

Religious Education Policy



SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School



Approved by:	S Staniforth	Date: 1 st October 2024
Last reviewed on:	September 2024	
Next review due by:	September 2025	

Religious Education Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

God made us all to be different and unique, this is what makes us special. God created us to be part of his family.

We live our school vision 'let our light shine' in all that we do, we follow the example of Jesus as he is the light of the world.

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)



Rationale

At SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School we believe that Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum as we strive to proclaim and live the Gospel Values.

- We see our role as supporting parents in leading their children to a greater understanding of who God is and to celebrating, with deeper faith and more understanding, the liturgy of the Church.
- We believe that Religious Education provides children with opportunities to recognise, affirm and celebrate the gifts and talents they and others have been given and to develop the skills which will enable them to think and question more deeply and lead, ultimately to a greater understanding and appreciation of their faith.
- In proclaiming the Gospel message, we endeavour to share the Gospel spirit of love in all that we do and say by providing a warm, family atmosphere reflecting the fact that all children need to feel respected, trusted and loved.
- We teach that God is love and faithfulness but understanding of this concept can only grow from our own experiences of kindness and love. Therefore, every effort is made to create, in our school and in our classrooms, a community where the children know they are loved and feel confident and secure.
- Through our teaching of Religious Education we endeavour to enrich the lives of the individuals in our school.
- Religious Education is a core subject in the Catholic School because of this; it is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

Aims for the Teaching of Religious Education

- To ensure that Catholic Education plays a central and vital part in our school.
- Provide opportunities for the development of a personal relationship with God.
- Enable the spiritual development of each child
- To help pupils to develop moral qualities of self-discipline, perseverance, determination, patience, fair play and consideration for others.
- To help pupils become familiar with traditional forms of prayer.
- To provide a good experience of liturgy
- To make pupils aware of other cultures and beliefs represented in our school, environment and community.
- To provide opportunities for the development of a personal relationship with God.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Religious Education Coordinator is responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders and monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- 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.
- Attend 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.

Class Teachers will:

- Have a clear understanding of the requirements for Religious Education in their year group and Key stage and reinforce them wherever possible.
- Plan, teach and assess Religious Education in accordance with the school's schemes of work – The Way, The Truth and The Life or The Vine and The Branches.
- Handle Religious Education topics sensitively and confidentially where appropriate.
- Seek advice whenever they are unsure in what they are delivering.

Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Religious Education policy is in keeping with the Catholic teaching advocated by the Diocese and is implemented by the school
- Ensuring that the policy is available to parents
- Ensuring that the programme and the resources are suitably monitored and evaluated

Scheme

Each class should follow the Diocesan approved scheme 'Vine and Branches' or 'The Way, the Truth and the Life.' This series caters for children of all abilities and ages from Reception to Year 6 and beyond, and compliments the catechesis which may take place in the parish and at home. As far as possible it matches the abilities, attainments, interests and experiences of the children and helps them to develop their knowledge and understanding in a structured way. Best practice will include using additional engaging resources and activities which follow the learning objectives from the textbook. There are six topics to be covered in each year group and each topic lasts for a half term.

Teachers should also take in to account the 'I can statements' and use them to guide planning and assessment.

Curriculum Overview for The Vine and The Branches (V&B)

Each year group will teach six branches:

The
Branches
are called:

1. Creation and Covenant
2. Prophecy and Promise
3. Galilee to Jerusalem
4. Desert to Garden
5. Ends of the Earth
6. Dialogue and Encounter

Years 1-4 will use the lenses and ways of knowing to assess the attainment of the children and their progress is tracked on a termly basis. Teachers use the expected outcomes for each unit to assess the children these are on the unit front cover sheet. These expected outcomes are based on the ways of knowing: understand, discern and respond. The lenses are hear, believe, celebrate and live which is the content which is taught across the units. Children are assessed on their individual, group and oral work through each topic. This enables both class teachers and the subject leader to monitor coverage and identify progress made throughout the pupils' time at school.

Curriculum Overview for The Way, the Truth and the Life (WTL)

Children in Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 will continue to be taught using WTL for the academic year 2024-25 as a period of transition. Assessment will continue to be through using the Bishops' Conference to assessment attainment each term.

For additional information about the curriculum and teaching, please see RE curriculum explained document.

