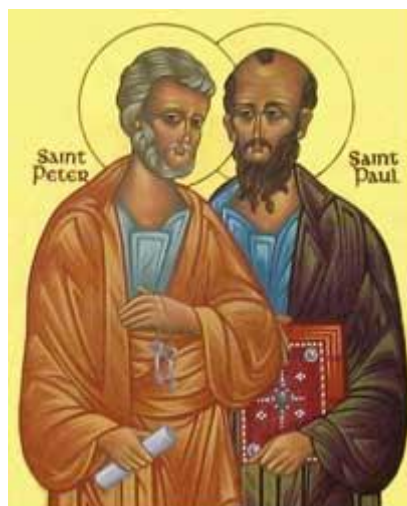


St Peter and St Paul's School

Religious Education Policy 2017



Subject Leader: Carla Hughes-Harvey



"Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt.5:16)

Our Mission Statement

Jesus Christ said "Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt.5:16)

We believe that Christ is the source of our authority and the reason for the distinctive nature of our Catholic school. Our school aims are based on our belief that each child is made in the image and likeness of God. In educating our children we are aware not only of our life here on earth but also of our eternal destiny.

SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Primary school provides a welcoming, safe, secure and Christian environment for its children and staff, both teaching and non-teaching. Based upon Christian principles, and our Catholic faith, we aim to develop each and every child to their fullest possible potential.

The foundation of our aims, our teaching and learning are the words of Christ. We keep this in mind as we acknowledge the gap between our vision and reality and endeavour to bring these closer together.



Our Vision

- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum catering for each child's spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral development.
- To value all children as unique and seek to foster in them attitudes of love and tolerance, forgiveness and respect.
- To offer equality of opportunity to all. To positively endeavour to work closely with parents, our parish and local community. To seek to develop and foster solid relationships amongst all involved in the life of the school.
- To make prayer, worship and liturgy real educational experiences, and to contribute successfully to the development of the faith of each individual in the school community.
- To create an interaction between home, parish and school which provides preparation for the pupil's entry into the wider community. To achieve this aim the school will:
 - ensure that parents feel welcome in the school and that they have a very real and valued part to play in their child's education.
 - positively encourage good relationships with the Parish and participation in school/parish celebrations.
 - provide a Christian environment in which the children have the opportunity to develop faith in God and a good, strong relationship with Jesus Christ and love of their neighbour.
- To create a community of love, care and concern, demonstrated in the daily lives of the children, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and governors.
- To help the children to be strong and tolerant in appreciating other Christians and differing faiths.
- To help the children to speak about the Christian and Catholic faith and to express it in their prayer, worship and daily life.

- To recognise that the education of everyone, the gifted and the less able, the advantaged and disadvantaged, requires us all to face challenges.

Our Mission Statement and Vision underpins everything that we attempt to achieve at St Peter and St Paul's school.

The three elements of our Mission Statement are implicitly interwoven in:

- all of our Religious Education
- all other subject areas across the curriculum
- the beliefs and values which are lived out in the daily life of our school

The Mission Statement is supported by our 'Aims and Objectives for Teaching and Learning'.

At the first staff meeting of every school year, the teachers will read through the Mission Statement to refresh their knowledge.

At the beginning of every school year, class teachers will discuss the Mission Statement with their children and produce their interpretation of it for display in class. The interpretation may take the form of a prayer.

Rationale of Religious Education

At St Peter and St Paul's school, we are aware that Catholic schools are established to:

- regard Religious Education as not one subject amongst many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 1988)
- enable the development of religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and ability - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically.
- support parents in their responsibility for their children's education. We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this. (cf. Curriculum Directory p.9).
- contribute to the Church's mission to educate. For those already engaged in the journey of faith, religious education will be catechesis, and for some children, religious education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel. (cf. Curriculum Directory p.10).

Within the vision and mission of our Diocese of Shrewsbury, we share with our families and our parish of St Peter and St Pauls, the collaborative ministry of education.

The Aims and Objectives of Religious Education in Catholic Schools

Curriculum religious education in Catholic schools aims to promote:

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

The objectives of curriculum religious education in Catholic schools are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold;
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith;
- to encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils;
- to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements;
- to foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of other; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multifaith society.

[Guidance on skills and attitudes in religious education is found in Broad Areas of Attainment in Religious Education, National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers, 1994]

Aims

At St Peter and St Paul's, our aims in the teaching of RE are:

INTELLECTUAL

- To present an intellectually rigorous RE curriculum in a broad and balanced way.
- To help them explore the beliefs, values and ways of life in the Catholic tradition.
- To introduce our children into the living traditions of Christ.
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- To set realistic targets so that the children can experience a sense of achievement.
- To ensure that the teaching of RE is relevant to the needs and abilities of each individual child.
- To ensure that RE will be planned, presented, evaluated, assessed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL

- To explore the religious aspect of life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition.
- To help children raise questions for reflecting on their own experience.
- To deepen and enrich their understanding and living of the faith.
- To help them grow in a life of prayer, which will be expressed through sharing a common liturgy
- To help us link into children's minds that life and faiths belong together.

CULTURAL

- To provide a richness of experience via a multicultural approach to education threaded through the entire curriculum.
- To teach other faiths with an openness of attitude and relationships with believers of these faiths.

PHYSICAL

- To develop a thoughtful and positive attitude to all aspects of Health Education.

SOCIAL

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- To ensure that St Peter and St Paul's, is a community actively promoting positive ways to raise the self esteem of every member of our community
- To provide opportunities to develop self-esteem and self-motivation.

GLOBAL

- To develop a social conscience by raising awareness of issues linked to justice, peace and care for our environment and all our brothers and sisters worldwide.

