

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

2020-2021

Religious Education Policy



Name of Subject Leader: Mrs J Broughton

Last review date: September 2020

Next review date: September 2021

Rationale of Religious Education

- We believe Religious Education to be 'the core of the core curriculum.'
- We believe Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
- Aware that evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, we are clear that the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school.... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.' (Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools – Bishops' Conference 2000)

'Religious Education...is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.'
(Curriculum Directory. p10)

'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, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.' (Curriculum Directory p10)

Roles and Responsibilities

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutiny according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the Education Service on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

The Aims of Religious Education

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

Curriculum time allocation

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does ***not*** include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study

To fulfill the above aims – 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme, as recommended by the Diocese, is used to plan and teach the RE curriculum within our school.

Process

We teach Religious Education through the process of Search, Revelation, Response. It follows the pattern of: The human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith.

'Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'
(Curriculum Directory p11)

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains three samples of work from each teacher for each topic covering a range of abilities.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every year and more regularly with Key Stage Meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is conducted by the RE co-ordinator, under the direction of the headteacher. This is conducted through lesson observations, work scrutiny etc.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Other Faiths

Five other faith days are taught each academic year, from Year 1 to Year 6. These are usually based around other faith festivals. The importance of Judaism is reflected in that it is allotted two other faith days. Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism are allotted one day.

Management of the subject

Mrs. J. Broughton, the Co-ordinator has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education, under the direction of the head teacher.

Policy review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE Co-ordinator, Mrs. J. Broughton and updated every 2 years.