



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: September 2027

Mission Statement:

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

Intent:

Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church. Religious Education is the foundation of the entire education process in our Catholic school. Religious Education is a core subject.

'At the heart of Catholic Education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.' Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 2,000 para 4.

At St Bridget's we help the children to learn from religions as well as about religions. We enable the children to develop 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. All children have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Catholic Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope, which is within them.

Process

To fulfil the above aims and to address the areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory, 'Come and See' programme is used in EYFS, Year 5 and 6 and Years 1 -4, use the Vine and Branches, Clifton Diocese website and Ten Ten, to support teaching and learning.

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.

'Religious Education is regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and same rigour as other disciplines.' Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 2012 p.3

'Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives, and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material.' Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 2,000 para 7

Teaching Time

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

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)

Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012-2025:

In Nursery, Reception, Years 5 & 6, our Religious Education curriculum is based on the delivery of the RE Curriculum Directory, supported by the '*Come & See*' Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme, which guides the teaching and learning of Religious Education throughout the school. Our RE curriculum enables the children to explore key questions of life from the Christian tradition and how to put what they have learned into context.

Religious Education Directory - To Know You More Clearly 2025:

In line with the Diocese of Lancaster support for planning; Nursery - Year 6 will deliver their Religious Education curriculum based on the delivery of the new RED. This will be supported by the '*Magister scheme*' Catholic Education Publication. All pupils will be invited to encounter Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the living person at the heart of their study in a way that respects their individual religious identity.

The Aims of Religious Education as stated by the RE Directory:

- To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life.
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious understanding and be able to communicate effectively.

- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society.
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose world view differ from their own.
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life and faith and culture.
- To stimulate pupil's imagination and provide 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.

Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

As an integral part of our RE curriculum, we also work closely with our local Parish to prepare liturgies and we value the partnership between home, school and parish and the wider community.

We strive to make our lessons and experiences in RE as memorable and enjoyable as possible for our pupils - the children tell us that they love their RE lessons, and this is evident in every classroom

The Impact of Religious Education

The outcome of excellent religious education is *religiously literate and consciously 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 recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.* Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 2012 p.6

- 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. 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.

Two further knowledge lenses from the new RED set out the requirements in relation to the teaching of other religions and worldviews; dialogue and encounter.

As they progress through school, pupils will use these lenses to study:

- Other Christian denominations
- Judaism
- Islam
- Dharmic religion and pathways
- Other religions and worldviews

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" or "The Vine and Branches". 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 28/09/26

by Mrs Jane Summerson

To be reviewed again in September 2027