



RE POLICY

Mission Statement:

We are proud of our school as a place of learning, prayer and happiness.
Hand in hand with God, Our Lady and St Joseph, we promise to work hard and be kind to one another
so that we can grow stronger together in our faith.
Hand in hand with God we learn.

Introduction

We believe that RE in a Catholic School enriches every part of school life. We are seeking for our children to walk hand in hand with God, Our Lady and St. Joseph and to live out their faith every day, and for our children to learn more about and appreciate the Catholic faith regardless of gender, cultural background or ability. As a staff we are dedicated to setting good examples and expressing our own faith in our teaching and in all our care for our pupils.

Our Approach

At school we follow "Come and See" as our core scheme of work. Our specific planning approach will be taken from this scheme. This distinguishes RE from other subjects and so reminds us that RE, while part of every aspect of school life, has a distinct body of knowledge and skills.

Aims

1. To develop a positive attitude to RE.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
3. To encourage study and reflection.
4. To encourage skills of listening and spirituality.
5. To respect other beliefs and acknowledge that we live in a multi-faith world.
6. To assess and monitor performance of pupils in order to plan work that encourages pupils to reach their full potential regardless of gender, class, culture or ability.

Methods of Organisation

Religious Education is taught within its own right and follows the "Come and See" scheme. 10 per cent of curriculum time be devoted to Religious Education excluding assembly and Acts of Worship time, as advised by the Bishops of England and Wales.

RE and Inclusion

We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, differentiated as appropriate, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language. We enable all children to have access to the full range of activities involved in religious education.

Multi-cultural Statement

We regard it as essential that our children develop an understanding and respect of other faiths, especially living as they do in such a richly diverse city as Derby. All children, whatever their faith, attend and participate in Liturgies and Masses.

In RE and through using "Come and See" we study the main religions of the world. For 2 weeks in the Autumn term each year we study Judaism. For a week in the Summer term we study one of Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. We study these on a three year cycle.

Cross – Curricular Links

RE is taught as a separate subject, but our faith drives learning in all subjects.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the learning in all subjects, so our children understand that Christ is present in all we do.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Using the CARITAS resources, we teach the children the principles of:

- Human Dignity
- The Common Good
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Subsidiarity
- Participation
- Care for our Common Home
- Solidarity

These principles are taught across the school year as planned for by the RE Team. Aspects of CST are addressed in the teaching or other subject areas through thoughtful enquiry questions linked to CST.

Personal, social and health education (PHSE)/Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

RSE is taught using by following the 'Life in Full' scheme across the key stages. Lesson in RSE are taught every term and information about this teaching is shared with parents before lessons.

PHSE and British Values are taught within our Catholic Social Teaching lessons.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Through religious education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong, through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in doing so, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Spirituality

We have a strong culture of acceptance, respect, mutual trust and love at St Joseph's School. Through teaching our school virtues our aim is to help each child to think, appreciate, question and work for what is good in the growth of faith and love. We help our children to develop a desire to search for meaning through an everyday experience and to know that God is part of their lives in all circumstances. We guide our children to question and grow as they develop their spirituality. This is developed through every aspect of the curriculum and every part of school life.

Planning

We follow and adapt the "Come and See" scheme of work, in line with the needs of the children. Religious Education is a dynamic encounter between the child, the teacher and the authentic teaching material, in context of the living Catholic Faith of the whole school community. It demands excellence in the teaching materials that are offered. "Come and See" enables teachers to make clear links to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Bishop's Religious Curriculum Directory and the attainment targets.

The basic question/belief for each term is explored through three themes. They are:

Advent: Family ↔ Domestic Church

Lent: Community ↔ Local Church

Pentecost: World ↔ Universal Church

Within each theme, children explore three topics, one of which is a sacramental topic. Cohesion and progression are key in supporting and developing every child, and the content is structured to reflect this. Sacramental topics are mapped out progressively with essential knowledge. The knowledge builds upon previous knowledge with every year group starting with the same piece of knowledge e.g. "A sacrament is a sign of God's love."

In line with whole school expectations, essential knowledge is mapped and revisited with children to ensure it becomes embedded knowledge.

Planning is mapped out at two levels: long term planning and short-term planning. Planning is supported with 'Come and See' documents and Diocesan Attainment Target grids. 'End in Mind' Tasks are planned for the end of each unit. These support the children to show case their learning in a final piece of work which staff use to support assessment.

In addition to this, each lesson is linked into the Curriculum Directory and it is delivered through a process recognised in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- Explore: by exploring their life experience to discover value and significance
- Reveal: by hearing, understanding and reflecting on the Christian message
- Respond: by bringing it to mind, by celebrating and by applying it

Short term planning includes a break-down of the 6 lessons including: learning objectives, driver word foci, revisit opportunities, resources, focus groups of children are identified, ICT links, music linked to theme and a range of scaffolds to support all learners in achieving. This is in line with our whole school approach of teaching through mastery, tasks are planned and resourced to allow children to meet the intended objectives. Additionally, challenge is provided by a variety of questions linked to the head, heart, and the cloud.

Monitoring

The RE Team, along with SLT, are responsible for monitoring the standards of the children’s work and the quality of teaching in religious education. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in their teaching and for being informed about current developments in the subject. Monitoring informs annual School Improvement Plans for RE and with the plan a timetable of Monitoring is produced and followed.

Assessment and Recording

“The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in religious Education is to ensure effective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress.” NBRIA 1997

We assess the pupils understanding of the topics at the end of each topic.

Formative assessment is completed on a day-to-day basis, relying on individual teachers’ professional judgement. This includes notes from observations, comments on children’s work, outcome of tasks and discussions in class.

At the end of each term, teachers make an overall judgement of each child’s level of attainment and this is entered into the school’s tracking system. This level is also indicated through highlighting on the “How I can improve in RE” sheet in the front of each child’s RE book.

Reporting

Parents are informed of their child’s progress through discussions at parent’s evenings and the annual report. They are given a letter at the beginning of each term broadly telling them of themes and topics to be covered – this helps children, parents and the school to know and discuss any work or points arising. Parents also get information about whole school and class Masses and class Liturgies to enable them to share and celebrate as part of the school community.

Home, School, Parish links

We recognise the importance of parents as the child’s first teacher and their role in faith development. Parents and staff do everything possible to work in close partnership. Parents are informed about what the children are learning in RE through the sharing of Knowledge Organisers. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life.

St Joseph’s School seeks, in partnership with parents and parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition. On Holy Days of Obligation (where circumstances permit) St Joseph’s School, will celebrate mass in the parish church. Children are prepared for Holy Communion at the parish churches of St Joseph’s, Our Lady of Lourdes and Maximilian Kolbe. Christmas and Easter celebrations take place in the church in consultation with the parish. The whole school travel to the Our Lady of Lourdes parish church to celebrate their feast day every year.

Approved by Governors Signature
 Date

This policy will be reviewed in July 2024 to reflect the implementation of the new RECD by the RE Team and the Head-teacher in consultation with the whole teaching staff.