

St Joseph's RC Primary School

Religious Education Policy



Review Date: October 2022

Next Review Date: October 2023

Religious Education Policy



Mission Statement

St Joseph's is proud to be a Catholic School. Everything we aim to achieve will be based on the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church. Through this Catholic ethos we strive to develop in the school community respect and care for everyone.

In partnership between staff, children, parents, parish and the wider community we want to give every child the opportunity to fulfil their potential by developing their own gifts and talents. We aim to create a successful learning environment where all feel welcome, safe and part of the community. We wish through the whole life of our school for every child to realise their own worth and value.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ...In the person of Christ, the deepest meaning of what it is to be human – that we are created by God and through the Holy Spirit united with Christ in his Incarnation – is discovered. This revelation is known through the scriptures and the tradition of the Church as taught by the Magisterium. Religious Education helps the pupil to know and experience the meaning of this revelation in his or her own life and the life of the community which is the Church.¹
- Religious Education is a core subject in the Catholic school.
- For some in the classroom, Religious Education may well be received as catechesis, deepening and enhancing their personal faith; for some it will be evangelisation, the first time they will have been presented, personally, with the truths of living faith. Nevertheless, its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life. The criteria by which it is to be judged are educational.²
- Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically, and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.³

The Aims of Religious Education

¹ *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 3

² Religious Education in Catholic Schools, a statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2000, p. 8-9

³ *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

- 1 To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 2 To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- 3 To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- 4 To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- 5 To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 6 To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- 7 To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- 8 To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.⁴

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory - Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - The Way, The Truth and The Life programme is used in school. We use ten ten for RHE and also collective worship.

Process

Our starting point in Religious Education is **Revelation**. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is his revealing of himself that makes classroom religious education possible. To begin with revelation ensures that we respect the revealed nature of Christian faith.

From revelation we move onto Church; in other words, we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God's revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church's response to God's revelation; Celebration - the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and Life in Christ - the moral life and the pursuit of holiness.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils' experience of life are essential.⁵

⁴ *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

⁵ *The Way, the Truth & the Life, Teacher Book 4*, CTS, 2004, p. 4

Methodology

Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible. It 'serves in the examination and acceptance of the truths which are contained in the deposit of Revelation.'⁶

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- Data is added to the school tracker 3 times a year.
- An in - house standardisation meeting is held every year by the subject leader and Teachers.
- The pupil's books and teacher assessment file is available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is linked to performance management, lesson observations and book scrutinise.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher and Subject Leader updated every 2 years.

Management of the subject.

Mrs G Dromey - Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

Other faiths are taught (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism) - see long term plans.

APPENDIX I

The Role of the Subject Leader for Religious Education

⁶ Briefing, 26 May 1994, quoting *General Directory for Catechesis*, 74b

The Religious Education Subject Leader will be responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinise according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school assessment files.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the Office for Education & Schools on matters relating to Religious Education.

Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

Review

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Next Review Date *October 2023*

This policy is reviewed annually