

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Our Mission Statement

This means that we will....

- Show our love for Jesus in everything we say and do
- Respect everyone by recognising that God made us all different but equally valued.
- Strive for excellence and find ways to share, develop and celebrate our talents.
- Promote a safe, happy and enjoyable environment.
- Actively support our school, parish and the wider community.

*“Do everything with love.”
St Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians 16:14*

Policy agreed: Nov 21
Review date: Nov 23

INTRODUCTION

“Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life in a Catholic school.”

(Statement from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, May 2000)

The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. The vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values which are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil’s family and parish community.

Religious Education: Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement which is rooted in our belief that every child is unique, made in the image of Christ, and that it is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome socio-economic factors which may hinder pupil progress and attainment, and ultimately affect their life chances.

RE in our school is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and citizenship roles and responsibilities throughout the school which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

Our Mission

Our mission is to give each individual the opportunity to experience the gospel values through celebration, prayer, personal reflection and sharing faith experiences with others.

We strive to develop opportunities where each child’s inner spiritual self is respected and enhance reverence, wonder and awe in God’s presence and self-exploration. It includes the deepening of knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life. Through our RE programme ‘God Matters’, we aim to develop our children’s religious growth. Throughout the teaching and learning in RE we aim to develop independent thinking and the ability to express our own faith experiences as well scripture being at the forefront.

RE is a way of life and part of this journey in faith is taken as members of our school community. We work closely with families, our priest and our parish community to live out our mission. Through our mission and our children’s experience of belonging to a caring community, we offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Aims

- To nurture our children and staff in the Catholic faith
- To ensure children feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage and reflect on their life, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others
- To develop children’s knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other religious traditions
- To provide opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth
- To provide a living example of Gospel values in our relationships with one another
- To provide a high-quality education where each child develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful and faith-filled members of society

RE Programme

Our curriculum is rooted in the Gospel values and reflects our local context. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is at the heart of our curriculum and permeates our daily life as a Catholic.

The 7 areas of Catholic Social teaching are:

- Care for God's Creation
- Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Rights and Responsibilities and the Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
- Solidarity

We have combined these to six so each half term has a different CST focus.

Autumn 1- God's Creation

Autumn 2- We are One

Spring 1- We all matter

Spring 2- That's not fair!

Summer 1- I am responsible

Summer 2 – A powerful world

We follow the diocesan programme, "God Matters". The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupil's own experiences and the experience of other faith traditions. The programme provides opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own experiences. It helps pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and other faiths.

A yearly cycle of 10 units is used to ensure continuity, coverage and progression within the programme. Additional units are planned into the cycle, in order to teach children about other faiths and beliefs.

Learning and Teaching

RE is a core subject and should cover 10% of the curriculum. In Reception classes, RE is taught in short sessions throughout the school week. In Key Stage 1 and 2 two lessons are taught during the week.

"God Matters" provides the long term plan for each year group. Medium and short term planning is the responsibility of the year group teachers and is completed on a unit by unit basis alongside God Matters and the Supplementary guidance provided by the diocese.

Assessment and Monitoring

There are currently no guidelines for assessment from the Diocese.

As a school, we assess 6 children, from a range of abilities, termly against the RE pupil profiles and the RE objectives covered ensuring activities link and have been achieved by the pupil. We moderate these assessments termly as a whole staff to ensure judgements are accurate. We are currently using assessment terms in line with the other core subjects. These are 'Working towards', 'Expected' and 'Greater Depth'.

With regards monitoring we have a very structured monitoring cycle that ensures that all aspects of RE is monitored across an annual period.

These include:

Book scrutiny

Planning scrutiny

Pupil conferencing

Ethos Walks

Lesson observations

Worship observations

Moderation of RE assessments

Feedback is provided to staff and this process is then reviewed to ensure areas of development have been addressed and pupils are making progress in their RE learning and their own personal spiritual journey.

At St Paul's whilst we believe that academic rigour is as necessary in RE as in any subject, this should not negate spiritual and emotional development and learning which are not always possible to assess using formal methods, but are an integral part of Religious Education.

We capture children's spiritual development through recorded evidence in our class evidence books. Evidence must be of a high standard and must include:

- Front cover and class name
- Each piece of evidence must have the unit stated, learning objective and brief of task
- Pictures of activity, children completing activity, end outcome
- Quotes from children
- Observations by adult
- Evidence of class worship led in class or evidence of 'going forth' from Monday's liturgy
- Evidence of 'big question'
- Evidence of children's responses with variation of recording e.g. speech bubbles, post it notes, stickers, artwork, wordless etc.
- Artwork with responses from children

Sacramental Preparation

At St. Paul's we have our own Holy Communion Programme that is run alongside the parish. Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist currently takes place from Year 3 upwards. The school also provides sessions for the parents to take an active part in their children's preparation for these sacraments.

Inclusion

All children have equal access to the RE Curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic church.

Parents and carers are advised that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all children will participate in RE lessons. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children, although this is strongly discouraged.