

Religious Education at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School



“No colour, no religion, no nationality should come between us, we are all children of God.”

Mother Teresa

Our mission statement is to ‘live life to the full’ and in living out our mission throughout the curriculum we provide children with opportunities to promote their individual talents and abilities and enable everyone at St Augustine’s the opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

Intent

At St Augustine’s we nurture our children’s’ faith and build a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, scripture, sacraments and promote respect for religious and moral values, and tolerance of the beliefs of others. We foster the growth of each child’s potential through the development of respect for self and others. We promote an understanding and care of the environment in which each child finds him or herself. And we continue to build strong and co-operative relationships between home, parish and school.

Our aims:

- RE is the foundation of the entire education process and permeates all areas of the curriculum and school life. Our aim is that children leave St Augustine’s School with a wide range of happy and rich memories in RE formed through interesting and exciting experiences driven through an engaging and comprehensive curriculum which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, enabling them to develop a personal faith in Jesus Christ and allowing them to know and love God.
- Children will meet the Diocesan Standards for Primary Religious Education, which will be taught by highly qualified staff who will engage children’s intellect, heart and imagination, inspiring enthusiasm and interest in RE.
- Children will develop an awareness of God’s presence in their lives and the lives of others, developing the spiritual life of each child through prayer and reflection and

Religious Education plays a central role in the school's work on spiritual, moral, vocational, social and cultural education.

- A programme of family life education, which conforms to the teaching of the Catholic Church and follows Diocesan guidelines, will be provided.
- RE is a core subject of the curriculum and all children will study RE for 2hrs 15 mins per week in Key Stage 1 and 2 hrs 30 mins per week in Key Stage 2.
- Skills in other subjects will be applied in RE and children will be encouraged to investigate the faith with enthusiasm and rigour.

Implementation

The curriculum hours in RE are non-negotiable and will be followed by all staff in the school. Fixed timetables will be set every term and monitored by the Senior Leadership Team of the school.

The RE coordinator and RE team will work with Senior Leadership Team to evaluate provision in order to ensure that teaching and learning in RE is good or outstanding. Where necessary, staff will receive coaching and training in RE.

Our pupils are inspired by exceptional teaching and consistently high expectations across the school through the 'Come and See' scheme of work, which is approved by Hexham and Newcastle diocese.

Each year group will study a number of units over the year. The units are developmental, building on previous knowledge and experience and taking into account of the children's age and understanding.

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic church family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God's love and care for every family	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/confirmation belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God's family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/Christmas loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local church community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish family	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community Life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus' special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
Lent/Easter giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
Pentecost serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holidays & holidays Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church world	Our world God's wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God's world	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

Children will be highly engaged in RE lessons through the use of a variety of sources such as religious stories, scripture, religious artwork, songs, music, dance and religious signs and symbols. The life and work of key figures in the history of the people of God will be studied, for example, lives of the saints.

Approaches will include whole class teaching, group activities and individual work. Children will have opportunities to work individually as well as cooperatively and collaboratively, developing their own knowledge and expertise as well as sharing experiences with others. Pupils will participate in Mass, feast days, collective worship which will involve religious actions and worship including the celebration of the sacraments. The use of visits and visitors in school (where possible) will enhance the RE curriculum.

Impact

The school environment reflects and celebrates our Catholic faith.

- Children experience a wide-ranging number of learning challenges and enjoyment in RE which facilitate an appreciation of living life to the full. Through RE, children deepen their appreciation of their faith and fulfil their God-given talents
- Children of all abilities and backgrounds achieve well in RE, reflected in good or outstanding progress that reveals a clear learning journey. Children talk enthusiastically about their learning in RE and are eager to further their learning in the next stages of their education.
- Clear outcomes focus and guide all RE development plans and drive improvement.
- Children produce good quality work across religion, which they are proud of.
- The children will grow to know and love God, develop their moral and spiritual nature and deepen their faith. Living their faith in an active and positive way, always aware of the presence and love of Christ guiding them.
- Through religious practice, the church's traditions of prayer and worship will be upheld.
- Children show compassion, justice, love and forgiveness in their relationships with others. Children are confident, resilient and actively engaged in the wider society.
- Children will be able to define, describe and discuss areas of RE. They will confidently use skills such as retelling, describing, comparing, giving reasons, explaining the meaning of biblical stories and considering the impact of beliefs.
- Through wider reading in RE, children will know about a wide variety of Saints, how we can learn from their example, and historical religious events and figures. They will be able to make links between Jesus' life and teaching and link it to their own lives, making links between different forms of Christian action, such as in rituals and charitable acts.
- The majority of children are working at age related expectations by the end of EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.