



St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School **Policy for Religious Education**

Mission Statement

"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you"
Romans 15:7

Underpinned by the Gospel values of love, forgiveness, peace, truth and justice, the school family of St Werburgh, is a welcoming and nurturing community where diversity and uniqueness is supported and celebrated.

As a Christ centred community, we encourage each person to reach their full potential, striving for happiness in all aspects of school life.

Aims:

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. In the person of Christ, the deepest meaning of what it is to be human - that we are created by God and through the Holy Spirit united with Christ in his Incarnation - is discovered. This revelation is known through the scriptures and the tradition of the Church as taught by the Magisterium. Religious Education helps the pupil to know and experience the meaning of this revelation in his or her own life and the life of the community which is the Church.

Religious Education is a core subject in our school.

For some in the classroom, Religious Education may well be received as catechesis, deepening and enhancing their personal faith; for some it will be evangelisation, the first time they will have been presented, personally, with the truths of living faith. Nevertheless, its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life. The criteria by which it is to be judged are educational.

Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

At St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education aims to:

- present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;

- enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Statutory Requirements:

It is the policy of the school to give at least 10% teaching time to RE. We view the total curriculum in our school as based on the values of the Gospel and we see all education as revealing the mystery of God. During Holy Week, Advent, Lent and other times, there will be an increased entitlement.

This does **not** include Liturgical Prayer or Hymn Practice.

Curriculum Provision:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - '*The Way, The Truth and The Life*' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Our starting point in Religious Education is **Revelation**. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is his revealing of Himself that makes classroom Religious Education possible. To begin with revelation ensures that we respect the revealed nature of Christian faith.

From revelation we move onto **Church**; in other words, we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God's revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church's response to God's revelation; **Celebration** – the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and **Life in Christ** – the moral life and the pursuit of holiness.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils' experience of life are essential.

Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illuminated by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible. It serves in the examination and acceptance of the truths which are contained in the deposit of Revelation.

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. Including use of both art and music as a way into thinking more deeply about theological concepts.

The spiritual dimension of our lives should permeate the whole life of the school, the environment, relationships, the curriculum, liturgies and assemblies.

Our Religious teaching will relate to the lives and experiences of our children.

Appropriate religious language will be developed where children will understand the meaning of symbols and ritual in the practices of the Catholic Faith.

We will support and complement the catechetical programme of the parish and so contribute to the development of community and partnership between home, school and Parish.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting:

- See Interim RE Assessment Policy whilst waiting for new guidelines to be released.

Inclusion:

- The Religious and educational needs of all children will be addressed whether they are from homes where the Faith is strong and supported, where the Faith is not strong, where the faith is marginal, where there is little or no Faith, where there are other Christian traditions or where there are other Faiths.
- Teaching will help all children grow spiritually and help them develop in self-esteem.
- Teachers will be responsible for planning and delivery of the Religious Education programme taking into account additional educational needs in accordance with the school SEN policy.
- Wherever possible, those children who are working at a greater depth in RE will be encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding to a higher level.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning will take place through lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks and monitoring of displays/prayer space.
- Assessment data will be collected half termly and analysed by the RE Leader before being shared with the SLT and Governors.

Roles and Responsibilities:

It is the role of the RE Leader to:

- Work with Senior Leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Organise in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self-evaluate to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensure the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attend appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organise and lead in-house staff training and development.
- Identify training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Support and advise colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaise with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Audit, manage and develop resources within a given budget.

Withdrawal:

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw children from Religious Education lessons and from Collective Worship. It is assumed that parents who send their children to St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School will be aware of the particular nature of the school and will have chosen it precisely because of its religious ethos. Parents of other faith and non-faith children should give this serious consideration when applying for a place at St

Werburch's Catholic Primary School and a visit to the school is strongly recommended. Accordingly, the school does not make provision for alternative supervision arrangements during acts of worship.

Parents who wish their children to be withdrawn from Collective Worship will need to make their own arrangements for supervision at these times. Staff cannot supervise as they are part of the school's worshipping community and have a right to attend Collective Worship.

Other Documentation:

Please also refer to:

- Curriculum Directory for teaching RE in Catholic Schools
- Diocesan guidelines for Assessment using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference
- The Way, The Truth and The Life Rationale and Teacher Booklets
- Interim RE Assessment Policy
- Marking Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

To be reviewed by Governors May 2023