

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School
Whole School RE Policy



Policy	Whole School RE Policy
Date	September 2023
Date of review	September 2024
Signed Chair of Governors	<i>Eugene McCarthy</i>
Signed Headteacher	<i>Clare Scott</i>

We, the family of St Peter's, united in faith by God strive to learn and grow together to be the best we possibly can every day.

Our School's Core Values:

Perseverance
Respect
Integrity
Compassion
Enthusiasm

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education

The primary purpose of Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school is 'a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation.' 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. Hence 'the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'

BRES-Feb 2015

Religious Education is central to the curriculum of St Peter's

St Peter's Catholic Primary School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognise that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children. Religious Education in our school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. The religions of the world are classic expressions of this search and, for many people, provide the context within which the experience is to be understood. Through his or her understanding of this search, the child is helped towards a deeper awareness of their identity enabling him/her to grow and develop freely in a world of Divergent beliefs and values. Education is concerned with the development of understanding. Religious Education is concerned with the development of the understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience. "Understanding" is used in a wide sense, being concerned with feeling and empathetic insight as well as an intellectual grasp of certain information. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

The aims of Religious Education

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which 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

The outcome of Religious Education

The outcome of Religious Education at St Peter's Catholic Primary school 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.

“The task of handing on the faith to future generations is both the privilege and responsibility of the local Church. Its primary purpose is to bring young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” **Cardinal Basil Hume**

The Religious Educator

The Church recognises the fundamental contribution of those charged with the planning and delivery of Religious Education. In what may be called the 'hidden curriculum', the witness, integrity and sincerity of the teacher or staff member will influence the communication of Christian faith, especially as knowledge to be believed and lived.

As you know, the task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for ‘both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts’ (Wis7:16) .Benedict XVI

Those responsible for Religious Education in St Peter's should:

- be prepared to give living witness to what they teach;
- recognise that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school;
- fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;

- ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;
- ensure that Religious Education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- take seriously the duty of every Catholic to form his or her conscience;
- be given opportunities for their own spiritual and professional development as Catholic educators.

Governors

Governors are responsible for the R.E. Curriculum: This is managed by the Headteacher on a day to day basis.

The role of RE Co-ordinator

The RE co-ordinator is a practising Catholic.

(See job description, Appendix i)

Our Religious Education Programme

As recommended by the Bishop's Conference, the RE Curriculum Time allocation per week is 10%: Nursery-1h, Reception and KS1-2h15, KS2-2h30. This does not include Collective Worship. The allocation of teaching time to Other Faiths-Islam and Judaism is 5 hours (2 weeks' R.E. time).

Process for delivery of R.E.

To fulfil our aims, we use the '*Come and See*' programme of Religious Education as recommended by the Brentwood Diocese. (See Appendix ii) Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond*. This takes account of "what to believe entails": the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the individual's **response** in faith. We will be implementing the Religious Education Directory from January 2024.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning strategies from across the RE curriculum are adapted appropriately to inspire the learning needs of pupils.

Marking

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (See *school marking policy*). Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Key words must be corrected. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and should be interactive.

Inclusion

All pupils have the right to have access to a differentiated Religious Education.

Assessment

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in the standards of Attainment in RE agreed by Bishops' Conference. In each topic a minimum of four pieces of work should be recorded, this includes a topic assessment. At the end of each term the teacher populates the school based assessment record to measure standards of attainment and progress. Progress in RE is reported to parents at consultation evenings and in the pupil's annual report.

Assemblies and Celebrations

The daily act of worship takes place in many different forms throughout the week (see *Collective Worship Policy*).

Monday	9.10am	Whole school assembly or class led assembly
Tuesday	2:45pm Y4,5,6 2:45pm R,Y1,2,3	Phase Assembly Junior Hall Infant Hall
Wednesday	9.10am Chaplaincy led worship 2:45pm- Hymn Practise	KS2 in Junior Hall
Friday	2.45pm	Whole school assembly and worship

On days there is no key stage/whole school assembly; teachers/Chaplaincy group must conduct a collective act of worship in their class. Infant and Junior Phase Assemblies are led by teaching staff. Hymn Practices are led by the Headteacher/Music Leader. Whole school celebration assembly is led usually by the Headteacher, sometimes the Deputy Head or Assistant Head. While the majority of acts of worship in the school are Christian, we hold assemblies that reflect moral values and which reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and in the wider community.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The celebration of the Eucharist is central to our lives as Christians, and so plays an important part of worship at St Peter's. On a Friday morning two classes attend the parish Mass at 9:00am. The whole school attends On Holy Days of Obligation and the feast of St. Peter and St Paul, Mass is celebrated by the whole school in St. Peter's Church.

