



St. Bridget's Catholic Primary School Religious Education Policy



Learning to Love, Pray and Grow Together as a Community in the Light of Jesus Christ.

Written by Jane Summerson

Approved by Governors:

Review date: October 2023

Mission Statement:

Learning to Love, Pray and Grow Together as a Community in the Light of Jesus Christ.

Intent:

Religious Education is a core subject in our Catholic school. At St Bridget's we help the children learn from religions as well as about religions. We enable the children to develop a good knowledge, not only of Catholicism but also of other world religions and faiths. Children will reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. 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 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

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.

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.'

Teaching Time

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

Implementaion 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. (*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 3)

- Religious Education is a core subject in the 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. (*Religious Education in Catholic Schools*, a statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2000, p. 8-9)
- 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. (*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6)

The Impact of Religious Education

- To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.
(*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6)

Methodology

Teaching in Religious Educationshould 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.'
(*Briefing*, 26 May 1994, quoting *General Directory for Catechesis*, 74b)

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

Assessing the Impact - Moderation of R.E

- Teaching will be moderated at least once a year.

- A book scrutiny will take place at least once a year.
- Assessment of standards is carried out according to recent Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Age Expected Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress and gives a copy to the subject leader.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term.
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- In Key Stage One and Key Stage Two - Target strand for moderation to be followed in line with diocesan advice. This will change year on year and will be given out by the subject leader (Can also be found on the Lancaster Diocese website).

Management, Policy Monitoring and Review

Jane Summerson, RE subject leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. This policy will be monitored, adapted where necessary, evaluated and reviewed by the RE subject leader and governors, updated every year.

Other Faiths

Children learn about other monotheistic faiths with the focus being predominantly on Judaism. This is done during a week where every year group focuses on a different aspect of the faith. Visitors also come into school to share their faith with the children and provide them with a more hands on experience.

Inclusion and Equality

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education Programme based on "Come and See". The governing body have a wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Right of withdrawal from RE

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE.

Reviewed on 20/09/22
by Mrs Jane Summerson

To be reviewed again in September 2023

APPENDIX 1
Primary School RE Subject Leader Job Description

- To be responsible to the Headteacher and colleagues for the monitoring of teaching, planning and assessment of Religious Education based on the development of the children at each stage. Monitoring / learning walks occur in order to support staff and should include classroom observation, book scrutiny, planning and discussion with pupils.
- To manage resources and facilities for Religious Education.
- To liaise with the Diocesan Department for Education at Lancaster and RE local Cluster group through attendance at Subject Leader meetings and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.
- To attend appropriate In-service training for Religious Education, keep up-to-date with current developments and feed these developments back to staff.
- To advise individual colleagues and induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education process and teaching methods.
- To implement the change to the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document and support staff during the transition period.
- To collect and keep pupil books showing pupils working at expected from at least Years 2, 4 and 6 at the end of each academic year.
- To facilitate in-house moderation of pupils' books every term.
- To attend annual diocesan moderation meetings with the required pupil books.
- To track data and use this, in consultation with the Headteacher, to set realistic targets in RE.
- To ensure that cross-curricular concerns such as literacy skills, multi-cultural issues, equal opportunity, the use of Information Technology and PHSE are reflected in Religious Education.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues associated with Religious Education.
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- To liaise with other primary and secondary colleagues.

- To maintain a Subject Leader's file containing:
 1. The Religious Education Policy and Guidelines
 2. Medium term plans which represent schemes of work in school.
 3. Assessment and monitoring procedures for teaching and learning and evidence of that monitoring.
 4. Audits and reports to Headteacher about progress made in RE. 6
 5. A record of Staff Professional Development in RE
 6. Data and current targets in RE.

- Working with the Headteacher and colleagues, to undertake a regular audit/review of Religious Education in line with the school development plan.
- To be familiar with the current inspection framework and to consult with the Headteacher to complete the school's DSEF document.
- To keep up to date with any changes to the Areas of Study (Religious Education Curriculum Directory).