Our Aims take into account the educational needs of the children in our school

- a) those from practising Catholic homes
- b) those for whom school maybe their first and possibly only experience of Church.
- c) Those from other Christian traditions.
- d) Those from other faith backgrounds

Spiritual and Moral aims are developed further in a separate policy.

Objectives

In order to achieve our aims at St Peter and St Paul's, we will endeavour to cover the following objectives in each of the developmental areas:

INTELLECTUAL

- **Programmes of Study and the process of Teaching**

At St Peter and St Paul's, we provide an effective whole school RE programme using The Way, The Truth and the Life. This programme enables teachers to make clear links to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and to the Bishop's RE Curriculum Directory. The WTL programme supports:

- ❖ Clear planning. At St Peter and St Paul's, we use medium term planning sheets suggested by the Diocese.

- ❖ Differentiation. RE will be taught in the main as a whole class activity although opportunity for individual and group work will be given as indicated in the scheme. When appropriate, work set may be suitably differentiated to meet the particular needs of the children. Differentiation can be through outcome or varied levels of work set.
- **Assessment, 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 six samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
 - ❖ An in - house moderation meeting is held every term
 - ❖ Monitoring of teaching and learning by observing lessons will happen termly
 - ❖ Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

- **Resources**

At St Peter and St Paul's we have sufficient resources to be able to teach our The Way, the Truth and the Life programme of study. We keep our resources in a central area and provide access to some items related to current topics within the classroom. *The resources include: books for use with children; resource books; boxes of religious artefacts which enrich the teaching of World Faiths.*

CULTURAL

- Teaching Other Faiths

At St Peter and St Paul's, we provide opportunities for learning about and appreciating the diversity, culture and traditions of different religions. During the summer term, teaching time will be used studying Other Faiths, whilst representatives from other faiths, are welcomed and invited into school, to share beliefs and practices, as and where appropriate.

- Other Curriculum Areas

To develop an understanding of cultural aspects of life in other curriculum areas e.g. Music, Art, Drama

PHYSICAL

- To learn about all aspects of a healthy lifestyle including diet, exercise and hygiene e.g. in PE, science, PSHE lessons and involvement in the Healthy Schools Programme
- To follow a RSE programme agreed by our governors and parents (see RSE Education Policy).

SOCIAL

- To be aware of the need for every member of our school community to feel special and wanted
- To address areas of social concern (see Bullying Policy).
- To place value on and celebrate the efforts and achievements of all in St Peter and St Paul's e.g. Celebration Assemblies
- To continue school/parish events in order to develop stronger social links between our school and the parish of St Peter and Paul's e.g. Family and School Masses.

GLOBAL

- To promote awareness, both locally and further afield, of issues concerning justice, peace and looking after the Earth and its people
- To incorporate the work of charity agencies, promoting an awareness of their work and fund-raising for them.

Spiritual and Moral objectives are listed in a separate policy.

Religious Education in the Classroom

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

- Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education - those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.

- Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education - those timetabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the policy of St Peter and St Paul's, to allocate the following time to the teaching of Religious Education:

Teaching Time for RE per week	
Foundation Stage - through WTL / PSED	1.5-2 hours
Key Stage 1	2.5 hours
Key Stage 2	2.5 hours

CONTENT OF THE R.E. PROGRAMME

'The Way, The Truth & the Life' has as its foundations four key dimensions of religion:

- * Revelation - a way of understanding
- * Church - a community of faith
- * Sacraments - Celebration in ritual
- * Christian living - Way of life

It draws on the constitutions of Vatican 11 (1962-65), on earlier Church documents and others.

Revelation is central to the programme and the 3 other dimensions are explored through the themes in each term. Each theme is explored through four topics and each topic is developed through five levels covering the whole primary age range.

6. SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

The process for delivering 'The Way, The Truth & The Life' enables the development of skills and the fostering of attitudes.

These elements are:-

Recognise:- to look at and foster an aspect of life experience

Updated September 2017

Reflect:- to explore the aspect of life experience

Respect:- to deepen understanding and explore feelings, thoughts and attitudes in a quiet and prayerful atmosphere

Relate:- to link the child's own experience with Christian understanding.

This includes the presentation and exploration of

- stories, music, pictures, Scripture, Church teaching, the lives of other Christians
- prayers, psalms, hymns
- the experience of other faith traditions
- the reflection on experience beliefs and attitudes and way of life.

Relate is at the heart of the seven elements.

Rejoice:- to celebrate in worship the aspect of life experience that has been recognised.

Remember:- to recall what has been celebrated and encompasses their understanding of the topic.

Renew:- to look back at the life experience, evaluate, identify ways of applying this in life and to look for ways forward.

Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental Programme is led by the Head Teacher.

In our school of SS. Peter & Paul in collaboration with the parish, Sacramental preparation begins in the Autumn Term, Year 3 with First Forgiveness followed in the Spring/Summer Terms of Year 3 by First Holy Communion. Preparation usually takes place in the Spring Term and the First Holy Communion Celebrations in the Summer Term. A meeting is held for parents, staff and Parish Priest and followed by weekly after school sessions taken by the staff but at which children attending other

schools are welcomed. In consultation with Father Anthony, a Mass during May is chosen at which the children receive First Holy Communion or, if non-Catholic, receive a blessing.

During the year of Sacramental preparation children may also use prepared worksheets for the relevant topics.

Equal opportunities (See Equal Opportunities Policy)

Health and Safety (See School Health and Safety Policy)

SEND (See School SEND Policy)

Last Inspection Report (See Subject Leader's File)

Governor responsible -Mr David Hill

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator, and is evaluated and reviewed by the governors and whole staff.

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, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.



