



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary and St. Benet's Catholic Primary Schools.

Religious Education Policy

DATE: 5/1/17

RE Leader: Emily Rogers

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Religious Education (R.E.) Policy.

Vision Statement – At our Schools we hold Christ at the centre and recognise Him in everyone as we journey together teaching and learning, challenging each other to be all that we can be.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and St Benets's Catholic Primary School Religious Education (R.E) Policy

1 Rationale of Religious Education

- 1.1** In our Catholic Schools, Religious Education is regarded as the heart of the curriculum, enriching and informing all areas of learning with the light of the gospel, teaching the children to seek the truth, which is of God, in the whole of creation, in themselves and in others.
- 1.2** “Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.” (Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales, 1988.)
- 1.3** Our teaching of Religious Education will recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and may have experience of a multifaith and a multicultural society.
- 1.4** We support the home and the parish in their work of developing faith in each child.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1** The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values, which are lived out in the daily life of our Catholic schools. Within this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community.
- 2.2** For all children, religious education is a proper subject in its own right in the school’s curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline and as such it is taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. For those children already engaged in the journey of faith, religious education will be **catechesis**, the process by which the faith of believers is nourished and educated. For some children it will be their first opportunity to hear the **good news** of the **gospel**.

Curriculum religious education in our Catholic schools aims to promote:

- 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 its purpose;
- the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon all religious beliefs and practices.
- a sense of awe and wonder.

The objectives of curriculum religious education in our Catholic schools are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold;
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith.

- to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively: to make informed judgements;
- to foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multifaith society.

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, together with respect and sound understanding of other faiths.

3 Religious Education in the Classroom

3.1 The teacher as educator

In the context of the vision of Catholic education, the teacher's role includes:

- developing the whole person
- preparing the children for adult life
- social, moral and spiritual education
- religious education.

(cf. Vision Statement for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of East Anglia p5)

3.2 We see the total curriculum in our school as based on the values of the Gospel and we see all education as revealing the mystery of God.

We therefore recognise two aspects of Education in our schools:

- Our schools strive to embed R.E in everything we do. Class leaders are directed to embed in their planning of other curriculum areas to find natural interwoven link to R.E. This curriculum approach enriches the whole curriculum.
- The timetable for R.E will be 10% of our curriculum time in line with the Bishops' directive
- Prayer and worship are central to the life of the school. Children are taught formal prayers, they write their own prayers and are given time for quiet reflection.
- Each class has a prayer table and Religious Icons are visible.
- Assemblies are linked to the Liturgy and the current value of the month.
- Every term the Parish Priests say a School Mass at least twice in the Parish Churches. The themes for these Masses or Celebrations reflect the current topic in the Religious Education Programme, the Liturgical Year or special events in school.
- The Parish and the School join together in the Parish Church to celebrate Holy Days of Obligation.
- The children experience other forms of worship such as Reconciliation Services and special devotions in Church.
- At least annually our schools come together to share a Liturgy making the children feel part of a wider Catholic family.
- Our schools also participate in the Notre Dame Cluster Walsingham Pilgrimage.
- Schools participate in local ecumenical services.

4 Programmes of Study

To fulfil our aims and objectives, we use the Diocese of East Anglia Curriculum plans for Primary schools, which includes 'The Way The Truth The Life' and 'Come and See'. We use Planning Sheets and Assessment Sheets in common with other schools of the Diocese, we follow a 'whole school' approach to R.E.

We value other Faiths and plan in whole school focuses for these to explore other religions in depth, over a week, and our learning is then shared with parents.

5 Assessment, Recording and Reporting

In our schools, the purpose of assessing, recording and reporting is to ensure effective learning, celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress and development. Assessment, recording and reporting are related to overall Religious Education aims and objectives, and the specific learning intentions of themes and topics.

(cf. Guidelines for the Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Religious Education.)

- Diocese assessment sheets are sometimes used for pupils and kept in a folder for each year group, which goes with them through the school. Or data is entered directly onto Pupil Asset.
- Individual class teachers maintain a portfolio of levelled work
- Verbal contributions are recorded on post-it notes and kept in these folders too.
- A formal reporting to parents takes place at the end of each school year. R.E is now highlighted as a core subject and takes a prominent place as the first item above literacy and numeracy.

6 The Role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator

- Liase with Senior Teacher/Parish Priest to arrange School Masses, Classroom Celebrations, Special Feasts and Masses in Church.
- Arrange Services of Sorrow
- Liase with Parish Priest and give support to the children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Attend introductory meeting, meet with and offer any support to the parents concerned.
- Monitor teaching and assessment of R.E in both schools.
- Liase with Governors.
- Provide guidance to colleagues when requested.
- Have an overview of R.E in both schools.
- Be responsible for R.E resources and the purchase of new materials within the confines of the school-spending plan.
- Update Religious Education Policies.
- Attend Catholic Ethos Meetings.

7 Policy Monitoring and review.

The policy is monitored by the Head Teacher and R.E Leader. It is evaluated and reviewed by R.E Leaders, Senior Leadership Team and governors regularly.