

2024

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

Following Jesus and His way, we

Aim to be the best we can be and to respect everyone. We

Inspire each other to learn, play and pray,

Together as children, staff, home and Parish. We grow in

Holiness by putting Love into Action every day.

Vision and Ethos:

Our motto helps us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Whatever we do, we think of Jesus and try to follow in His way.

Our purpose is to share an understanding of what is right and wrong based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Above all, we value justice, forgiveness, love, respect and trust.

Our purpose is to provide a quality education where high standards are an expectation; learning experiences develop the whole child and enable them to reach their full and unique potential.

Our purpose is to educate and prepare our children for adult life, encouraging the development of confident, complete and loving individuals.

Our school creates a welcoming and engaging environment where children feel safe, happy and excited to learn.

Our school values everyone, respecting and valuing diversity.

We value our parishes, families and wider community by working together and supporting each other.

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. A newsletter is sent to parents each half-term explaining what each child will be covering and how they can support us in this integral part of a child's Catholic education.

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 the core of the core 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 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.

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

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.

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does ***not*** include Collective Worship or Relationship, Sex and Education (RSE).

Programme of study:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ, the children in Years 3, 4 5 and 6 follow the RE programme 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'. We supplement this teaching with resources and knowledge gained through staff participation in the Foundation Stones training programme. We also use the *Rooted in Love* Catholic Social Teaching Resources and other relevant sources, such as Encyclicals.

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 are using the Religious Education Directory (RED) which includes a programme of study approved by the Bishops' Conference. Staff are attending all Diocesan training sessions to help plan for the RED and are using their own subject expertise to plan a curriculum that meets the requirements of the RED and the needs of our pupils.

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.

We have started to implement the new Religious Education Directory (2023) for Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 and will fully implement it across the school in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

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 enables children to engage and respond; to 'learn from' an aspect of religious teaching.

Adaptive teaching is used in Religious Education lessons. This enables classes to be fully inclusive, responding to the needs of all children, including those with SEND and those

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

exceeding expectations. Adaptive teaching is a hallmark of good teaching and is proven to raise pupil outcomes.⁵

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the draft Age-Related Standards document, agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a record of pupils' progress. Progress is shared at termly Pupil Progress meetings. Barriers to learning, if applicable, are identified and actions taken to address this.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains moderated samples of work from each teacher.
- We moderate work in RE with other Catholic schools in the deanery. The RE Subject Leader also attends the Diocesan moderation sessions.
- We receive excellent support from our RE Advisor who helps to ensure that our standards and expectations remain high.
- 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 and is also discussed at parent consultation evening and parent curriculum meetings.

RSE

- We are subscribed to Ten Ten which has provided the basis for our revised RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) scheme which was implemented following a consultation period with our parents.

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.

Roles and Responsibilities

⁵ <https://haringeyeducationpartnership.co.uk/blog/2022/11/30/explained-adaptive-teaching/>

All staff who teach RE will

- be prepared to witness to what they teach
- understand that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school
- fulfil their professional responsibilities regarding all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith

The Headteacher will

- Appoint staff suitable and qualified to teach Religious Education
- Provide appropriate resources and opportunities for training
- Ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;
- Oversee the Catholic Life of the School

The R.E. Subject Leader is responsible for

- Monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in Religious Education;
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education;
- Reviewing samples of work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject;
- Being informed about current developments in the subject;
- Providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school;
- Updating the R.E. development plan and policy;
- Encouraging the use of appropriate practice;
- Consulting with staff at all levels and ensuring that information is communicated to them;
- Leading staff in INSET;
- Maintaining and updating resources;

- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities
- Continue to develop systems of best practice in assessment
- Presenting the Headteacher and Governing body with a termly update on Religious Education, as can be found in the termly Headteacher Report.

Link RE Governor

Mr John Carrigy is our RE Link Governor.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Mr Paul O'Rourke, Head Teacher and updated every 2 years.

World Faiths

We are called to dialogue and engage with the world at large. Pupils engage in a study of world faiths and religions, not only because of the Church's own commitment to dialogue, but to love our neighbour is also to respect and esteem his or her culture and finally because to enter into dialogue is a means of learning how to live peaceably with difference.

We learn about Judaism and Islam and have invited representatives from these faiths to speak to the children. We are looking more closely at the demographic of our school, and working with parents to invite representatives from other world religions, including the denominations of Christianity.