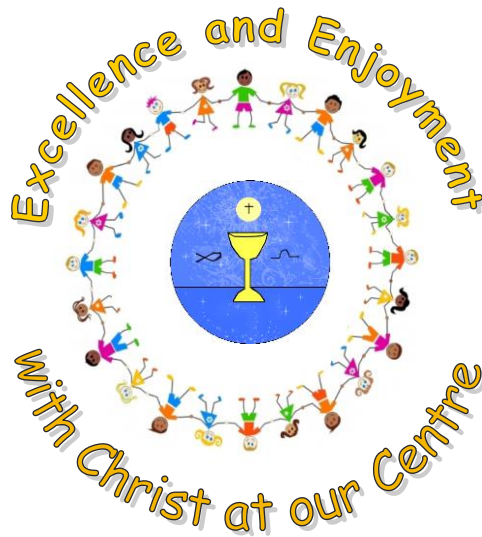


Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Agreed by staff:	April 2016
Agreed by Governors:	April 2016
Review date:	March 2018

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School exists to provide educational and spiritual opportunities through which every member of its community may be encouraged to strive for excellence and be helped towards developing those talents given to them by God.

Aims

Within Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, we aim to provide a safe, happy and caring environment in which individuals have the opportunity to develop their spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, social and physical potential.

We aim to provide our children with the knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes, which will enable them to take their full place in the community and add to their success in life.

We aim to foster within the children a sense of self respect, esteem and motivation, responsibility and consideration for others and the environment, and to help our children to become more spiritually aware by encouraging a love of God and love of one another.

We aim to provide equal opportunities for all.

Rationale of Religious Education

At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School believes that Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.

(Catholic Bishops' Conference 2000).

The school believes Religious Education is then, the core subject in a Catholic school.

Religious Education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis but its specific contribution to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and so

Religious Education will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

The school understands Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.

(Catholic Bishops' Conference 2000).

'The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.'

(Catholic Bishops' Conference 2000 page 10).

The Aims of Religious Education

The name of the school, Corpus Christi, is of deep significance for everyone who 'lives' there. As the "Body of Christ" the school is a living, dynamic community which aims to proclaim the Gospel message and to live out its fellowship with Christ and each other. The school recognises itself and others as the children of God, and, as God's workers, co-creators with God.

In response to this, the school should foster an awareness of the wonder of God's Creation and a sense of each individual's importance within it. Through relationships and the taught curriculum, it is the aim, in partnership with home and parish, to develop each pupil's personal, spiritual and moral growth. All areas of the curriculum reflect the teaching of the Gospel whilst formal Religious Education has a special role in fostering a deepening knowledge of scripture, liturgy doctrine and ethics. The aims of the Religious Education programme are -

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to develop an understanding of the importance of religion in people's lives and to invite the pupils to seek a personal religious stance
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

- to endorse and promote "The Aims of Religious Education in Catholic Schools" as stated by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, page 10 of "Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools".

The aims of the Religious Education programme directly relate to and support the implementation of the school's stated mission, aims and objectives.

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, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Religious Education

'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.

From revelation we move onto Church; in other words, 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.

From here we focus on two aspects of 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.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils' experience of life are essential.' (The Way, The Truth and The Life - Teacher Book 4, 7, CTS, 2004)

'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.' (RE Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools page 11).

Teaching Religious Education

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

The school recognises two aspects of Religious Education -

(a) implicit or unstructured Religious Education - those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.

The atmosphere of the school is very important for personal and moral growth. Attempts are made to provide an atmosphere of love, respect for others, sympathy and forgiveness in order to develop the pupils' self-confidence and self-acceptance, as well as their capacity to relate to others and to God.

In the classroom and at play, the pupils are encouraged to develop moral qualities of self-discipline, perseverance, determination, patience, fair play and consideration for others.

(b) explicit or structured Religious Education - those timetabled or planned periods of time for an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom.

In undertaking Religious Education in this school, the teachers, as well as being seen to proclaim and live the Gospel in the classroom, also use the programme 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' which presents the essential teachings of the Catholic Faith in a structured way.

Through Scripture, formal teaching, exploration, investigation and other appropriate educational techniques, the pupils are drawn into an understanding of the Church, its authority, its sacramental life, its liturgy and morality.

The pupils' understanding of their own faith and the ways in which it is expressed will be affirmed and challenged to grow. They will be encouraged to rejoice in, and celebrate, difference.

Other Faiths

In order to enrich the Religious Education in the school, pupils will be given opportunities to develop an appropriate knowledge, understanding and respect for the religious beliefs of other faith communities. Through the programme 'The Way, The Truth and The Life', Year Five have a specific unit of work relating to other faiths. For the rest of the school, a number of lessons will be devoted to other faiths such as Judaism and Islam, during the Autumn and Summer Terms. Resources for these faiths are available from the Co-ordinator.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.

Therefore -

- each teacher will keep a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress
- the school portfolio of pupils' work will contain samples of work from each class covering a range of abilities
- the school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection
- monitoring of teaching and learning will be through lesson observations and work scrutiny
- progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the governing body, together with the Head Teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented.

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for -

- working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutiny according to school practice
- organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work
- self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development
- ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests
- attending appropriate training and keeping up-to-date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff
- organising and leading in-house staff training and development
- identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education
- supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education
- liaising with the Head Teacher, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education
- auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.