

St Anne's R.C. Primary School Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School is to ensure a safe and caring learning environment in which Every child is given Every chance to achieve their full potential.

We recognize that every individual is unique and formed in God's image and likeness and it is this that guides our daily work.

Goals of Education:

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- As a Catholic School we aim to work closely with the home and parish to create an atmosphere where through teaching and example, our children will be helped to enter into a loving relationship with God our Father, Jesus our brother and with each other as members of God's family and so continue to lay foundations of the Catholic faith.
- At St Anne's School we are aware that we have to deliver a broad balanced education to help the children grow to their full human potential and pay regard to the formation of the whole person. How a child develops spiritually, morally and socially is every bit as important as academic progress.
- This means in Religious Education we are not just teaching a curriculum subject but also a living faith, which we are encouraging our children to share in.

- 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.
- 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

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

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

‘ 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 -

The ‘Come and See’ 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 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.

‘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.’⁴

³ *Ibid*, p. 10

⁴ Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 11

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. 'Big Questions' are used to encourage and challenge children and to make the curriculum more compelling.

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 samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
- In – house moderation meetings take place at least twice a year.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning - Lesson observations and book scrutinies are included in the school monitoring cycle.
- 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 Curriculum Committee updated every 2 years.

Management of the subject.

Jacqueline Greene, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

Other faiths will be studied through the programme Come and See.

APPENDIX 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education

The Religious Education Co-ordinator 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.