



Archdiocese of  
Birmingham



# St Gregory's Catholic Academy

## RE Policy



All Saints Catholic Collegiate

## POLICY

### Approval and review

|                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Committee to approve policy        | Curriculum Committee |
| Date of Academy Committee Approval | March 2018           |
| Chair of Academy committee         |                      |
| Signature                          |                      |
| Chair of Academy Committee         | R Chadwick           |
| Policy review period               | 12 months            |
| Date of policy review              | March 2019           |

### MISSION STATEMENT

**With respect for God and united in faith, we place service before self to inspire hearts and minds.**

**By achieving together throughout love and faith, we place Christ at the centre of all we do.**



**Version Control**

| <b>Version</b> | <b>Date Approved</b> | <b>Changes</b>          | <b>Reason for Alterations</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Issue 1        |                      | Annual update of policy |                               |
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## Introduction

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement which is rooted in our belief that every child is unique, made in the image of Christ, and that this is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome socio-economic factors - or any other external factor- which may hinder pupil progress and attainment, and ultimately affect their life chances.

RE in our schools is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible, through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and roles and responsibilities throughout the school which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

Pope Francis on Prayer:

*'Let us keep the flame of faith alive through prayer and the sacraments: let us make sure we do not forget God. Prayer, humility and charity towards all are essential in the Christian life: they are the way to holiness'.*

## Mission

Our mission through Religious Education is to give each individual the opportunity to experience the gospel values through celebration, prayer, personal reflection and sharing faith experiences with others. We strive to develop opportunities where each child's own inner spiritual self is respected and enhances reverence, wonder and awe in God's presence and self-exploration.

It includes the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life. Through 'Learning and Growing as the People of God', we aim to develop our children's religious growth.

Throughout the teaching and learning with RE we aim to develop independent thinking and the ability to express our own faith experiences. RE is a way of life and part of this journey in faith is taken as members of our school communities. Across the collaboration, we work closely together with home and our Parish Priest (Father John Gilbert) and Parish communities so that we can present the Christian event, message and response to mission,

Through our school mission and our children's experience of belonging to a caring community, we offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

*Respect for God*

*Respect for other people*

*Respect for other people's property*

*Respect for ourselves.*



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

Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012.

## Aims

- To nurture our children and staff in the Catholic Faith
- Ensure children feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage in examination of and reflection upon their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.
- Develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and, where appropriate, other religious traditions, by following the Gospel values and providing opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth.
- To provide a living example of Gospel Values in our relationships with one another
- To provide a high quality education where each child develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful and faith-filled members of society

## Religious Education Programme

The Religious Education Programme "Learning and Growing as the People of God" devised by the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupil's own experiences and the experience of other faith traditions. The programme will raise questions and provide materials for reflecting on their own experiences and faith journey. It will help the pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate, of other faith traditions.

The strategy is divided into four key areas:

- The Liturgical Year
- Scripture – both Old and New Testament
- The Sacraments
- Living as Christians, including prayer. (How we carry out Christ's mission)

## Learning and Teaching

Allocation of curriculum time.

RE is allocated to 10% of the curriculum in line with the expectations of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.



## How we plan Religious Education

The Long Term Planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. The RE Department provides a long term plan in accordance with school term dates and the RE Leader allocates each unit to specific dates throughout the year. There is a certain amount of flexibility depending upon whether a specific group of pupils are preparing to receive the Sacraments.

Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is done on a unit by unit basis.

Short Term Planning is recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, which is based upon Diocesan recommendations. The planning proforma provides opportunities for prayer and SMVSC.

## Assessment and Monitoring

As part of the Learning and Growing as the People of God programme there is a four year cycle for assessment. The subject leader sets the assessment focus each year based on the Liturgical season, Sacraments, Scripture and Living as Christians.

The assessment of individual pupils in RE is the responsibility of the class teacher. The information for the assessment focus is collated by the RE leader and significant groups are tracked within each strand.

