



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Halifax

Policy for Religious Education

A Community where we live, learn and laugh together in God's love.

Rationale

Our fundamental and primary aim at St Mary's Catholic Primary is to assist pupils to grow in their personal Faith journey and to learn to love God and to now that he loves each of them as a unique and special individual.

We believe that the provision of a sound programme of religious education will assist in achieving this aim. This curriculum area is concerned with the development of religious knowledge, concepts and skills necessary for engaging in religious thinking, reflection and decision making.

The Religious Education programme, which is an important curriculum area, making the same educational demands as any other, will be enriched by a variety of liturgies, celebrations and other activities, both planned and unplanned, which will encourage pupils to make religion a living experience in their lives. It is likely, however, that the religious education programme and other experiences we provide will only achieve their ultimate purpose if the faith development of the pupils is supported by parental commitment and by the support of the faith communities to which they belong.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Governing body that the school should provide a curriculum and syllabus for religious education which fulfils Diocesan recommendations and corresponds to the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and to the 'Statements of Broad Areas of Attainment in Religious Education' devised by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers. Teaching will be in accordance with our policy on Moral and Spiritual Values. This key policy supports our Mission Statement.

Leadership

The RE Leader is currently Mark Brennan (Headteacher). His work is monitored by the Pupil Committee and by the Governor Responsible for RE and Faith Life, our Parish Priest (Fr. Martin Kelly).

Implementation

1. Aims of Religious Education

Through the Religious Education curriculum we seek to provide our pupils with:-

- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the teaching of the Catholic Church
- a basis for the development of a Christian moral life
- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of other religions and faiths
- an ability to deal with religious concepts, thinking, reflection and morally informed decision

- an awareness of their personal faith and a developing sense of:-
 - self-esteem
 - awe and wonder
 - transcendence
 - respect for the beliefs and practices of others
 - personal responsibility
 - belonging to a community
 - personal and community responsibility for others

2. Organisation and Planning

a) Timetable Provision

Teachers are expected to allocate sufficient time to ensure the effective delivery of RE. This is in addition to Collective Worship (both in class, Key Stage or whole school).

It will be assumed that the following approximate amounts of time will be allocated for the delivery of the RE syllabus:

FS + Key Stage 1 - 2 hours per week
 Key Stage 2 - 2½ hours per week

This time may be averaged out over a period of time and may include focussed assemblies where aspects of Faith or doctrine are covered/taught.

b) The Curriculum Directory + Broad Areas of Attainment

The document “The Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools” has been fully implemented from September 1999. Staff will use Diocesan guidelines and advice in using “**The Way The Truth and The Life**” scheme to cover the Directory’s programmes of study.

The document “Broad Areas of Attainment in Religious Education” provides the school with broad statements related to the progressive development of the Religious Education Curriculum in terms of:-

- knowledge
- skills
- attitudes

c) Religious Education Programme

The school will use ‘The Way The Truth and The Life’ programme for Religious Education. The programme operates a yearly cycle of themes /topics which each year group follows.

- d) The pupils use a text book from Y1 to Y6. In FS they follow a scheme designed to build the foundation stones for entry into WTL as recommended by the Diocese.
- e) Planning for continuity, progression and coverage is done by teachers and the scheme’s support materials provided by the Diocesan RE Team.

3. Cross Curricular Links

In the delivery of the RE Curriculum there are links between the matter specific to RE and other areas of the curriculum.

- English
 - pupils will develop linguistic skills, both oral and written through RE by developing the skills of:
 - written presentation
 - factual
 - imaginative
 - poetic
 - oracy
 - discussion
 - self-expression
 - reading
- History & Geography
 - pupils will develop a knowledge and understanding of history and geography through the study of events and people of:
 - the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - the Christmas story
 - the stories of other faith commitments
- Art/Music/Drama
 - pupils will have the opportunity to experience and develop a knowledge of symbolism and expression through:
 - study of the Sacraments
 - looking at icons and religious artefacts
 - the use of drama and religious song
- Maths
 - Links may be tenuous but pupils will have the opportunity to develop ideas of sharing and honesty when working co-operatively or when dealing with issues of money. Ideas of distance, size and infinity can all lead to dwelling on the vastness of creation and the nature of God.
- Science
 - RE is important in providing a moral and spiritual dimension to the scientific world, research and processes.
- SRE
 - Our Sex and Relationships programme '**A Journey in Love**' will help children to understand the wonders and beauty of life and the gift of love that God gives us. It will help children to understand and grow into healthy, whole human beings, aware of their gender, relationships and self-image.
- ICT
 - ICT will be used as appropriate to enhance the learning experiences of the children.

