



Religious Education Policy

School Responsibility: Mrs H Harvey

Headteacher: Mrs C Knight

Governor: Mrs L Pennington

Adopted: February 2019

Review: February 2021

ETHOS STATEMENT

The School was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The School is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Leeds in particular:

1. Religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
2. Religious worship is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;

And at all times the school is to serve as witness to the Catholic faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph is our patron saint and he inspires and guides us in our school mission:

Each one of us is part of God's family and we are all special.

As God's children and family we love one another, pray together, play together and walk hand in hand with God.

God is our teacher and we are his gifts. He helps us learn together, work hard and do our best to make our world a better place.

With fun, laughter and friendship we celebrate God's love.

We respect and care for everyone and for God's wonderful world.

As a family with God in our hearts we love, laugh and learn.

RATIONALE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.
- Therefore we believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.” (Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2000)
- We believe Religious Education is, then, a core subject in a Catholic School and should be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other subjects.
- Religious Education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis; providing support and reinforcement.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of: the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ; the Church; central beliefs which Catholics hold and the worlds we live in. (Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 1996)
- We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities which is reflected in our teaching of Religious Education.
- The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have knowledge, understanding and skills –appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically so that they are aware of the requirements of religious commitment in everyday lives.
- Within this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil’s family and parish community.

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- To promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
- To promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

- Time Allocation - In line with the Bishops’ Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.
- Planning - To fulfil our aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory (Revelation, Church, Congregation & Life in Christ), teachers will follow “The Way, The Truth and the Life” programme (Appendix 1) as recommended by the Diocese.

- Planning – Teachers will use the planning documents on the diocesan website to help them prepare their lessons.
- Planning – A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used so that the needs of the pupils are met. Where possible, Religious Education lessons will try to have a creative element.
- Planning - In addition to explicit, planned Curriculum Religious Education, there will often be opportunities which arise during the course of a school day to lead pupils to develop further their understanding of Religious Education.
- Other Faiths - Each year we have a “Faith Fortnight” where each class studies other World Faiths. (Appendix 2)
- Marking – Pupils’ work will be marked positively and constructively so that it affirms and celebrates success and encourages future learning.
- Displays – Each class will have a display for RE which reflects the learning for that half term. The driver words will be displayed on the board and any key words for that topic. Children’s work will also be celebrated through displays in the classroom, in the hall and around the school.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING, MONITORING & REPORTING

- Assessment – For each topic, the “I can statements” from the Diocesan website will be stuck into the children’s books so that the children can see what they have achieved. Teachers can also use this as way of recording progress.
- Assessment – One piece of specified work will be formally assessed and levelled for each topic, as recommended by the Diocesan advisers and based on the levels of attainment for RE. This will be completed in the children’s RE books.
- Assessment – Moderation meetings are held both in school and with the wider Bishop Wheeler Academy Trust schools (BWCAT).
- Recording – Each teacher keeps a class RE folder which contains a portfolio of pupils’ work and samples of work for each assessed task covering a range of abilities.
- Recording – Children’s levels will be updated on the school tracking system half termly. Children’s progress in RE will be discussed at pupil progress meetings and with the RE Subject Leader half way through the year and at the end of the year.
- Monitoring of RE – This takes the form of lesson observations, work/planning scrutiny and through discussions with pupils as well as informal learning walks.
- Reporting – progress and achievement is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

MANAGEMENT OF THE SUBJECT

- Helena Harvey, the subject leader, has the responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. (Appendix 3)

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Subject Leader (Helena Harvey), the Head Teacher (Cecilia Knight) and the governing body. It will be updated every 2 years.

Appendix 1

The Way, The Truth & The Life Long Term Plan

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
RECEPTION	God's World	God's Family	Getting to know Jesus	Sorrow & Joy	New Life	Church
YEAR 1			Families & Celebrations	Following Jesus	Resurrection	Miracles
YEAR 2			The Good News	The Mass	Eastertide	The Birth of the Church
YEAR 3	The Christian Family	Mary, Our Mother	Jesus the Teacher	Called to Change	Celebrating Easter & Pentecost	Being a Christian
YEAR 4	The Bible	Trust in God	Celebrating the Mass	Jesus Saviour	The Early Christians	The Church
YEAR 5	Gifts from God	The Commandments	Inspirational People	Reconciliation	Life in the Risen Christ	Transforming the Spirit
YEAR 6	Called to Serve	Justice	Exploring the Mass	Jesus, Son of God	Kingdom of God	Faith in Action

Appendix 2

Religions taught in Faith Fortnight

Year Group	World Faith Studied
Reception	Hinduism
Year 1	Judaism
Year 2	Sikhism
Year 3	Other Christian denominations
Year 4	Judaism
Year 5	Hinduism
Year 6	Islam

Appendix 3

The Role of the Subject Leader

The Religious Education Leader will be responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work.
- Organising in-school moderation of standards meetings.
- Self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-school staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.