One child per year group is tracked throughout the units of work with levelled pieces of work being collated by the RE leader. This provides a standards bank against Diocesan Attainment targets (phases 1-4).

There are two attainment targets:

AT1 – Learning about religion. This includes three strands; knowledge and understanding of beliefs, celebration and ritual, social practices and way of life.

AT2 – Learning from religion. This includes two strands; engagement with own and other peoples beliefs, engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.

## Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist currently takes place in Year Three. In addition to the Strategy, which is followed by all pupils, the school provides extra resources and sessions for the Catholic children to enable parents to take an active part in their children's preparation for these sacraments. The parents are asked to commit to the Parish Programme of Preparation by signing a form to support their commitment. They are invited to attend a series of evening meetings and monthly family masses throughout the year. The school uses the programme "Do this in Memory" for the pupils alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils. Family participation including readings, ministry of welcome and offertory procession are organised by the families of the pupils who are preparing to receive the sacraments. The Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place during Lent and the Sacrament of the Eucharist in Spring.



The RE leader and staff work closely with Parish Priest and Catechist to deliver this programme with families so that all parents and pupils are fully involved in the planning and preparation for the Sacraments.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in Year Six. The school uses the Diocesan programme "Gifted in the Spirit" for the Confirmandi alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils. The children and their parents are invited to attend a meeting at the start of the preparation and asked to attend the monthly family masses.

## Catholic Life

As a MAC, the MAC Mission group meets termly with pupil representatives from each Academy to develop further the Catholic and spiritual life of the schools. 'Pupil voice' is a significant aspect where pupils develop their ideas and thoughts which then impacts on the liturgies and joint events throughout our school year.

KS2 pupils participate in a MAC production every Lent, based on the 'Born for This' production. There are many opportunities for the pupils to attend the feeder high school and attend workshops throughout the liturgical seasons. There are strong links with the wider school and parish communities.

During Lent and Advent, liturgies take place during and after school. These prayer group sessions are led by staff and pupils, whilst after-school prayer sessions are led by a parish Catechist and pupils.

Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition.

It is the task of the school... *'to promote and develop as appreciation of and a more active participation in prayer, worship and liturgy'*. (Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)

It is through the observance of and participation in acts of prayer, worship and celebration of the Liturgy that the child has the opportunity to express their faith and to develop a relationship with God.

School, for many of our pupils, is their first, sustained experience of the Catholic tradition. Thus, we provide a range of opportunities where their faith can be practised:

- Formal prayer: morning, afternoon, at mealtimes
- Reflective prayer in the form of class and whole school liturgies
- Collective Prayer in the form of assemblies; whole school.
- Celebration of Mass: these take place on a Thursday morning. KS2 are joined with KS1 for a joint celebration of Mass, with the older children being the role model. Masses include important feast days, the beginning and end of each school term. All year groups participate over the year.
- Regular hymn practices
- Involvement in Parish and Community Celebrations: Christmas liturgy in church, Mother's Day, Monthly sacramental masses.
- Spiritual leaders help to organise liturgies, including masses, within school



## Inclusion

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected.

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic church. Participation in daily collective act of worship remains at the helm of every morning and afternoon session, within RE lessons and at the end of each day. Every class prepares and leads Mass once a term, with parents, families and parishioners warmly welcomed.

Parents and carers are advised that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all pupils will participate in RE lessons. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children, although this is strongly discouraged, and parents will be required to supervise their children during this period, as adult supervision is not available in school.

## Pupil and Staff Induction

New staff are given induction into the uniqueness of working in a Catholic school and the schools Catholic life. Staff induction is modelled across the MAC to ensure the training is uniform and consistent.

RE leaders work across the MAC to provide a purposeful and relevant induction for all staff, including teaching and non-teaching staff.

There is also a separate programme for non-catholic pupils who join the school. This includes formal prayers and a baseline assessment completed by the Learning Mentor team.

This policy has been agreed following consultation with all staff and governors.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Headteacher Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Academy Committee Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The policy will be reviewed .....