During the year, Reception and KS1 have an act of worship led by the parish priest. Preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist is led by the Parish.

The Celebration of Reconciliation

Reconciliation at St. Peter's Primary School is explored each year during the spring term in the 'Come and See' topics:

Services of Reconciliation (Y3-6) are led by the parish priest during Advent and/or Lent.

RE CPD

Catholic Teachers Certificate (CCRS): All Teachers are encouraged to secure this qualification in R.E. It is expected that the R.E. Co-ordinator and all aspiring to Senior Leadership at St Peter's will obtain this.

Annual CPD for all staff: It is recommended that one day's in-set is allocated to the Catholicity of this school.

Prayer

Apart from the daily act of worship and hymn practices, there are periods of prayer at lunchtime and at the beginning and end of each day.

All prayers begin and end with the sign of the cross	
MORNING:	Oh my God, you love me; you're with me night and day. I want to love you always in all I do and say. I'll try to please you Father, Bless me through the day. AMEN
GRACE: (before lunch)	Bless us Oh Lord as we sit together. Bless the food we eat today. Bless the hands that made the food. Bless us Oh God. AMEN
GRACE: (after lunch)	Thank you God, for the food we've just eaten. Thank you God, for all our friends. Thank you God, for everything. Thank you God. AMEN
EVENING:	God our Father, I've come to say, Thank-you for your love today. Thank-you for my family and all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light. AMEN

Each class should have an area of their room as a prayer focus.

Below is a list of formal prayers and mass responses that children are taught in each year group. These are explained so that the children are familiar with the words and their meaning (for prayers and responses in full see prayer booklet).

Nursery:	The Sign of the Cross Morning/evening prayer
Reception:	As above Grace before/after meals Our Father
Year 1	Revise the previous prayers Hail Mary Glory be to the Father
Year 2	Revise the previous prayers The Act of Penance Liturgy of the Word responses
Year 3	Revise the previous prayers Act of Sorrow The Confiteor Liturgy of the Eucharist responses
Year 4	Revise the previous prayers Eucharistic Acclamation The Communion Rite
Year 5	Revise the previous prayers The Gloria
Year 6	Revise the previous prayers Mass responses The Creed

Spontaneous prayer, talking to God in their own words, is also encouraged in class celebrations, reflection and prayer time, both aloud and in silence.

Environment and Display

From the moment you enter St Peter's, the school environment reflects that we are a Catholic school. Our core values are clearly displayed, a reflection of our faith and values. As you approach the school office, there is a special area devoted to special feast days or holy months, a wall of 'Core Value Ambassador' certificates for the children who have demonstrated any of our values of Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Compassion and Enthusiasm.

Each classroom has a prayer area with a special class candle in a prominent place of the classroom and a display dedicated to current learning in Religious Education. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's Religious work, prayers, including a display dedicated to our Patron Saint Peter. We also have a dedicated Prayer Room Area available for private and group prayer.

Resources

Each class has a prayer table and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year. Each class has a set of Bibles for Scripture use.

There are resources to support child led worship.

RE resources are stored safely in a dedicated cupboard.

Each class has 'Come and See' planning resources and access to the bank interactive resources.

Posters

CAFOD materials

Bibles and Bible storybooks

Jewish and Islamic ritual objects, books

Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics in the library

Prayer focus in classroom

Each class has an area for prayer focus, which should be in an area where all children can see it when they pray. The theme of the prayer focus should relate to the season of the liturgical year.

The Holy area has a cloth reflecting the liturgical year or a feast day and some ritual objects. Drapes for the holy areas in each class reflecting the liturgical year are kept in each class.

Colours: purple for penance, red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom, white, gold for important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

Other special focus times

Some months of the year have special foci.

October is the month of the Rosary – blue

November is the month when the Holy Souls (the deceased) are prayed for especially,

May is the month when Mary is especially remembered – blue

June is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember especially the great love Jesus has for us.

