



Love of God, Love of one another, Love of our world and Love of Learning

Religious Education Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
Sept 2022	Sept 2023	R.E. Coordinator	Headteacher

The recognition of the significance of Religious Education in the classroom is expressed in the Bishops' Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools as:

"Therefore, religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.

Religious education is then, the core subject in a Catholic School."

RATIONALE

In Religious Education we present children with knowledge and the information to make informed choices. We believe that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we discover the revelation of God's love for us and the true significance of human life.

Because of our faith, we recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals and try to enable them to become the people God calls them to be. We wish to foster a distinctive outlook on life that is rooted in the Gospel. Our faith in God and in the dignity of human life inspires and challenges all we do in school; it forms the basis of the structures, relationships, the aims and objectives we set ourselves and the way we measure our success.

GENERAL AIMS

Our aims in Religious Education (R.E.) are to:

- Assist the children in developing a loving and fulfilling relationship with God.
- Encourage the children to recognise God's presence in their lives and His unfailing love.
- Fully meet the requirements of the Curriculum Directory.
- Develop the children's knowledge and understanding of their Catholic Faith.
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively.
- To develop pupils' religious literacy.
- To develop the critical thinking of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to everyday life.
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith.
- Develop the spiritual awareness of the children e.g. a sense of wonder at creation.
- Ensure the development of children's religious experience and understanding by providing progression and continuity in our Catholic Religious Education (R.E.) Curriculum.
- Enable the children to celebrate and rejoice in their religious development through prayer, Eucharistic liturgy, non-Eucharistic liturgy and collective worship. The liturgical year is reflected in the Catholic life and activities of the school.
- Provide the children with examples of Christian care and love for each other and help them recognise



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how their actions affect themselves and others.

- Continue to support and extend the development of links with the surrounding parishes and the local and wider community.
- Deliver opportunities for our pupils to engage in our commitment to the Common Good.
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them.

CURRICULUM PLANNING

Religious Education is a core subject in our Catholic school. As a Catholic school, it is very important in the education of our children. This policy outlines our aims and intentions for teaching Religious Education at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery.

- The teaching of Religious Education is accorded the status of a core subject at Sacred Heart School and 10% of curriculum time is given to its teaching.
- Religious Education is taught in themes throughout the school, following the 'Come and See' curricular programme.
- Children are taught in class groups and are involved in activities including speaking, listening, art, writing, ICT activities, reading and drama.

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

The R.E, Curriculum is delivered primarily through the 'Come and See' programme, as recommended by the Diocese.

In response to the question, 'Where do you live?' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to, 'Come and See.' (John 1:39). The disciples went with Jesus 'and spent the rest of that day with him'.

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith.

Where do I come from?	Life - Creation
Who am I?	Dignity - Incarnation
Why am I here?	Purpose - Redemption

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through: '**Explore**', '**Reveal**' and '**Respond**'.

Explore

The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives - concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way, the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of the experiential events of everyday life.

Explore will take approximately **one week** of Religious Education time to complete.

Reveal

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of



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human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ Christians. It will involve learning about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

Reveal will take approximately **two weeks** of Religious Education time to complete.

Respond

Remember is the first part of this section. The children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt.

Rejoice is the second part of the section. There will be the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration.

Renew - the teacher helps each child to make an individual response, to hold on to and make their own, showing what they have understood of the topic.

Respond will take approximately **one week** of Religious Education time to complete.

Judaism is studied for one week every year whilst the other (Islam / Hinduism / Sikhism) are taught for one week annually in rotation.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

- The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting is to ensure effective learning, celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress and development.
- Assessment, recording and reporting are related to overall Religious Education aims and objectives, and the specific learning intentions of themes and topics.
- Informal assessment is on-going throughout each topic, through discussion, written activities and creative outcomes. Live Feedback will be provided to children during lessons to enable pupils to recognise whether they are on track to meet the intended learning target and suggest next steps to drive optimum pupil progress. Developmental marking of children's work will be on-going where the correction of keyword spellings and subject objectives will also be emphasised. Pupils should have the opportunity to respond to teachers' comments in books.
- Formal assessment takes place at the end of each topic which helps inform a record of attainment band for each child kept by each class teacher. This is also shared with the R.E team.
- A formal reporting to parents takes place at the end of the school year.

Assessment is NOT about faith practice or about faith development. **Faith is a gift and only God can assess that.**

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

In Religious Education teaching, we keep in mind and incorporate the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy to ensure all pupils have equal access to the R.E. curriculum and opportunities for enriching and deepening their faith and spirituality. Differentiation is provided where appropriate.

