize that Christians struggle not only for their own personal change but also for the transformation of the whole world.	Tradition Culture Space-Time
	Struggle for a more human world	appreciate brotherhood, peace and respect for the environment as values of the Orthodox tradition; realize that today Christians have the responsibility to show interest in and to struggle daily to establish the new world of God.	Tradition Culture Communication Equality Interaction Individual Communion Organization
	Pertinent Issues	become familiar with the significant religious festivities and events which rejuvenate and strengthen the faithful in their daily struggle (Saints' festivals, periods of asceticism and preparation, liturgical services).	Tradition Culture Conflict-Change
6th	Seeking the Truth In Our Life		
	The search for and revealing of the truth	realize that all people seek the truth in their life regarding essential life issues (birth, sickness, human weakness in relation to natural phenomena, death).	Space-Time Tradition Culture Evolution-Development
	Truth has been recorded	understand that the Gospel, with its description of the life, work and person of Christ, is the primary source of truth in	Space-Time Tradition Culture

		life; be taught that the Psalms express the truth about God and that they constitute a link between the Jews and the Christians.	Evolution- Development
	Truths taught by Christ	be taught about the main characteristics of the Kingdom of God through the parables and the Beatitudes.	Evolution- Development Similarity- Difference Individual- Communion
	Who is vigilant for the truth	be taught about the founding and constitution of the body of the Church, which preserves the truth as taught by Christ; realize that the schisms harm the unity of Christians and heresies pervert the truth.	Tradition Evolution- Development Organization Communication Conflict- Change
	Living in truth together	realize that by participating in Church life and events (the sacraments, ceremonies, etc.) one acquires knowledge of the truth and a closer relationship with the other Christians; be taught about the characteristics of Orthodoxy and the features of other confessions and religions.	Space-Time Culture Tradition Difference
	Pertinent Issues	become familiar with saintly figures and life models of the church tradition.	Culture Collectivity Equality

II. Junior High school

Grade	Content Guiding Principles	General Goals (Knowledge, skills, attitudes and values)	Indicative Fundamental Cross-thematic Concepts
1st	Holy Scripture The Old Testament	<p>Pupils should: realize the value of studying the Holy Scripture;</p> <p>be introduced to the books of the Old Testament, the authors, the world of the Old Testament and realize its significance for Church life.</p>	<p>Space–Time Tradition Culture Evolution- Development</p>
	The Patriarchal Era: From Polytheism to Monotheism	be informed about God’s call to Abraham and the Patriarchal era.	<p>Space-Time Tradition Culture Organization Communication</p>
	Exodus: God liber- ates the people and guides them	<p>be informed about the Revelation of God to Moses;</p> <p>be informed about the events of the Exodus of the Israelite people from Egypt and their sojourn in the desert.</p>	<p>Space–Time Conflict- Change Organization Equality Law Migration</p>
	People organize themselves having God as their model	be taught about settlement of the Israelite people in the Land of Promise, their life, their struggles with the neighboring peoples and the role of the Judges.	<p>Space-Time Conflict- Change Organization Evolution- Development</p>

	People in confusion: The voice of the Prophets, an reawakening cry	be taught about the call and activities of the great prophets (8 th -7 th cent. B.C.).	Conflict- Change Evolution- Development Culture
	Life after slavery until the time just before the coming of the Messiah	understand the meaning of the narrations of Genesis that refer to the following: the creation of the world, the special place of Man in the universe and his responsibility for it; understand the organization of Israelite life.	Space-Time Culture Evolution- Development Organization Equality Law Collectivity
2 nd	Introduction: The world during the Christ era-the New Testament	be informed about the Jewish world just before Christ's coming; become familiar with the books of the New Testament and their content.	Space-Time Tradition Culture Communication Evolution- Development
	Jesus Christ comes and inaugurates the new world of God	be informed about the main events related to the coming of Christ in the world up to the time of the calling of His disciples.	Space-Time Evolution- Development Collectivity
	Christ communicates with people and shows the Kingdom of God through his teaching	become familiar with Christ as a teacher; understand the meaning of the parables; appreciate Christ's attitude towards women, children and material goods.	Tradition Culture Communication Similarity- Difference Individual- Communion Interaction
	Christ presents the new world of	realize the significance of the miraculous works of Christ;	Communication Organization

	God through his miracles	be informed about the Transfiguration of Christ and understand its meaning.	Interaction Equality Collectivity
	The Kingdom of God is realized through the Passions and Resurrection of Christ	be taught that the new world of God is realized through the Passions and Resurrection of Christ.	Culture Conflict- Change System Space-Time Communication
3rd	The First steps of the Church	be taught that Pentecost signals the founding of the Church; be informed about life in the first Christian community; realize the significance of Apostle Paul's conversion, his missionary journeys and the spread of Christianity among nations.	Space-Time Individual- Communion- Community Equality Conflict- Change Collectivity Organization
	Expansion, vicissitudes and official recognition of the Church	be informed about the great persecutions against Christians and about the catacombs; realize the significance of the Treaty of Milan.	
	The Consolidation and Rise of the Church	be taught about the Christianity–Hellenism encounter; become familiar with significant historical landmarks and personalities of the Church during the Byzantine era (Ecumenical Synods, the Holy Fathers, Monasticism, Iconoclasm, Religious Art).	Space-Time Organization System Conflict- Change Tradition Collectivity

	The Church in Europe	understand the significance of the expansion of Christianity in the Balkans, Western Europe, as well as the consequences of the Schism of 1054.	Time-Space Evolution- Development Similarity- Difference Conflict- Change
	The Church in modern times	be taught about the Reformation and its expansion; be taught about the activity and attitude of the Eastern Church during the period of the Turkish Occupation.	Conflict- Change Evolution- Development System Organization Culture
	Christianity and other Religions of our time	be informed about Roman Catholicism and Protestantism today; be informed about other religions in the modern world; appreciate the role of Orthodoxy today; appreciate the vision and endeavors to unify the Christian world.	Organization System Evolution- Development Culture