Ritual objects may include pictures, icons, stones, Bibles, flowers, bark, holy water, rosary, seashells or candles. Cloths and ritual objects are stored in each classroom and are the responsibility of the class teacher.

RE websites

See Appendix iii

Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life.

Pope Francis

Appendix i

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Job Description: Subject Leader

Job Title: Subject Leader for RE

Job Purpose:

The Subject Leader will ensure that there is consistency of teaching, continuity in context and skills, and high standards of learning throughout the school.

Duties:

The Subject Leader will:

- *coordinate the development of a cohesive and effective long-term plan in your subject;*
- *ensure that medium-term planning meets all the Diocesan and National Curriculum requirements;*
- *review, monitor and evaluate current practice (including schemes and policies) through book scrutiny, lesson observations, scrutiny of planning and assessment, talking to colleagues and pupils;*
- *provide feedback to the Senior Management Team and Governors;*
- *support, motivate and advise staff, and work alongside them in the development of their classroom practice, where appropriate;*
- *lead by example, through good classroom practice;*
- *disseminate information to the staff, and provide INSET to promote staff development and improve classroom practice;*
- *contribute action-planning in the subject for the School Development Plan;*
- *maintain an up-to-date knowledge of diocesan, local and national initiatives, by attending relevant courses;*
- *be responsible for the budget allocated to the subject area, and prioritise resource needs as indicated in the School Development Plan.*
- *contribute to the development of ICT in the teaching and learning of RE*
- *liaise with Parish Priest and Parish Council*
- *co-ordinate whole school masses and 'Come and See' Celebration assemblies*

Come and See
Overview of the Year 2023-2024

A week on Judaism (autumn term) and a week on Islam (summer term) have been included.

Autumn	<p>Domestic Church Early Years - MYSELF - God knows and loves each one</p> <p>Year 1 - FAMILIES - God's love and care for every family</p> <p>Year 2 - BEGINNINGS - God is present in every beginning</p> <p>Year 3 - HOMES - God's vision for every family</p> <p>Year 4 - PEOPLE - The family of God in Scripture</p> <p>Year 5 - OURSELVES - Created in the image and likeness of God</p> <p>Year 6 - LOVING - God who never stops loving</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Judaism</p> <p>Early Years - Hannukkah</p> <p>Year 1 - Abraham and Moses</p> <p>Year 2 - Shabbat</p> <p>Year 3 - Synagogue</p> <p>Year 4 - Torah</p> <p>Year 5 - Passover</p> <p>Year 6 - Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur <i>(2/3 pieces of evidence)</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Islam</p> <p>Early Years – Special Days/ Rituals & Objects -</p> <p>Year 1 – Stories – Muhammad</p> <p>Year 2 – Prayer/home - daily life</p> <p>Year 3- Places of Worship – the mosque</p> <p>Year 4 – Holy Books – The Qur'an</p> <p>Year 5 – Beliefs & Festivals – Ramadan and Pilgrimage</p> <p>Year 6 – Belonging & Values - Guidelines for Muslims</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Baptism/Confirmation</p> <p>Early Years - WELCOME - Baptism: a welcome to God's family</p> <p>Year 1 - BELONGING - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family</p> <p>Year 2 - SIGNS AND SYMBOLS - Signs and symbols in Baptism</p> <p>Year 3 - PROMISES - Promises made at Baptism</p> <p>Year 4 - CALLED - Confirmation: a call to witness</p> <p>Year 5 - LIFE CHOICES - Marriage, commitment and service</p> <p>Year 6 - VOCATION AND COMMITMENT - The vocation of priesthood and religious life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Advent/Christmas</p> <p>Early Years - BIRTHDAY - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday</p> <p>Year 1 - WAITING - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas</p> <p>Year 2 - PREPARATIONS - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas</p> <p>Year 3 - VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus</p> <p>Year 4 - GIFT - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus</p> <p>Year 5 - HOPE - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one</p> <p>Year 6 - EXPECTATIONS - Jesus born to show God to the world</p>
Spring	<p>Local Church Early Years –</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Eucharist Early Years –</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lent/Easter Early Year –</p>

