



Catholic School

“Learning Together, Loving God”

RE Policy

To be read in conjunction with our Prayer and Liturgy Policy

September 2023 - to be reviewed September 2024

“The Catholic Vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person has created in the image and likeness of God. The vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values, which are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. With this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil’s family and parish community.”

Religious Education: Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools

Notre Dame du Rosaire Catholic Primary School bases its teaching on the Gospel message of God’s immeasurable love for us, and invites the pupils to respond by loving God and by loving their neighbour as themselves. The pupils are encouraged to take Jesus as their model as is expressed in the School’s Mission Statement, “Learning together, loving God.”

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement which is rooted in our belief that every pupil is unique, made in the image of Christ, and that it is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome socio-economic factors which may hinder pupil progress and attainment, and ultimately affect their life chances.

R.E in our school is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and roles and responsibilities throughout the school, which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

INTENT

Our curriculum aims to:

- Provide a Catholic Christian education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life;
- Nurture our pupils and staff in the Catholic faith
- Ensure pupils feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage and reflect on their life, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others
- Develop pupils' s knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other religious traditions
- Provide opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth and foster a personal relationship with God
- Provide a living example of Gospel values in our relationships with one another
- provide a high-quality education where each pupil develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful and faith-filled members of society
- Give each individual the opportunity to experience the Gospel values through celebration, prayer, personal reflection and sharing faith experiences with others
- Develop independent thinking and the ability to express our own faith experience
- Engage in reflection upon our religious beliefs and practices

IMPLEMENTATION

Teaching and Learning: Religious Education (R.E.) is based on the Diocesan R.E. programme, "God Matters". The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupils' own experiences and the experiences of other faith traditions. The programme provides opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own experiences. It helps pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and other faiths.

A yearly cycle of 10 units is used to ensure continuity, coverage, and progression within the programme. Additional units are planned into the cycle, in order to teach pupils about other faiths and beliefs. The year group units are taught in a 2-year rolling programme to allow for mixed year group classes. Although we teach R.E. as a separate subject, it is also explored through other areas of the curriculum.

RE is a core subject and covers 10% of the curriculum. In Reception classes, RE is taught in a structured input and then is built into the provision over the week. In Key Stage 1 and 2 two lessons are taught during the week. In addition to this, pupils will experience a range of worship opportunities where scripture is at the centre. "God Matters" provides the long-term plan for each year group and the supplementary guidance is used alongside this to support planning. Medium and short term planning is the responsibility of the year group teachers and is completed on a unit by unit basis. All teaching staff are responsible for teaching R.E. to the pupils in their class.

R.E. is taught using a variety of approaches which support pupils to engage and explore scripture and religious beliefs through the use of thinking skills strategies and where pupils can express their thoughts and opinions in a variety of ways, including role play and hot seating, written and creative responses. Teachers deepen the pupils' understanding through questioning and encouraging them to make links between scripture and belief and the actions of believers.

Other Faiths are explored in a block. Each faith is explored in Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 to ensure progress of knowledge.

Support and Challenge: The R.E. curriculum, as with other areas of the curriculum, is adapted to meet the needs of our pupils through our planning and teaching. In the classroom we intend:

- to provide a happy, caring environment so all pupils achieve their potential
- that plans should indicate a variety of tasks to suit all pupils needs
- that pupils work should show a variety of recording to suit all abilities
- that teaching focuses on learning outcomes
- to build on the child's strengths to allow maximum participation in all activities
- pupils grow spiritually and develop a strong sense of the value of God's World.

Assessment and Progress: As a school, we assess pupils from a range of abilities, termly against the key questions and objectives. Assessments are moderated termly with phase staff working together to ensure judgements are accurate. Currently, work is assessed in line with the other core subjects, using terms; 'Working Towards', 'Expected' and 'Greater Depth'.

Marking: R.E. work is marked following the school's marking policy. Marking focuses on the religious content and skills with comments, feedback and next steps given. Work is not marked for its Literacy content although the inaccurate spelling of important religious keywords attainable to the child will be corrected.

Catholic Social Teaching: As part of R.E. teaching, pupils will be introduced to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching which guides us on how to live out our faith in the world:

- Dignity.
- Solidarity.
- The common good.
- The option for the poor.
- Peace.
- Creation and Environment.
- The dignity of work and participation

Pupils have the opportunity to learn more about each principle appropriate to their age and ability. This is taught explicitly and also mapped into the wider curriculum. The school aims that all pupils will have the opportunity to put their faith into action by planning, leading and carrying out a social justice project.

Resources: Resources relevant to phases are stored in class. Other resources are kept centrally and updated annually.

Displays: Children's work is celebrated in both classrooms and around the school. There is an RE display area in each classroom dedicated to the current God Matters unit.

RE Display Areas: All displays will be in the Church's current liturgical colour and will display the following key elements:

- Key words and heading for the current topic
- The 'big question' for children to respond to in each unit
- A celebration of children's work from the current unit
- A bible
- A candle
- A cross, crucifix, Rosary or statue linked to the Church's liturgical year.

Leadership of RE: Leadership of R.E. at Notre Dame du Rosaire School is the responsibility of the R.E. Subject Leader supported by the Head teacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the R.E. curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. The RE subject leader provides training and professional development to support teachers in their teaching of RE and will also purchase resources to support R.E. lessons.

Monitoring and Evaluation: In line with other core subjects R.E. is monitored throughout the year to ensure that high standards in teaching and learning are maintained.

Monitoring includes:

- Book Scrutiny
- Planning scrutiny
- Pupil conferencing
- Learning environments/Holy Space
- Ethos/Learning walks
- lesson observations
- Worship observations
- Moderation of RE assessments

Feedback is provided to staff and this process is then reviewed to ensure areas of development have been addressed and pupils are making progress in the RE learning and spiritual journey.

At Notre Dame du Rosaire whilst we believe that academic rigour is as necessary in RE as in any subject, this should not negate spiritual and emotional development and learning which are not always possible to assess using formal methods, but are an integral part of Religious Education.

IMPACT

The impact of our RE curriculum is seen in:

- High standards in RE books with the application of a range of other curriculum areas – art, music, drama, technology and writing
- Pupils' positive attitudes to and high engagement in RE lessons.
- Pupils have a developing awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and how this impacts daily life decisions.
- Pupils will have a secure knowledge of scripture and religious beliefs and how these inform daily life. They will practise skills including the ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically, to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively, to make informed judgements and points of view all rooted in the knowledge of scripture.
- Appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; 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, multi-faith society.
- Pupils will become individuals who value and respect one another and demonstrate our mission in action.

Communication

This policy will be shared with and communicated to:

- All members of the school and parish community
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship

Policy Monitoring and Review

Monitoring, evaluation and review of R.E. is an integral part of the self-review process and is shared with the whole school community. Strengths and areas for development are highlighted throughout this process and recommendations for future action will be identified in the School Development Plan.

Community, Home and Parish Links -

Parents are invited to all whole school masses. They receive information on every RE unit taught and are updated at parents evening and in school reports on the progress of their child in RE

Masses - The children attend whole school masses at least once a term as well as attending mass on days of Holy Obligation. Upper Junior children are involved in the planning and leading of these masses.

Sacramental Preparation - The headteacher oversees the management of the Parish First Holy Communion Programme