



## Religious Education Curriculum Design

### Curriculum Intent

At SS John and Monica's we recognise that Religious Education is not simply one subject among many but the foundation of the entire educational process. Religious Education plays a central and vital part in the Catholic school. We aim to provide a high-quality Catholic education to all children in our school so that they develop the skills of;

- **Investigation**
- **Interpretation**
- **Communication**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Affective and social judgements**
- **Evaluation**

It is our intent to provide children with a high-quality Religious Education rooted in faith and spirituality in order to develop an awareness of right and wrong and the ability to make the right choices. We aim to develop essential social skills, such as empathy, and the ability to sympathise and express other emotions, such as love, and to develop a strong sense of responsibility. Staff and pupils are invested in the school ethos and committed to living the mission of the school to 'learn through the example of Jesus, to love, respect, understand and value each other' in order to grow and develop as individuals whilst learning about the life of Christ.

As a Catholic school, we have the duty to *'be more than just a place where pupils are equipped with learning and skills for the workplace and responsible citizenship. Rather to be a community where the spiritual, cultural and personal worlds within which we live are harmonised to form the roots from which grow our values, motivation, aspirations and the moral imperatives that inform our choices and actions as a person.'* Christ At The Centre (2012)

### Curriculum Implementation

At SS John and Monica the Religious Education policy and guidance follows recommendations and guidance as set out by the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES). Our policy and lesson design follow a best practice model. Religious Education is a core subject in Catholic schools and as such is allocated 10% curriculum time each week. Religious Education is expected to be taught using cross-curricular methods and links should be made to Religious Education where appropriate at other points of curriculum delivery. In line with the directives from the Archdiocese, SS John and Monica's School uses the curriculum strategy for Religious Education in Catholic schools, 'learning and growing as the people of God' alongside the 'progression of skills' document.

This comprehensive scheme is used in all year groups and provides children with opportunities to access and understand the various aspects of the Catholic Faith.

In order to ensure continuity and progression from one year to the next, teachers take learning objectives from the Diocesan Planning documents. Each lesson must provide opportunities for children to develop/demonstrate skills from more than one area (AT1/AT2/AT3).

- **AT1: Learning about religion (KU)**
- **AT2: Learning from religion (ER)**
- **AT3: Application of skills (AE) – KS2 only**

Teacher subject knowledge and assessment are vital to understand the needs of individual classes and children. Those that need more support are given additional help to complete tasks set, either by working in a small group with an adult or peer support. They may also be set a different task that can be completed with more independence. The more able children will also be challenged; either by being set a different task, through the use of questioning, or by the detail expected in their responses. All children **work on the same learning objective** within a lesson, unless they are unable to, due to complex SEND needs.

Children with SEND at our school are fully involved in accessing the RE curriculum. In their planning, teachers show the activities that they intend to adapt and which methods of support will best enable understanding to be developed.

## Curriculum Impact

Owing to its nature, RE is difficult to evaluate, because we cannot judge a child's relationship with God with regard to their faith. However, it is the school's policy to assess children's knowledge and understanding against key learning objectives within the Archdiocese Scheme. In keeping with the trend in other subjects, we look at RE assessment in two ways:

- **Assessment of Learning**
- **Assessment for Learning**

There are three assessment strands each academic year (these strands are provided by the diocese). At the end of teaching an assessment unit, teachers must assess each child and complete the assessment sheet. At the end of the term the RE lead analyses the data and provides feedback. As a result of this analysis, specific groups may be targeted. Teachers must also assess one piece of work for the three tracked children in their class (WTS/EXS/GDS) using the progression of skills document. The assessment is stapled onto the piece of work and the books are collected at the end of the academic year as evidence.

However, the main impact of our Religious Education curriculum here at SS John and Monica's will be on children's spiritual development and their relationship with God. **It is truly our aim for children to develop a strong moral compass, sense of responsibility and love for others.** It is through this close relationship with God that children will be able to develop; love, self-belief, resilience, confidence, empathy and the positivity needed to succeed in all other aspects of their life. Both during their time at school and in the future.