

Religious Education Policy

Introduction

At St Anthony's, Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything that we do. We provide an educational framework within which our young people can grow in their relationship with Christ in a way that takes account of their individual human development. We profess Christ as saviour of the world with confidence and clarity. In a spirit of openness and dialogue, we also respect the rights of all members of the school community to hold their own beliefs

Within the curriculum, classroom Religious Education's main purpose is to engage pupils in a systematic study of the mystery of Christ which we believe holds the fullness of the truth that God has revealed. In addition, a sound formation in the Catholic faith will recognise the real communion that exists between the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. It will also provide the basis for an openness to the 'seeds of the Word' that are to be found in other religions (cf *Redemptionis Missio* 56, *Nostra Aetate* 2).

The law requires all maintained schools to provide Religious Education for all pupils, to hold a daily act of worship and promote pupils' spiritual and moral development. Our Foundation Governors have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of St Anthony's. Parents, pupils and all staff are expected to respect and engage with these central aspects of the school's life.

Leadership and management of Religious Education

The headteacher and governors are responsible for ensuring that Religious Education has a high profile in the curriculum, is taught as a core subject and is well resourced and monitored.

The headteacher and governors are also responsible for ensuring that the school's self-evaluation processes monitor and evaluate the identity of the school as a Catholic community and that the Section 48 Self-Evaluation Form is regularly reviewed.

Curriculum Religious Education

10% of the taught curriculum time is given to curriculum Religious Education. These time allocations do not include collective worship or hymn practice.

At St Anthony's, the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme is followed. Religious growth and development are not, however, confined to time-tabled Religious Education lessons. The whole curriculum encourages spiritual and moral development, along with academic and social progress. In addition to this, parish clergy are involved where possible teaching about the sacraments and about parish ministry.

Teaching of other Religions

Within curriculum time, other religions that are taught explicitly include Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. In addition to this there are other occasions when World faiths may be explored (e.g. One World Week)

Collective worship

“For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them” Matthew 18:20.

The daily act of worship takes place in a variety of ways, for example in assemblies or in class groups. Pupils are encouraged to contribute their skills and gifts to the preparation of worship and to participate as actively as possible. A variety of opportunities for worship are provided, including individual prayer, group prayer in both formal and informal styles and settings, and the celebration of the Eucharist which is the centre of worship for the Catholic community.

Spiritual and moral development

The whole life of the Catholic school community supports the spiritual and moral development of its members, and each curriculum subject has the potential for deepening pupils’ understanding of God’s action in their lives. Religious Education and worship have a particular role to play by providing the context, the framework and the language through which pupils may recognise God’s Word and respond to it.

Contribution to the Common Good in Education

Through the opportunities provided for spiritual, moral and social formation in Catholic schools, young people will develop a distinctive and vital contribution to social cohesion in our society. This will be grounded in their respect for all people as made in the image and likeness of God, and shaped by the spirit of dialogue and respect that is such an integral part of the Catholic Church’s understanding of its role and mission in the world. This is encapsulated in the statement of the Second Vatican Council that the Church is a ‘sacrament or instrumental sign of intimate union with God and of unity for the whole human race’ (Lumen Gentium 1).

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