



St John's R.C. Primary School

Religious Education Policy January 2017

Mission Statement

Love One Another As I Have Loved You (John 15:12)

Our school is a caring, safe place where everyone is equal. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teachings of Christ, we know, love and respect each other. At St. John's Catholic School we help one another to be the best that we can be.

The total education offered in St John's School is always directed towards the growth of the whole person. Our school's character is formed by a distinctive and fundamental view of human beings as made in the image of God. We seek to promote a shared Catholic vision of the nature and purpose of existence and the values of the human person. These considerations shape and permeate the whole life of the school. This shared vision of our school is stated more fully in our Mission Statement and is applied in the approach to each area of the curriculum and fostered by appropriate cross-curricular initiatives.

While we do not compromise the tradition or teaching of the Catholic faith, we encourage all the children to show respect for other Christian traditions

and other faiths. Where appropriate, comparisons and similarities can be discussed in relation to the practice of other traditions.

We aim to nurture the children's faith in God and the development of their own personal relationship with Jesus. We also aim to help them to understand the love God has for them and the whole of His creation. We explain that although much of the work of God can be experienced in a tangible way through creation, there is also a concept of 'mystery' that we sometimes can't explain, e.g. Transubstantiation and the mystery of the Incarnation. We encourage children to reflect and ask questions of their faith and as teachers, we discuss with them as best we can the issue involved.

We want the children to look on God as their loving Father and as Creator. Through other areas of the Curriculum, we will try to instil in them a sense of awe and wonder in the world that God created.

The Primary Aims of R.E.

1. To support and encourage faith, when it is present, and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
2. To promote, as the central and dominant feature of "classroom" R.E., an intelligent appreciation and understanding of Catholic doctrine and practice.
3. To promote an intelligent appreciation and understanding of religious questions in general and a sympathetic acquaintance with other religious beliefs and practices.
4. To promote and encourage among the Catholic pupils active and committed participation in the life of the Church, and to promote among all constructive involvement in the life of the general community in a spirit of love and service.

(From Communicating Christ - Policy for R.E. Archdiocese of Birmingham)

The R.E. Scheme of Work

The school uses the Dioceses Curriculum Strategy - *Learning and Growing as the People of God*. The scheme is structured and developmental. It follows the liturgical year, building on children's knowledge and understanding of Bible stories and events. A two-year cycle is followed in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, to ensure that children in split-year classes receive thorough coverage of the scheme.

Teaching and Learning

For R.E. teaching to be effective and meaningful it should, where possible, start from the child's own experience. The age and aptitude of the children must also be taken into consideration when planning and delivering sessions.

Our aim is to teach R.E using a multi-media and interactive approach to promote both a real interest and enjoyment of the subject, and a deeper understanding of the Christian message. Methods used include exposition by the teacher, class discussions, group discussions, individual research, personal reflection and role play.

R.E. is recorded in books in a variety of ways including pictures, concept maps and notes. Sometimes no written work will take place in a session, as it may have been a discussion or drama session. However, we aim for Key Stage 2 children to produce a minimum of 3 pieces of work per fortnight, and for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children to produce a minimum of 1 piece of work each week.

R.E. is allocated 10% of curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. This does not include the additional time spent on Prayer, Assemblies, Christmas plays and Hymn Practice. However, mass may be considered the equivalent of forty-five minutes of R.E., but only once in any week. In the foundation stage adult focused activities are devoted to R.E. each week.

Planning

Long- term planning is used to indicate which units are taught when and for how long. Units are planned within phases, which can be obtained from the curriculum guidance for each year group.

Assessment Procedures

All teachers use both formal and informal methods of assessment. Assessment for learning is used in order to allow the teacher to plan the next session, and to identify pupils who are exceeding the objectives, or who would benefit from more reinforcement. In addition to this, the progress of 1 pupil is levelled across each topic in detail as an exemplar. Each child performs an assessment task based on their R.E. topic, 3 x per year. Progress is recorded by highlighting the relevant level of attainment on the pupil's assessment sheet (most children will... less able children will... more able children will...). The R.E. co-ordinator collects this evidence in the form of assessment grids, as well as 3 pieces of evidence from each class. This information is reviewed by the RE co-ordinator 3 x per year and then at the end of the year all the assessment data is analysed for averages. Foundation stage children will also complete a baseline assessment when they first come to school.

The progress of every school pupil is recorded for one chosen unit each year, following an end of unit activity. This provides an opportunity to look at progression in one aspect of the subject throughout the whole school.

Information on the attainment and progress of individual children is given to parents through Parents' Evenings (Terms 2 and 4) and School Reports (Term 6). Parents of children who are preparing to receive sacraments are invited to meetings and kept fully informed of relevant curricular and practical arrangements.

Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures

R.E. lessons throughout the school are monitored by the R.E. co-ordinator and the head teacher on a regular basis. R.E. books are monitored during the year and at the same time pupil interviews are carried out. All monitoring has a specific focus, and feedback is given to staff.

Resources

RE resources are kept in the cupboards in Eagle's wing. All teachers have been provided with an inventory of the resources available. A trawl of resources is done every year in order to find gaps where new resources may be useful.

Multicultural Education

While we do not compromise the tradition or teaching of the Catholic Faith, we encourage all the children to show respect for other Christian traditions and other faiths. Where appropriate, comparisons and similarities can be discussed in relation to the practice of other traditions. Each year, the children are taught about different aspects of other faiths of the world. Where possible, cross curricular approaches are taken to teach this.

Collective Worship

Prayer occupies an important role in religious education in our school, as a means of expressing and fostering faith. Children are helped to discover varieties and methods of prayer, traditional and informal, private and communal. Each class has a focus for worship and prayers are said throughout the day.

We celebrate Mass at the beginning and end of each term and on holy days of obligation. Children are encouraged to take part in other liturgies such as penitential services.

Extra-curricular Activities

Children are invited to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These range from First Holy Communion preparation classes, to lunch-time Rosary sessions in the month of October and involvement in parish masses on Sundays (e.g. as readers). They also take part in a variety of charitable initiatives, including fundraising for the Father Hudson Society, CAFOD, and for their chosen class charity. Year 6 pupils visit St Chad's Cathedral as part of their preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Signed by

Date

Review date: September 2018