	<p>CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church</p> <p>Year 1 - SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family</p> <p>Year 2 - BOOKS - The books used in Church</p> <p>Year 3 - JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ</p> <p>Year 4 - COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish</p> <p>Year 5 - MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)</p> <p>Year 6 - SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church</p>		<p>GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist</p> <p>Year 1 - MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal</p> <p>Year 2 - THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God</p> <p>Year 3 - LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us</p> <p>Year 4 - GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion</p> <p>Year 5 - MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice</p> <p>Year 6 - UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion</p>	<p>GROWING - Looking forward to Easter</p> <p>Year 1 - CHANGE - Lent: a time for change</p> <p>Year 2 - OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew</p> <p>Year 3 - GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving</p> <p>Year 4 - SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life</p> <p>Year 5 - SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus</p> <p>Year 6 - DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection</p>
Summer	<p>Pentecost</p> <p>Early Years - GOOD NEWS - Passing on the Good News of Jesus</p> <p>Year 1 - HOLIDAYS AND HOLYDAYS - Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Year 2 - SPREAD THE WORD - Pentecost: a time to spread the Good News</p>	<p>Reconciliation/Anointing of the sick</p> <p>Early Years - FRIENDS - Friends of Jesus</p> <p>Year 1 - BEING SORRY - God helps us choose well</p> <p>Year 2 - RULES - Reasons for rules in the Christian family</p> <p>Year 3 - CHOICES - Importance of examination of conscience</p>		<p>Universal Church</p> <p>Early Years - OUR WORLD - God's wonderful world</p> <p>Year 1 - NEIGHBOURS - Neighbours share God's world</p> <p>Year 2 - TREASURES - God's treasure; the world</p> <p>Year 3 - SPECIAL</p>

	<p>Year 3 - ENERGY - Gifts of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Year 4 - NEW LIFE - To hear and live the Easter message</p> <p>Year 5 - TRANSFORMATION - Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power</p> <p>Year 6 – WITNESSES - The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses</p>	<p>Year 4 - BUILDING BRIDGES - Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other</p> <p>Year 5 - FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible</p> <p>Year 6 - HEALING - Sacrament of the Sick</p>		<p>PLACES - Holy places for Jesus and the Christian community</p> <p>Year 4 - GOD'S PEOPLE - Different saints show people what God is like</p> <p>Year 5 - STEWARDSHIP - The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation</p> <p>Year 6 - COMMON GOOD - Work of the worldwide Christian family</p>
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Appendix iii

RE Websites

Worship:

www.-leed-dicoese.org.uk (go into R.E. then primary noticeboard)

www.culham.ac.uk The site of the Culham Institute

www.schoolassemblies.btinternet.co.uk

www.assemblies.org.uk (excellent)

www.catholic-forum.com

This site has links to all things Catholic (mainly in the U.S. – schools, colleges, discussion groups.

www.christusrex.org

www.jesuit.ie/prayer

www.tasc.ac.uk/cc/

This is the official site of the RC Church of England and has some useful links with other sites across the country.

www.theresite.org.uk

This is the site of the national RE Council's own directory of RE related Organisations

Online-d@www.online-direction.com for spiritual direction online

Teaching:

Come and See www.comeandseere.co.uk

Dottie and Buzz www.dottieandbuzz.co.uk

RE-Quest www.request.org.uk

RE ONLINE www.reonline.org.uk

The Professional Council for Religious Education

www.refit.ucsm.ac.uk

The Religious Education Exchange

www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools

The Religious Education Site

Catholic Social Teaching

CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/>

Caritas <https://www.caritas.org/>

Missio <https://missio.org.uk/>

www.theresite.org.uk

www.cesew.org.uk

Religious Education at the Virtual Teachers' Centre

www.vtc.ngfk.gov.uk/resource/cits/re/

Teaching Resources and Materials

www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools/cupboard/

The Bible Gateway

www.gospelcom.net/bible

The Sikhism Home Page

www.oneworld.org.uk

Welcome to Virtual Jerusalem

www.virtual.co.il

The Hindu Universe

www.hindunet.org./home.shtml

Other

www.marketing@paulinebooks-org.uk

www.info@mccrimmons.com

www.vatican.va

www.stpauls.org.uk

www.westminstercathedralshop.co.uk