

2017

Religious Education Policy



Implemented: October 2017
To be reviewed: October 2019
Review frequency: two years

Consultation process

Signed (HT)
(COG)

“In everything we do today, we’re following Jesus and his way.”

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement: Our intention is to provide a broad and balanced education within a secure and caring Catholic environment, in which each child is enabled to realise his or her full potential and is valued as a member of the community.

**Our Mission Statement will be re-written with the help of staff, children and the priests from our Parish in 2017.*

School Motto: 'In everything we do today, we're following Jesus and His Way'.

We believe that school life must be a partnership between home, school and parish. Children need to be aware of their parents and teachers working together. It gives them security and confidence which they need if they are to develop good attitudes to learning.

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 our 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

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

reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.”³

Education is about the growth and development of the whole person and we aim to integrate our pupils’ intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional and physical development thus assisting progress towards Christian maturity.

The aims of Religious Education:

To support, develop and maintain the Catholic ethos of the school by living out Gospel values.

To enable each child to achieve their full potential within a stimulating challenging environment.

To teach the beliefs, disciplines and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church within a supportive, caring atmosphere, in which Christian attitudes and principles are paramount.

To enable children to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to participate confidently and fully in a complex, changing society.

To provide opportunities for children to develop the ability to work hard and to succeed at tasks, to work independently and with other people, and to have an appreciation of human achievement and endeavour.

To help pupils to understand the world in which they live, in the interdependence of individual groups and nations: to develop a respect for other races, religions and ways of life.

To enable the children to develop lively, enquiring minds and a love of learning, the ability to question and to argue rationally and to think for themselves.

To develop qualities of spirit, feeling and imagination and a sense of beauty.

To encourage positive participation and attitudes towards sport, games and physical education.

To enable the children to put into practise what they’ve learnt about their religion and to understand that all their actions are based on the teachings of Christ.

We can only fulfil these aims if children are brought up in an actively Christian home environment, where these aims are shared.

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

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, we follow the RE programme 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'.

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.

Church: 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.

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.

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.'⁴

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum and adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. We use drama, role play, music and art as well as traditional methods of recording knowledge/understanding. Each half term we have a 'Big Question' that addresses Attainment Target 2 'Learning from Religion'.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

⁴ *Briefing*, 26 May 1994, quoting *General Directory for Catechesis*, 74b

- 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.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic.
- We moderate work in RE with other Catholic schools in the deanery. The RE Subject Leader also attends the Diocesan moderation sessions.
- We have received excellent support from our RE Advisor who has carried out joint observations with the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and the RE Subject Leader.
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning includes moderation of RE books every term and observations once a year.
- 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 Mr Paul O'Rourke, Head Teacher and updated every 2 years.

Management of the subject.

Mrs Caroline McGivern, the Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

We look at Judaism and Islam and have invited representatives from these faiths to speak to the children. We plan to invite representatives from the other world faiths in the future.