Adaptation

As with all other areas of the curriculum, the purpose of adaptation in Religious Education is:

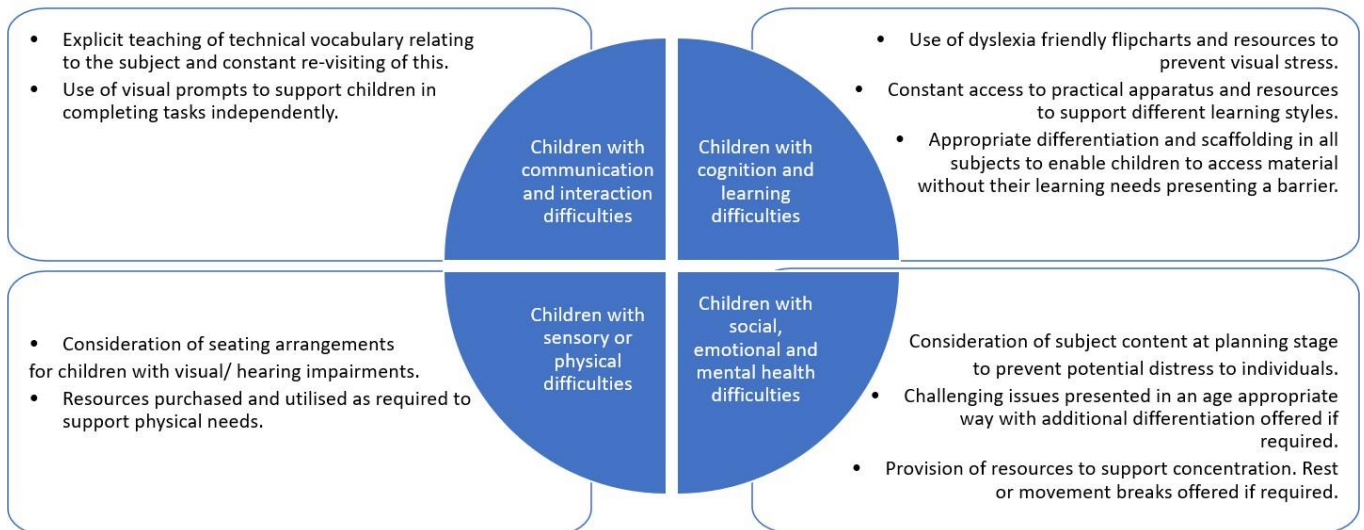
- to enable children to succeed in the set task or activity;
- to challenge children beyond their comfort zone of knowledge, understanding and skills;
- to enable children to recognise their achievements and celebrate these

We strongly believe that all children have equality of opportunity to access age-appropriate curriculum content. With this approach in mind, all children will receive high quality universal teaching as a priority. Adaptive teaching for learners needs to be reactive and responsive to the needs of the child at any particular moment in time and at any point in the learning journey. Children will need varying levels of support from learning point to learning point.

Pupils with Special Needs and Equal Opportunities

At SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School the curriculum is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend the school. If a child is identified as having a special need we do all we can to meet these individual needs in accordance with current school policy which follows the guidance contained in the SEND Code of Practice.

How we adapt the subject curriculum to support children with SEND



Links with Parents, Parish and Diocese

Parents and parishioners are welcomed and valued when visiting our school. The development of the partnership between home, school and parish, is supported by governors, staff and parents. Parents are provided with information about what is being taught in Religious Education on a half-termly basis. They are informed of their child's progress in an end of year written report, as well as through discussion at Parents Evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms.

The school website, weekly newsletter and Facebook also offer parents an insight into their child's education, where they can view photographs and information about a range of activities their child have taken part in.

The school's Sacramental Programme is supported by the school staff and Mrs McDonald a parishioner, this is led by Fr Lee and supported by Deacon David. Children in Year 3 are all included in sacramental preparation lessons, children from other schools also join us.

Non negotiables

Religious Education is the foundation of our curriculum and should be evident in all that we do. It is a core subject and a minimum of 10% teaching time should be spent on RE. This equates to 2 and 1/2 hours per week, in addition to assemblies, collective worship and mass.

A front cover sheet should be stuck in the front of each unit of work which details the key outcomes

and vocabulary.

Marking and feedback

All RE work should be recorded in the children's RE books. Live feedback will be given to pupils during the lesson and a review of books will take place after the lesson with significant issues being dealt with at the earliest possible opportunity (see feedback policy for more information).

Display/Altar

The altar cloth should reflect the liturgical calendar.

The display should follow WTL or V&B topics so should be changed termly and will include key questions for the children to reflect on and answer.

Monitoring and moderation

Book scrutinies and pupil voice will be carried out termly by the RE Lead.