4. **Teaching Methods**

Moral and Spiritual values are supported by the values in the taught content of our curriculum and by the example of all the adults working in our school.

5. **Resources**

Resources information and artefacts to support RE teaching are to be found within each class also in the RE Store Room in the Main Hall. All documentation and paper files are kept by the RE Leader in files and on the school Server. The RE co-ordinator can provide further information regarding all resources.

6 **Assessment**

- 1) Short term assessment in terms of teacher evaluation will take place after each lesson. This will inform future planning.
- 2) Formal assessment takes place at the end of 3 of the 6 topics covered in each class each year. These assessments are set by the Diocesan RE Team and published on the Diocesan

website.

- 3) Teachers meet at least once a year (more often in practice) to conduct moderation exercises based on the termly assessments.
- 4) Individual assessments are marked and attached to the child's exercise book, including highlighted 'I can' statement grids for each unit.
- 5) All termly assessment scores are recorded on a whole school tracking system coordinated by the RE leader and Assessment Lead.
- 6) Moderation also takes place within the Calderdale Catholic Cluster of schools at least once a year.

6. **Marking and Feedback**

1. Teachers will use marking in RE books to support the learning objectives/outcomes given to the pupils at the start of each lesson and each piece of work.
2. Teachers will give formal and informal feedback to children on their performance and the ways they can improve during the lesson and afterwards.
3. Teachers will always mark positively and constructively. Marking will aim to give children advice on how they might improve their work.
4. Marking in RE books will not normally be used to improve children's literacy skills. **The focus will always be on the religious content** with particular reference to the learning objective. However, spellings might be corrected occasionally, especially if key vocabulary is involved (e.g. Jesus, Jerusalem). Where a child is making a regular grammatical error which needs correction, teachers will use their professional judgement.

7. **Provision for Special Needs**

Special needs are addressed in accordance with school policy. Children with learning difficulties are integrated into the class programme as much as possible and work differentiated according to pupils' different abilities.

SEN pupils' progress will be tracked to ensure they are making at least satisfactory progress.

8. **Equal Opportunities**

Our commonality and individuality as children of God are supported through the content, teaching and values of the subject.

Our Mission Statement and Pastoral Care policies (which include an Equality Policy) support and promote equal opportunities in all we do.

9. **Health & Safety**

RE teaching and activities, including visits and the use of artefacts, will be in accordance with the school's Health & Safety Policy.

Live candles may be used where adults are supervising.

10. **Roles and Responsibilities**

- i) The Head teacher - is ultimately responsible for ensuring the provision and quality of Religious Education.
- ii) The RE Co-ordinator is responsible for:-
 - a)
 - devising the RE policy document in consultation with staff and governors
 - conducting annual review of policy and reporting to Governors
 - organising the in-depth review as indicated in the School Development Plan
 - liaising with the Governing Body and PP as necessary
 - b)
 - requisitioning of RE materials for use in the classroom
 - requisitioning of RE materials for the staff library and school library

- c)
 - raising issues connected with the implementation of the RE syllabus with Governors, and staff
 - co-ordinating planning and recording of topics and schemes of work
 - assisting teachers in the delivery of the RE curriculum
- d)
 - attending RE courses and ensuring that other staff have appropriate access to CPD where relevant.

11. **Monitoring**

Monitoring will take place in line with the Monitoring Policy, also by the Diocesan RE Team through Cluster meetings and the annual Canonical Review.

Policy updated: May 2019 (MB)

