

**St. Ann's
R.C. Primary
School**

**Religious
Education
Policy**

1.

Our School's Mission Statement

'We, the family of St. Ann's, rejoice in our learning; striving for excellence. We challenge ourselves, follow Jesus and empower each other to be the best we can be.'

'Motivate, learn, inspire.'

2. Policy Aims

In line with our mission statement and through our teaching, we hope that Religious Education at St. Ann's will:

- a) teach children who they are, why they are here and where they are going.
- b) deepen a child's understanding of their faith and give them support and guidance when their faith is challenged.
- c) seek to help each child live and grow in community in a way that reflects human worthiness and purpose.
- d) help the child to seek the truth about God.
- e) help the child to recognise and fulfil their role in the stewardship of Creation.
- f) help each child to respect others and their beliefs.
- g) help each child to recognise goodness wherever it is.

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

We hope our children will :-

- a) grow in understanding and appreciation of scripture and its place in Christianity.
- b) become familiar with the person, life and teachings of Jesus.
- c) grow in knowledge of and openness to the mystery of God.

- d) grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Church, her life and teachings, her significance in the world today and her concern for peace and justice.
- e) prepare for, participate in and appreciate liturgical prayer and worship.
- f) develop a moral awareness as they reflect upon their own and others' lives in the light of the Christian message.

3.0 Organisation of Religious Education in school

- 3.1. Religious Education is a core subject and is therefore entitled to an equitable amount of time within the timetable (10% of teaching time plus whole school and class worship).
- 3.2 The Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges for England and Wales forms the foundations of all R.E teaching in the school.
- 3.3 The Way, the Truth and the Life is the main scheme used in the planning of R.E. however, in addition to this, teachers use a variety of resources and their own creativity.
Throughout the year, each year group (from Nursery to Year 6) covers six units of study taken from The Way, the Truth and the Life. Medium term planning is undertaken by each year group, following the agreed planning format.
- 3.3 The objectives for each unit are clearly stated in the opening paragraphs of each unit, together with the relevant vocabulary and opportunities for assessment. This is followed by suggested teaching and learning activities.
- 3.4 R.E. teaching is generally undertaken in a whole class situation with much of the teaching taking the form of stories and discussions role play, art work, reflection and worship. Children are encouraged, where appropriate, to provide written in depth reflections in their R.E. book which show a greater depth of learning.

4.0 Record keeping and assessment

4.1 Each teacher is responsible for keeping their R.E. assessment file up to date. Children are assessed through observation, discussion, written work and actions. Assessments of children's progress in R.E. are to take place throughout a unit of work and not as a stand-alone task at the end of the unit. Every child has an individual record sheet in the teacher's R.E. assessment file which is updated by the class teacher. Children show they can meet an objective three times before the teacher can confirm they have securely achieved the objective. Until further notice, and in line with Salford Diocese guidelines, level in R.E. are to remain.

The R.E. Co-ordinator will monitor the teaching of R.E. across the school through observations of R.E lessons. The teacher's planning will also be reviewed to ensure coverage and samples of the children's work will be monitored as evidence of teacher planning.

5.0 Prayer and Worship (Also see Collective Worship Policy)

5.1 In addition to more formal teaching, R.E. takes place in a variety of forms. These are:-

- Class led assemblies.
- Weekly Prayer Assemblies – led by Key Stage 1 Coordinator and Deputy Headteacher.
- Golden assemblies - highlighting the positive aspects of school life.
- Daily prayers - prayers are said each morning, lunch time and afternoon.
- Prayer corners - these are found in each class, allowing staff and children time for quiet prayer and reflection.

- Prayer Garden- to be used by classes on a rota basis, weather permitting. Prayer Leaders are to oversee the use of the Prayer Garden at break times and lunchtimes.

6.0 Cross - Curricular links

6.1 Religious Education in our school enables the children to grow in every way. Consequently, the whole curriculum is rooted in a Christian way of life, permeating all core and foundation subjects. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC) of the children is embedded in the curriculum and opportunities are given to develop this.

Each class has a book dedicated to Big Questions posed by children during the school day. These questions are addressed by the staff at appropriate times through class discussions.

In addition to the Big Questions book, every class has a Mission Book in which they carry out activities showing how they are living the mission statement.

6.2. Special Educational Needs

All pupils, regardless of ability, race or gender, will be given equal access to R.E. Classroom organisation and management should take account of such issues and materials used will be of an unbiased nature.

7.0. Staff and Inset

7.1. The R.E. Co-ordinator will provide feedback to staff after attending training and keep them informed about recent developments.

- 7.2. R.E. will form part of every School Inset day whether it be through the development of the planning, teaching and assessment of R.E. or it permeating through other areas of training.
- 7.3 Staff are encouraged and supported in their own personal development of the Catholic faith.
- 7.3. The implementation of this policy and the scheme of work will be reviewed each academic year.

8.0. Resources

- 8.1. Each member of staff will have a copy of this R.E. Policy. All classes have a copy of the Holy Bible that is appropriate to their Key Stage. All classes have copies of The Way, the Truth and the Life (Teacher book and pupil books).
- 8.2. A selection of R.E. resources are kept in each of the Key Stages and each class has a variety of resources which are stored in their classroom. The R.E. Co-ordinators are responsible for monitoring and updating these resources.

9.0. Communication with other Agencies

- 9.1. It is important that the children understand that the Church Community stretches beyond St. Ann's. Contact is maintained with the Parish Priests, the Parish team of Catechists and the Salford Diocese R.E. Centre, Charitable Organisations such as C.A.F.O.D, Stretford Food Bank, Cornerstones Homeless Charity and the Children's Hospital encouraging the children to think of others.

10.0. Awareness and understanding of other faiths and cultures

It is important that children understand and are aware of other faiths and cultures. The staff are aware of the variety of resources and information that is available. These resources are used regularly.

Where appropriate, other faiths are studied within the curriculum and at specific times of the year (Ramadan, Eid etc). The faiths of other children are recognised and respected by all members of staff.

The Prayer Garden is home to an international Peace Pole which states the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth". In recognition of children in school who have English as their second language, the Peace Pole states the words in three additional languages; Spanish, Italian and Polish.