



Religious Education

Mission Statement

Introduction

The school is a Catholic Primary serving the parish of Blessed Edmund Sykes. Our aim is to develop the full potential of each individual as a child of God, responding to present needs and assisting in growth towards responsible adulthood.

Worship

We aim to provide a meaningful variety of opportunities for the celebration and worship of God, in order to educate and deepen awareness and understanding of the individual's faith journey through life.

Programme of Study

The Christian ethos, based on the values of the Gospel, will be in evidence throughout the delivery of the curriculum, together with the provision of a formal religious education.

Communications and Relationships

We aim to ensure effective communication within the school, and with those involved in its life, and to foster loving, caring relationships in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Individual Support and Development

We will be aware of the uniqueness of each individual within our community, and will seek to promote a sense of self-esteem, and mutual love and respect through responding to each personal, spiritual and educational need.

School in the Community

We aim to serve God and His people, and create an awareness of our school's responsibility to the local, national and international community.

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 never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.¹
- We believe Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.
- Religious education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis but its specific contribution to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and so Religious Education will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

¹ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, para. 4, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2000

- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.²

‘ The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.’

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 practice³

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops’ Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - *(insert RE programme(s) used in school)* programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Process

‘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

² Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 10, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 1996

³ *Ibid*, p. 10

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.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils' experience of life are essential.⁴

'Teaching in Religious Education ...should 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.'⁵

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains three 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.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is done through lesson observation (formal and informal), work scrutiny, talking to children.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Head Teacher and RE subject leader and updated every 2 years.

⁴ *The Way, the Truth & the Life, Teacher Book 4, 7, CTS, 2004*

⁵ Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 11

Management of the subject.

Jane Burns & Angela Cheyne the Subject Leaders have responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

Other Faiths will be taught through theme weeks each half term.

APPENDIX 1

The Role of the Subject Lead for Religious Education

The Religious Education Subject Lead 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-house 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-house 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.