



"Education for life in the love of God and Neighbour"

Policy for
Curriculum Religious Education

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Updated Jan 2015

Mission Statement

"Education for life in the love of God and Neighbour"

At St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, we strive to ensure a happy and secure community with Christ at our centre, working and worshipping together.

Our mission is to send out confident and caring children ready to achieve their full potential.

Context

As a Catholic School, Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum as we strive to proclaim and try to live out the Christian values taught by Jesus Christ, within the Catholic tradition. This permeates every aspect of our school life. With parents and Parish, we hope to lead children to a greater understanding of who God is and to celebrating with deeper faith and understanding, the liturgy of the Church.

Religious Education is about the meaning of life and the need to discover answers about human existence. As a Catholic community, we seek our meaning for life in God and in following the example set by Jesus Christ. We teach that God is love and faithfulness, but understanding of this can only grow from our own experience of love and kindness. Every effort is made to create in the school and in the classroom a community in which children know they are loved and feel confident, secure and wanted, in this way, religious education is at the heart of all we do.

Religious Education also contributes to the Catholic Ethos of our school and we follow the guidelines on *Fit for Mission?* Schools to ensure that we work together to build and maintain an authentic Catholic ethos reflected in all aspects of school life.

Aims

Our subject specific aims for the teaching of religious education are to enable all children to:

- ❖ Grow in understanding of who God is for us as a Catholic community;
- ❖ Grow in knowledge and understanding of Jesus' life and teachings;
- ❖ Gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic tradition and the liturgy of the Church;
- ❖ Recognise and appreciate the spiritual and religious dimensions of life through feelings of awe, wonder, delight and joy;
- ❖ Examine their own religious feelings, views and responses;
- ❖ Use their knowledge and understandings of the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ to follow his footsteps in their behaviour, work and play.

Content

Religious Education is an **ENRICHING SUBJECT**, a subject at the heart of life, which all children should enjoy. As a Catholic school we offer religious education as an important contribution to faith development of our pupils. It may also be received by some pupils as evangelisation or catechesis.

The requirements of the religious education curriculum are met through the use of 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme. This scheme is specifically designed for children in Catholic Primary Schools and caters for children of all abilities and complements the catechesis which may take place at home and parish. An overview of the syllabus in Foundation Stage, key Stage 1 and key Stage 2 is provided in Appendix 1.

As far as possible, this scheme is enriched by using a wide range of resources to stimulate, engage and challenge the pupils. These include relevant film clips, music, posters, stories and use of the Bible, both in hard copy and electronically.

The scheme also covers many aspects of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In addition, the publication 'Fit for Mission? Schools' (November 2007) is used to ensure that we are handing on to our pupils the important truths of our faith that have been identified as essential to the promotion of a Catholic ethos in our school.

The starting point in all religious education is REVELATION . revealing God, the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption.

From Revelation we move onto CHURCH; we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God's Revelation, a means by which human beings live out their response to Revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit who fills the Church.

From here we focus on the two aspects of the Church's response to God's Revelation; CELEBRATION . the liturgical and sacraments; life of the Church and LIFE IN CHRIST . the moral life and the pursuit of holiness . both enabled and enlivened by the activity and presence of God in Church. Within the religious education curriculum, it is essential to make clear connections between the truths of faith and pupils' own experience, when appropriate. For many, it is only when they see the relevance of what they are learning to their own lives that they become fully engaged with it. At times this will mean starting with the pupils' own experience in order to engage. However, REVELATION should remain the starting point for the delivery and presentation of the specifically religious content material. The programme we use to support religious education in our school ensures that we begin with the pupils' experience when this is appropriate in the context of the topic.

All Sacramental Preparation takes place in the Parish, with the full support of the school. Also work done in religious education does help the children to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church and supplements work carried out at home and in the parish in preparing children to receive the sacraments.

Teaching and Learning

Religious Education in a Catholic school is a core subject and is given the careful planning and preparation time that is employed to other core subjects. It is allocated 10% of the teaching week. This 10% should not be allocated in one block but should be split over different sessions and days so that children are constantly being brought back to the religious purpose of our school.

Teachers are encouraged to use a wide range of creative teaching strategies to deliver Religious Education so that children enjoy the subject and are engaged in their learning, taking ownership as they get older. The topics covered are those suggested in the scheme and are enriched by using a range of creative and audio resources. Children are encouraged to participate in the lesson through many different strategies: paired work,

group work, class discussion, drama, hot seating for example. Where possible, links are made to other subject areas particularly Literacy.

Staff Professional Development

We are committed to ensuring ongoing staff development in Religious Education so that all teaching staff grow in the understanding of the Catholic faith we promote. *Fit for Mission?* Schoolsq is used as a starting point to identify areas for further development and education. Father Ted is also instrumental in staffsqspiritual development. Staff are also encouraged to attend the CCRS training when relevant.

