

## Policy for Religious Education

<b>Leader</b>	<b>Mrs A Melling</b>
<b>Groups involved in discussion</b>	<b>Headteacher RE Co-ordinator All Staff Governing Body</b>

### *Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life*

#### The Aims of Religious Education

In the life of faith of our Catholic School, religious education plays a central and vital part. At St Joseph's for all children, Religious Education is a cross curricular subject. It is a rigorous academic discipline and as such is taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. It is very much the core subject. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic Religious Education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of our Catholic School.

We are committed to Catholic RE because all pupils have the right to receive an overall religious education. RE is for all and is a collaborative activity, which respects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.

At St Joseph's we aim to educate the whole person. At the heart of the school is a sense of purpose, which is to create a community that shares the values of love, respect, truth and reconciliation as shown through the example of Christ.



#### The Aims of RE

The overall aims of Religious Education at St Joseph's are to provide:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon Religious belief and practice.
- The teachings of the Church.

These are explored in a manner which encourages investigation and reflection by the pupils, develops the appropriate skills and attitudes and promotes free, informed and full response to God's call in everyday life.

In the words of the Curriculum Directory 2012, the outcome of Catholic Religious Education is...

*'religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age, ability and capacity to think spiritually. Ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.'*

## Objectives

St Joseph's Religious Education programme will: -

- Develop knowledge and understanding of God and Jesus and the central belief which Catholics hold
- Develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic beliefs and an understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour.
- Encourage study, investigation and a rich language of religious experience- activities, stories, symbols, rituals, people and objects.
- Provide opportunity for celebration, prayer and reflection
- Develop appropriate skills and foster appropriate attitudes
- Include appropriate materials about other faiths

## The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' Programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Come and See is of primary importance within school since its purpose is to unify and inspire every aspect of school life. The programme has been implemented in all year groups, this provides a Catholic framework for the teacher to explore the themes with all children from reception to Y6.

As part of the 'Come and See' Programme, there is a focus on other faiths as well as the Christian themes which are explored in each year group. Judaism is studied every year along with one other faith.



## Overview of Content

The following pages show an overview of the Themes and Topics over the year cycle of Come and See.

The process of delivering each of the topics in Come and See has three main stages, which enable pupils to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes.

**Explore**

**Reveal**

**Respond**

All classes follow their own year group programme.

## Planning

### Long Term Planning

Long Term Planning is the responsibility of the SLT. Each class has its own long term plan according to the programme of study for that particular year group.

### Medium Term Planning

Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator. The medium term plan shows the start dates for each topic (each topic should have equal weighting and should take four weeks to complete), the content and focus of each theme, attainment targets, the three themes and topics and key concepts, skills and attitudes.

### Short Term Planning

Short Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher. Planning follows the archdiocesan guidelines.

It includes: -

- Topic Page with key words and attainment targets displayed
- Objectives for every lesson
- Driver Words
- Key stages of process
- Differentiation and activities
- Use of other adults to support learning
- Resources
- Dates
- Reflection
- Evaluation

## Time Allocation for RE

The Bishop's requirement of 10 percent of curriculum teaching time is clearly indicated on the class timetables. This time does not include time for collective worship.

## Assessment

### Informal Assessment

- General observation of children engaged in general tasks and activities.
- Observation of contributions made to classroom lessons and display.
- Review: end of task, activity, lesson, topic.
- Marking of more formal written work.
- Class teachers record the children's names against the level summary at the end of each non-formally assessed topic.

### Formal Assessment

- One topic each term is identified by the Christian Education Team for formal assessment. Moderation takes place termly with staff and governors.

## Reporting and Recording

Recording provides evidence of achievement. It involves pupils in self-assessment and progress in dialogue with the teacher. It takes many forms:

- Notes from observations.
- Written comments in pupil's books.
- Visual evidence- for example photographs, video clips.
- Year Group Assessment and Evidence Files.

There are four dimensions to reporting in Religious Education:

- Provides feedback to pupils on their achievement and progress.
- Informs teachers and colleagues of the achievement of individual pupils and the areas studied by a class and year group.
- Informs parents of the progress and achievement of their child.
- Informs parents, governors, parish and external agencies of the content and quality of Religious Education being provided and the achievements of the pupils.

At St Joseph's parents are given the opportunity on two occasions during the school year to meet with their child's class teacher to receive verbal reports on the progress of their child. Parents also receive a written interim report and an individual RE end of year report.

## Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

The purpose of monitoring, evaluating and reviewing is:

- To raise expectations and standards across all areas.
- To assist in target setting.
- To celebrate achievement and successes and provide evidence to support judgements.
- To support staff development.
- To ensure that all staff have a clear picture of standards and areas for development within their own classes, teams, whole school and curriculum areas.

### Key Principles

- Monitoring standards is central to maintaining and improving, it is at the heart of school planning as it leads to evaluation and review, which identifies the starting point for development.
- Monitoring leads to action.
- Monitoring provides a means of obtaining an accurate picture of various aspects of school life and practices that involve the staff and children.
- Confidentiality must be respected at all times.
- It must involve head teacher, staff and governors as appropriate.
- The system must be manageable in terms of time and information and have an agreed focus.

## Sacramental Preparation

**We believe that it is essential that Home, School and Parish work very closely together in preparing each pupil for the Sacraments.**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School fully supports the parish in their preparation of the children for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Parents are invited to attend an initial meeting during which the process of preparation and the commitment is outlined. Input from the parish priest, school and catechists is given.

We follow the 'With You Always' Programme. This is a resource for parents and their children who are in Year 4. The resource encourages parents/carers and children to meet together with catechists, supported by the school to learn about the sacraments using the family catechesis method. Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith, as is made clear when the child is baptised.



## Inclusion

As a school we ensure that all children and staff are treated fairly and equally. All children have equal rights to access all areas of the curriculum, regardless of race, gender and disability. Within this subject area, the SLT and all staff endeavour to provide the appropriate provision for this to occur.

<b>DISCUSSED AND AGREED BY RELEVANT STAFF</b>	
<b>DISCUSSED AND AGREED BY GOVERNING BODY</b>	
<b>MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>REVIEW DATE(S)</b>	