



St John's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

love of learning
and playing together
one community
aiming high
helping each other
and praying together

On our journey with Christ

The aim of this policy is to guide teachers and support staff in providing the best possible learning experiences for our children. We believe that every child is a child of God; we will encourage in all children the knowledge and love of God, and in a concern and care for others; we will value each child for who they are and what they are; and we will ensure that every child has the opportunity to become the person God knows them to be, irrespective of their starting points, background or cultural and religious beliefs.

Our mission sets out our commitment to 'aiming high'. Improvements in the quality of teaching and learning are brought about through a process, which involves:

- reflection by individual professionals
- acting on planning feedback and guidance
- use of assessment data
- the target setting process
- sharing in-house expertise through
 - joint/team planning
 - discussion with colleagues, subject coordinators and SLT
 - Staff training at school
 - Team teaching lessons
 - Peer observation and lesson studies
- implementation of recommendations arising from classroom observation
- effective response to guidance from advisers and implementation of OfSTED Action Plan
- CPD courses

This policy will be reviewed regularly to enable us to take account of new initiatives, curriculum changes, technological developments and any changes to our pupil cohort profile.
Aims and Objectives

At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum. This vision is something we feel will allow us to create a Catholic curriculum where Christ is at the heart of the school community and we recognise our special mission from God.

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and celebrate/understand other beliefs and practices. Our aim is for the children to recognise the role of the church and have a deeper understanding of other beliefs and cultures.
- Ensure children enjoy their learning in Religious Education and that our school's mission statement is lived and expressed in every aspect
- All are welcome in God's name and the life of the school is a sign of the Good News live, proclaimed and witness to in the local community
- Develop positive, loving relationships focused on the needs of the children and staff to establish a Christ-centred community, expressing and celebrating each person's gift.
- Pupils feel a sense of belonging, being nurtured, loved and cared for each and every day
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
- Explore religious values through scripture and have a demonstrate gospel values
- Wonder, ask, explore and answer big questions that are based on our overall curriculum
- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness, sacrifice and stewardship by loving and learning together as a family
- Reflect and respond during class collective worships, discussing common events and having an open approach aiming for attitudes of respect and sensitivity.

Teaching and Learning

All classes ensure they deliver 10% of RE each week and highlight links with other focuses in our areas of the curriculum. This is not including our collective worship that takes place each morning. The children are given opportunities to focus on the Word of God by exploring and understanding the Gospel. This will be as a whole school initially and continued to be explored in class worships. Each class has a focused Big Question that enables the children to continue to discover the mysteries and the mind of God. These questions are linked with their class topics and discussed throughout the curriculum.

During RE sessions the school follows 'Come and See', as each year group have focus topics that they explore at the appropriate age group. The scheme is used to guide teachers when

delivering RE but is also flexible in the sense that the lessons are open, building child voice and time for discussions and reflection.

Curriculum Planning

Using the key Big Questions, the children are able to discover the mysteries of God through all aspects of the curriculum. There are opportunities for the children to wander, tell, share and reflect during each topic of work.

Throughout broad and balanced curriculum, RE and gospel values are at the centre of our lessons, allowing children to make those connections.

EYFS

RE in Early Years Foundation Stage is also followed by 'Come and See', which is appropriate to their age and linked with other aspects of the Development Matters Statements. The children focus on a word, symbol and child-friendly piece of scripture to begin the RE sessions, allowing plenty of opportunities for discussing and sharing.

Contribution to the Catholic Ethos

Our school has been working hard to ensure that we are fulfilling our mission and gifts from God by working alongside the homeless centre in our local area. We have celebrations that allow the children to follow and understand the liturgical year. Each celebration is a contribution of work from each Key Stage that is then celebration during special events.