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

Please see the school's Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

STAFFING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The R.E Leader is Mrs Mullally (Headteacher)

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The Role of the R.E Leader is to:

- Have a thorough understanding of standards of R.E. in the school. The Subject Leader will monitor and evaluate the teaching and learning of R.E. within the school through observing lessons, and monitoring R.E. books, and reviewing and analysis of pupil assessment data
- Develop an Action Plan, which forms part of the School Development Plan
- Liaise with the Local Governing Committee
- Attend diocesan R.E subject leader meetings
- Provide guidance and support to colleagues on the delivery of the Religious Education curriculum
- Liaise with the Parish Priest to arrange School Masses, Class Masses, Reconciliation and Special Feasts.
- Be responsible for R.E. resources and the purchase of new materials
- Write the R.E. Policy

Each class teacher:

- Prepares, plans and delivers R.E to class groups
- Prepares their class for Masses, Reconciliation (Yr4 - Yr6) and Liturgical Feasts of the Church
- Is responsible for planning the R.E. display in their classrooms

ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCES

- Each teaching member of staff has access to the 'Come and See' website and online resources.
- Resources for the effective delivery of R.E. are stored in the R.E. storage unit in the main school resource link corridor, including DVDs/liturgy/assembly books, artefacts and information on saints, and resources on other faiths/religions.
- Classroom resources include prayer-books and Bibles/Bible stories, and Prayer Table resource boxes which include appropriate artefacts and statues for across the Liturgical calendar year.
- Resources to support assemblies are located in the Assembly storage unit in the school hall. Large posters and banners that reflect liturgical themes across the year are also kept in the main school hall.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE WIDER CONTEXT

- Our Parish Priest (Parish of Sacred Heart and St John Fisher, Southend on Sea) has close links with the school. He is a regular visitor to the school, and is well known and respected amongst pupils and staff.
- Mass is celebrated outdoors on our school playground on the Feast day of Sacred Heart, which the whole school community, parents/carers, and parishioners are invited to. Mass is celebrated in Sacred Heart Church on Holy Days of Obligation. There is also a special Leavers Mass for pupils in Year 6 at the end of the summer term to which parents/carers are warmly invited to, which is followed by an afternoon tea. Class Masses are celebrated throughout the school year.
- The Parish priest also offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation to Year 4 through to 6 during Advent and Lent.

Links with the wider community

Within the school, pupils are encouraged to see themselves as part of a community in which each member plays a role.

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Examples of links with the local and wider community include:

- Fundraising ventures, e.g. CAFOD, SVP, local Foodbanks
- School Council, ECO Council and RE Ambassadors initiatives to support House Charities
- Work experience opportunities for secondary school pupils
- Involvement in School Sports Partnership
- Promoting Christian values within the wider community (for example, litter picking in the local area).

PRAYER, WORSHIP AND LITURGY

Children participate in class based prayer at key times throughout the day. Each class has a prayer focus area reflecting either the current topic studied or the liturgical year. The R.E. Leader is responsible for timetabling an annual schedule of dates for assemblies, liturgies and Masses. There are whole-school masses on our Feast Day and Holy Days of Obligation are also marked by a Mass, which are celebrated in the parish church with parishioners. Non-Eucharistic liturgy (e.g. Distribution of Ashes, Reconciliation, lighting of Advent candles, etc.) are also honoured.

The school attends a Scripture based assembly and a celebration of pupil achievement assembly each week. The whole school also celebrates various festivals and important dates throughout the year (e.g. Remembrance Day, etc.).

Liaison between our Parish Priest and our R.E. Leader ensures the preparation of masses and services in the Liturgical Year. In each celebration, all phases of the school will be actively represented or involved by assuming a role of ministry (e.g. by serving, reading, singing, responding, dancing, acting, offertory procession, etc.).

HOME SCHOOL PARISH

Links between school, parish, and home are strong.

Parents/carers and parishioners are invited to masses with the school, celebrated by the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart and St. John Fisher, Southend-on-Sea. As part of the work on the Sacraments, Reconciliation services are held every year during Lent and Advent.

THE COMMON GOOD

At Sacred Heart School, we wish our children to develop a concern for others. Pupils have a strong understanding of the teachings of Jesus in relation to loving and caring for others and they put this into practice in school and in the way they serve local and international communities through outreach and charity work.

POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is monitored by the Head Teacher and is evaluated and reviewed annually.