The subject leader attends Termly diocesan meetings and provides regular feedback and updates to staff through staff meetings or written documentation.

The subject leader also provides relevant information for appropriate Liturgical events in order to support the development of teacher knowledge and understanding, for example information about the Churchsq liturgical year, These include: Sacramental preparation, relevant INSET training, information about assessment and next steps for learning in curriculum RE. Cafod resources are also regularly shared with staff to further enrich the curriculum.

Planning

All teachers plan and annotate weekly the lesson plans provided by the RE Subject Leader. Plans follow the topics suggested in *The Way, The Truth and The Life*sqscheme. Learning objectives, teaching activities and differentiated pupil activities are outlined on the plans.

We acknowledge the importance of using a wide range of teaching strategies and resources in the teaching of Religious Education in order to fully engage the pupils in their learning in this subject. These are reflected in teachersqplanning.

Assessment

Assessments in Religious Education are based on levels of attainment which should be in line with levels of attainment in other curriculum areas:

- ❖ Attainment target 1: Knowledge and understanding of religion (Learning about religion)
- ❖ Attainment target 2: Reflection on meaning (Learning from religion)

These attainment targets are further broken down into strands. The two strands are assessed on a half termly basis and pupil attainment is recorded through a shared assessment system.

Samples of assessed work are collected from each class across the ATs identified, each piece demonstrating a different level of attainment, demonstrating the range of ability in the class. These are used for moderation purposes and are given to the subject leader to monitor pupil progress. Class teachers photocopy and attach completed moderation cover sheets and these too are given to the subject leader who maintains the portfolio of sampled work.

A staff moderation meeting takes place annually to monitor and evaluate the attainment in R.E in relation to other curriculum areas. The Subject leader regularly arranges for cluster moderation and INSET to take place. This is invaluable and provides the staff involved the knowledge and confidence that accurate and secure judgements are being maintained. A Leading Diocesan Advisor has also attended meetings allowing her to verify teachers' judgements and was also on hand to offer guidance and support.

External moderation takes place annually and samples of work from the school portfolio are moderated alongside work from other schools in the diocese.

Records of Progress

Records of half termly assessments are kept in the Subject Leaders Monitoring File and also on the Shared electronic system in school. Once a year, Teacher assessments are used to record an overall level of attainment. The subject leader along with the Headteacher secures these judgements. Through careful monitoring pupils who are not making expected progress are discussed with the class teacher who will then differentiate appropriately for their needs. Attainment Target strands and areas of weakness are addressed through the subject action plan.

Reporting to parents

Annual reports focus on each child's progress with regards to achievements in the topics undertaken and attitudes to Religious Education. RE is given the utmost priority and appears first on our reports.

Resources

These are kept in individual classes with Bibles centrally resourced in the KS2 Library.

Time Allocation

10% of curricular teaching time is spent on Religious Education in each class.

SEN

Annotated planning shows how planned lessons and activities in Religious Education are to be differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils in the class. Please refer to the SEN policy for further information.

Homework

This can be given to enable children to reflect on the work done in class. It would normally be given out in line with the schools Homework Policy

Review and Development

Religious Education is subject to constant review in the light of Diocesan Guidelines and current teaching practice. This involves the whole staff to ensure that necessary changes are made and development implemented.

This policy will be reviewed on or before January 2016 in light of new developments.

Appendix 1

RE 2014-15

The Way, The Truth and The Life ~ Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2

Year	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Foundation Stage	F1 God's World	F2 God's Family	F3 Getting to know Jesus	F4 Sorrow and Joy	F5 New Life	F6 A Church
Year 1	1.1 Gods great plan	1.2 Mary Mother of God	1.3 Families and Celebrations	1.4 Following Jesus	1.5 The resurrection	1.6 Miracles
Year 2	2.1 Chosen People	2.2 Mysteries	2.3 Good News	2.4 The Mass	2.5 Eastertide	2.6 The Church is Born
Year 3	3.1 The Christian Family	3.2 Mary Our Mother	3.3 Called to Change	3.4 Eucharist	3.5 Celebrating Easter and Pentecost	3.6 Being a Christian
Year 4	4.1 The Bible	4.2 Trust in God	4.3 Jesus the Teacher	4.4 Jesus the saviour	4.5 Mission of the church	4.6 Belonging to the Church
Year 5	5.1 Gifts from God	5.2 The Commandments	5.3 Inspirational People	5.4 Reconciliation	5.5 Life of the Risen Lord	5.6 People of other Faiths
Year 6	6.1 The Kingdom of God	6.2 Justice	6.3 Jesus, the Bread of Life	6.4 Jesus, Son of God	6.5 The Work of the Apostles	6.6 Called to Serve

In addition as a Multi Faith school and to include all our pupils we also celebrate the festivals of EID and Diwali with whole school assemblies to enrich the RE curriculum