

Diocese of Leeds



**St. Mary's Catholic Primary
School**

A Policy for Religious Education

Policy for Religious Education

Mission Statement

Loving, Laughing and Learning in the Light of the Lord.

The mission of our school is to grow as a community through faith in God, giving love and respect to all.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, we believe that religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.¹
- We believe Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.
- Religious education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis but its specific contribution to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and so Religious Education will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.²

‘ 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.’

The Aims of Religious Education

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice³

Curriculum time allocation:

¹ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, para. 4, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 2000

² Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 10, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 1996

³ *Ibid*, p. 10

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does ***not*** include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study:

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.

Process

'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.'⁴

'Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'⁵

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment, Monitoring, 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 record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.

⁴ *The Way, the Truth & the Life, Teacher Book 4, 7, CTS, 2004*

⁵ Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 11

- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains samples of work from each teacher covering a range of abilities and topics.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held at least termly.
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out in line with the school development plan. Core elements include lesson observation, book scrutiny and pupil conferencing.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the school leadership team and school governors and updated every 2 years.

Management of the subject.

Michelle Mabley, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

Pupils are taught about other faiths through focus weeks twice a year. These are planned for as a school and give pupils knowledge and understanding of a range of world faiths.

APPENDIX 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work.
- 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.

- Attending 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 *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

Policy adopted: May 2017

Review date: May 2019