



Religious Education Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Approved by	Ethos, Discipline & Relationship Committee
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Contents

1. Mission Statement	2
2. Aims and Objectives.....	2
3. Content.....	3
4. Equal Opportunities	3
5. Organisation	4
6. Assemblies	4
7. Assessment	4
8. Records.....	4
9. Resources	4
10. Health and Safety	5
11. Monitoring and Evaluation	5

1. Mission Statement

St Joseph's Catholic School is:

A calm, holy place where we pray, think and celebrate God's world

Where we share a true love of learning through our creative curriculum

Where we celebrate the gifts and talents of every person as uniquely created in the image of God

A supportive community where home, school and church work together

Motto

Learning and laughing together in the light of God's love.

2. Aims and Objectives

At St Joseph's we aim to deepen the children's awareness of our Catholic faith. The religious themes and concepts that the children explore in school are related to their family at home and the wider family of the Church.

2.1 Aims

- To enable the children to grow in their Catholic faith and to understand the context within which all learning takes place.
- To enable children to grow in spirituality and to develop an understanding of morality in a religious context.
- To enable children to understand and join in the Church's calendar of feasts.
- To enable the children to know, understand and respect the major aspects of other world faiths and their religious practices.
- 'RE requires 10 percent of the length of the taught week for each Key Stage' (Bishop's Statement). At St Joseph's 10% is taught at each Key Stage.

2.2 Objectives

Key Stage One:

- To develop the children's awareness of the world as God's creation and to foster feelings of awe and wonder.
- To increase their awareness of others and so to foster attitudes of respect and caring.
- To show the children their strengths, in personality and talent and so to foster respect for themselves.
- To encourage a sense of curiosity.
- To hear some of the main stories of Jesus' life.
- To develop their experience of prayer.
- To take part in class and school liturgical celebration.
- To develop reverence during religious celebration.
- To increase their familiarity with the Bible as a collection of books to be read regularly.
- To hear of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To hear stories of some significant figures in the life of the Church (e.g. Saints' lives; the Pope).

Key Stage Two:

- To develop a greater sense of self awareness and the effects our actions have on others;
- To take a greater part in the preparation of class and school liturgies;
- To know the prayers most commonly used by the church;
- To develop their confidence in, and understanding of, different types of prayer: personal, communal, formal, informal, spoken and unspoken;
- To continue to enable children to realise their own talents and to understand their value;
- To help them to find ways to use their talents in the light of God's teachings;
- To encourage questioning of Church and faith matters to allow a deepening understanding of their faith and to develop an ability to look for answers independently;
- To develop an understanding of the fact that not all questions can be answered;
- To read and discuss a widening range of Bible stories, ensuring that the Old Testament is familiar;
- To increase their knowledge of significant figures in the Church, e.g. Mother Teresa, Martyrs, Saints and local charity workers;
- To familiarise children with some aspects of Catholic culture e.g. the use of icons, different types of Church music, vestments.

St Joseph's is a voluntary aided Catholic school where the Christian ethic permeates the whole curriculum. All children who attend St Joseph's are expected to participate fully in the religious life of the school.

3. Content

- The school is implementing the new RED curriculum in Reception, Year 1 and 6. Years 2-5 will continue to teach RE through the 'Come and See' programme.
- The 'Come and See' programme is taught through themes. The RED curriculum is a cumulative curriculum.
- There are three themes per term, which run on a one-year cycle. The RED curriculum has 6 branches and each lesson has a particular focus or lens that the children learn through
- Two weeks per year are spent studying other faiths: Judaism in the autumn term and Islam in the summer term with come and see. Other faiths will be studied in branch six of the new RED.

4. Equal Opportunities

- R.E. will be taught to all children regardless of race, creed or gender.
- Both boys and girls will have access to all aspects of religious education and an awareness of their equal dignity in the eyes of God.
- The significance of both male and female roles in Jesus' life will be highlighted.
- The religious beliefs and practices of other faiths will be studied, ensuring understanding of, and respect for, similarities and differences.

5. Organisation

- The R.E. subject leader is responsible for the long-term planning and support.
- All teachers are responsible for their own class and short-term planning of the programme. Children within a year group will cover the same R.E. themes as laid out in the programme.
- There will be four differentiated pieces of work per topic (excluding other faith's work).
- Children will be encouraged to work independently as appropriate to their age range and ability.
- Each classroom is to have a suitable prayer focus area.
- The key words for each theme are displayed in the classroom.
- Each class has a spiritual learning journey book that starts with them in Reception and follows them through the school

5.1 Organisation of Worship

Please see the Prayer and Worship policy.

6. Assemblies

Please see the Prayer and Worship policy.

7. Assessment

R.E. assessment is ongoing. Informal assessment is carried out through observation, discussion, and classwork. Formal assessment takes place three times throughout the year in line with the school's core curriculum assessment procedures and is assessed for the year groups teaching RE through the Come and See programme according to the New Diocesan Interim Age-Related Standards (End of Phase) and the New Diocesan Interim Age-Related Standards (End of Year).

Levels of attainment for RE are provided by the Diocesan Assessment Framework:

AT1: Knowledge and Understanding of Religion (Learning about Religion - Content)

AT2: Engagement and Response (Learning from Religion – Attitudes)

AT3: Analysis and Evaluation (from Year 2 onwards)

The RED curriculum is assessed using the expected outcomes at the end of each branch of the year group curriculum.

8. Records

Teachers record their assessments on the Year group EXCEL spreadsheet and complete a windscreen per class. Pupils' attainment is recorded at each data drop throughout the year

This information is monitored by the R.E. subject leader.

9. Resources

- Reception, Year 1 and 6 have access to the RED curriculum and Diocese planning and training materials.
- Each year group has access to the 'Come and See' programme of study which contains many interactive resources and activities mentioned in the programme of study.
- Each class has religious objects for their focus area and Bible suitable for each age range.
- Each class in KS2 has a set of Bibles.

- Each year group has a number of storybooks, which link with the themes in 'Come and See' or the RED curriculum.
- Resources for R.E. are held centrally in the R.E. cupboard in the Year 3 group room. Teachers are responsible for returning resources.
- Any requirements for resources should be made to the R.E. subject leader.
- All resources needed for Mass are held by the R.E. subject leader and School Chaplain.

10. Health and Safety

Where it is appropriate, children must be taught the safe use of materials and objects, e.g. holding artefacts e.g. heavy books, works of art, statues, carrying water and wine.

No real candles to be used in school. Battery operated candles only to be used.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The R.E. subject leader and Headteacher will monitor and evaluate the progress of R.E. by a variety of means:

- Thematic planning
- Record keeping
- Children's books
- Discussions with teachers and children
- Classroom observations
- Focus area observations
- Class Prayer and Worship
- Class assemblies
- All staff will meet once a term to moderate work.

The linked R.E. governor will support the monitoring of R.E. throughout the school regularly.