



Sacred Heart School

RE Policy

At Sacred Heart School we all aspire to provide a happy, safe and secure environment in which every child is encouraged to achieve their full potential...

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Last reviewed on:	
Review date:	September 2023
Review Cycle:	Annually

The Sacred Heart School aspires to provide an environment in which every child can achieve their potential, in a community which is inclusive, based on Christ's teachings and shared Gospel values ...

We acknowledge the unique gifts of each child and instil a strong sense of self-worth by celebrating personal achievements and strengths. Leading by example, we teach children to respect themselves and each other as part of God's wonderful creation.

We offer a balanced, broad curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, emotional and physical development of each child.

We engage in partnership with parents and parish for the good of every member of the community.

Aims

To instruct, engage and inspire.

We believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. As a school, we commit to 10% of curriculum time to RE. All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. We recognise that our children come to us with differing backgrounds and experiences. We should therefore, be sensitive to each child's life experiences and value each child's contribution to school life. Our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this.

Through our Catholic Life, our teaching and acts of prayer and worship, we aim to instruct and engage the children in the Catholic faith by sharing with them the history and traditions of the Church and exploring with them the relevance of its teachings today.

We teach the children the prayers of the Catholic Church and lead them to engage in personal prayer in order to develop and deepen their personal relationship with God.

We lead children to an understanding that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and therefore develop respect for themselves and others as well as for Creation.

Through the teaching of other faiths, we aim to instil cultural understanding and an awareness of shared values in order to promote peace, justice and reconciliation. We believe it is important that children develop an understanding, knowledge and respect of other faiths, cultures and religions. Children study two other faiths per school year. Other faiths are a focus for one week each during the course of every academic year from Foundation Stage to Year 6.

We encourage children to use their talents and to be the best version of themselves: the self that God made; and to believe that they can make a difference.

We aim to inspire in the children moments of awe and wonder, to find the ability to be still and experience moments of quiet reflection.

Through the teaching of RE we aim to plant the seeds of lifelong spirituality, for a life rooted in Gospel values.

We aim to offer a climate where Christ can reveal himself to each and every one of us.

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

A central message of the Catholic faith is that, although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. At Sacred Heart School, all children are of equal value and therefore entitled to a curriculum and set of experiences which enable them to fulfil their potential and develop their abilities. We will ensure that each child has equal access to the curriculum, and is not disadvantaged by ability, class, gender, race, age, background or faith. Each child is seen as a gift from God. We are committed to reducing the barriers to learning for all pupils, not only those defined as having Special Educational Needs (SEN). We recognise that creating an inclusive school requires time, commitment, support and reflective practice.

Strategies

We believe that Religious Education should not be confined to the RE curriculum but should be truly cross-curricular and inform every aspect of our interaction with every member of the school community. Children's learning in RE is visible not only in their lessons but in class assemblies, masses and special liturgies which include the Maundy Thursday Liturgical Dance, Stations of the Cross, Nativities and Carol Service and their interactions with staff and each other.

The school follows the 'Come and See' Scheme of Work in Y2,3,4 and 5, and the "To Know you More Clearly" 'Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales' (RED) in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6. Year 2 and 5 will adopt the new RED next September 2024 and Years 3 and 4 will adopt it the following September. In the Foundation Stage, RE is most significantly part of the following areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development;
- Communication, language and literacy;
- Knowledge and understanding of the world;
- Creative development; and
- Through Continuous Provision.

The weekly programme for liturgy and worship often offers opportunities to make links to learning objectives.

Recording and Reporting

Oral work, involving instruction and exploration of themes through questioning, discussion, role-play and drama will form an important part of lessons for each year group.

Pupils are given opportunities to write in different styles and voices and encouraged to achieve high standards in the presentation of their work.

Lesson headers are used from Y1 upwards to record learning objectives and associated tasks. Each class compiles a class book which celebrates learning and experiences, linking the strands of RE, Catholic Life and Prayer and Worship.

Parents receive a written report at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms and parent consultations are offered during the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

The Role of the RE Coordinator

The RE Coordinator is responsible for the monitoring of RE throughout the school. Planning, assessment, teaching and learning, children's work, focal areas, display and resources are all monitored throughout the school year by the RE Coordinator. They will also work closely with the Governors on the sub-committees for the Catholic Life of the school and the Curriculum and Ethos.

The RE Coordinator should:

- Have an interest in religious and moral issues
- Have subject 'expertise' about Christianity and other religions required by the agreed syllabus
- Understand the purpose of RE as set out in the aims and objectives of the agreed syllabus and be able to explain these objectives to colleagues
- Have the expertise to match learning activities to specific objectives
- Be able to coordinate the development of the school's RE
 - Attend courses led by the Diocese advisors and be able to prepare and present in-service sessions for colleagues
- Build up a bank of resources for colleagues to use
- Be able to involve colleagues with other curriculum strengths in the development of RE
- Monitor planning, assessment, teaching and learning, children's work, focal areas, display and resources in RE throughout the school

And, alongside the Collective Worship coordinator,

- Organise school displays to reflect the church's liturgical seasons
- Organise Collective Worship and Mass timetables

Assessment

The A&B Interim Standards are used to assess pupil progress and attainment in RE for those following the Come and See curriculum. The A&B end of year descriptors inform lesson headers which help pupils

to practice self-assessment. Through the use of Driver Words, we encourage children to be aware of the next steps in their learning. For the new RED curriculum, teachers assess children's written work using the Expected Outcomes given for each of the Branches. Written work is moderated in school, Deanery and Diocesan level and pupil progress is tracked using the whole school attainment tracker.

Display

Within the classroom, display is used to enhance the area to encourage children to reflect upon the theme they are currently focusing upon. Key Topic words form an integral part of the display as well as images to foster enlightenment and stimulation. We use specific colours to reinforce the Church's Liturgical Season.

Religious Education at Sacred Heart School seeks to immerse our pupils in the Catholic Faith, encouraging them in their lifelong journey.

Resources

RED (adopted in September 2023 for FS, Y1 and Y6)

Come and See for all other year groups

Children's Bibles

Prayer Books

Picture books/story books

Videos

John Burland Music CDs

Big books, pupil books, artefacts relating to other faiths, stored centrally in the Resources room.

Other resources may be held by class teachers.