



Religious Education Policy

Introduction

At Christ the King Catholic Primary School we believe that Religious Education is not one subject but the foundation of the entire educational process, and that the beliefs and values it communicates will inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It will provide the context for and share the school curriculum.

We recognise that the work of classroom teaching of the Catholic faith has never been more important or demanding and recognise that as teachers of religious education our need is to lead young people through word and action towards an ever-increasing understanding of the faith.

We firmly believe that the Gospel message should be reflected in the lives of everyone connected to our school. Therefore our school Mission Statement lies at the very heart of our school

Our Mission Statement

Christ the King Catholic Primary School provides an academically excellent; Christ centred education through inspirational teaching and empowerment of all pupils to reach their full potential spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and morally, in a happy, caring, stimulating environment promoting self-esteem and confidence.

Our School Motto

*Learning, growing, praying together
with Christ our King.*

Aims and Objectives

Prayer is an awareness of the presence of God in our lives, it is being open in our relationship with God. Prayer is a response to God's invitation to a relationship of love and communion. Prayer engages the whole person. Through prayer we bring before God our love, with its joys and difficulties, as well as the needs of others and of our world.

Through the Religious Education programme we aim to:

- Nurture each child's faith leading them to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice.
- 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 practice.
- Develop their involvement in the Church's community.
- Develop care for others.
- Foster the children's religious, spiritual and moral development.
- Inspire and unify every aspect of school life, permeating the whole curriculum.

- Encourage the children to be Disciples of Christ who live out the Gospel values in their daily lives.
- Complement the catechesis, which takes place in the home and parish.
- Provide children with the language of Religious experience, to encourage study, investigation and reflection.
- Lead them to respect the religious convictions of others.

The Spiritual Life of the School

Prayer

Prayer occupies a central role in our Religious Education as a means of expressing and fostering faith and building up a permanent relationship with God. Prayer is an awareness of the presence of God in our lives; it is being open in our relationship with God. Prayer is a response to God's invitation to a relationship of love and communion. Prayer engages the whole person. Through prayer we bring before God our love with its joys and difficulties as well as the needs of others and our world. Children are helped to discover varieties of method of prayer - formal and informal, reflective and communal by:

- Being quiet and listening to God.
- The school day beginning and ending with prayers, and grace being said before and after meals.
- Spontaneous and formal prayer is encouraged throughout the day.
- Classrooms having a focus for prayer: displays, vocabulary, a crucifix, statue of Our Lady, and a prayer area with a cloth for each season in the church year.
- Every child having a copy of the school prayer book.
- Mass responses being taught to the children.
- Visits to the church and participation in church services.
- Visits to other places of worship.
- Visits to the Prayer garden. Children can record their intentions in the intentions box which are shared during Monday morning assembly.
- Guided meditations for children.
- Use of prayer bags for home use in appropriate liturgical colours.
- Use of music, drama and role play to explore Biblical stories and themes.
- Collective worship, key stage and whole school.
- Class prayer time/assemblies provide opportunities for children to pray the traditional and sponsored prayers following the liturgical year.

We also ensure that scripture and the liturgical calendar provide other forms of nourishment for prayer.

Preparation for the Sacraments

The celebration of the sacraments is essential in the life of the Catholic Christian and so sacramental preparation is given high priority. The school recognises that parents are the first educators of their children in the ways of the faith and is called to assist them and the Parish community in preparing the children for the celebration of the sacraments.

We recognise and celebrate that the foundation for the preparation of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion takes place in Foundation and Key Stage One. It is here that pupils learn for the first time about the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Reconciliation.

- Year three children are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.
- The Sacramental programme is followed using guidelines from the Curriculum strategy. Each child has a book to complete with their family.
- Meetings take place throughout the year for parents to explain the programme and enlist their support in the preparation of the sacraments. Masses are organised linked to themes based on the Sacraments.
- First Confession takes place in March, and the children are encouraged to receive the sacrament regularly after that.

- First Holy Communion takes place in May, and is one of the most important occasions of the school year bringing together school, parish and families.
- Year six children are prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation using the Curriculum strategy.
- A meeting for parents takes place to explain the programme and enlist the support of parents in the preparation of their children for the sacrament.
- A Commitment Mass takes place for the Confirmandi with the support of parents and the parish community.
- The children are usually confirmed during the summer term and this occasion is seen as an important occasion for the school, families and parish community.

Church's Liturgical Year

- Each class presents an assembly during the year usually based around the religious programme or aspect of the liturgical year.
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Head and teachers reinforce aspects of the liturgical year; explain parts of the Mass and teach about the lives of the saints.
- Assembly takes place weekly in thanksgiving and recognition of the children's talents.
- Hymn practice is held once a week for the whole school to learn and practice a variety of hymns for use in school and church.
- Children participate in Tuesday morning Mass on a rota basis, introducing the theme of the Mass, reading, producing and reading bidding prayers and taking up the offertory.
- Children read, serve, take the offerings and sing in the choir regularly at Sunday Mass. Y6 assist with the younger children's liturgy.
- Stations of the Cross during Lent.
- Benediction during Advent.
- Remembrance Service, Father Tom leads, children from each year group read the readings, bidding prayers and Year 6 share some personal poems.
- Advent and Lent Clubs.

Celebration of the Mass

- Mass is the centre of liturgical worship in our Catholic school.
- The Celebration of the mass usually takes place in church.
- Planning and timings are worked out co-operatively between the priest and staff.
- The school participates in Parish masses regularly and parents are invited to join us.
- Standards of active participation and quality of reading and singing is high.
- Children participate in the parish mass every other Sunday at 9.00am mass. Readings are prepared in school and are read by a group of children. The school children sing, serve on the altar and some children help with the children's liturgy.

Giving to Others

- At Christ the King School we aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. The children involve themselves quite independently in a lot of fundraising throughout the year for a variety of charities and particularly during the season of Lent. Large sums of money are raised each year. The older children work with the younger children to support each other in raising money.
- Coffee mornings and sponsored events are organised by staff and a great spirit of generosity combined with much good will has been built up as a tradition within the school and wider community.
- Many charities have benefited from the children's collection of money and letters of thanks are always shared with the children. Various projects are also discussed with them so that they are actively involved in deciding where their money should go.

- Every child from EYFS to Year 6 create a Christmas and Easter card and delivered to our local neighbours.
- Children are involved in the sale of Fair Trade and Trading Fair products at school and at church.
- It is our aim that our whole school ethos is one that will foster and nurture a generous giving of self. Children are always made aware of the power and influence of their prayers as well as the importance of their great efforts in giving.

The Bible

- Each class has a selection of bibles including the Family Bible, Lion Children's Bible and the Good News Bible.
- Class size collections of the Gospels are stored centrally in the library and in classrooms.
- All teachers use the Bible in the teaching of RE.
- Children are encouraged to reflect upon stories, and to express this through drama, art, discussion and prayer services.
- Referencing from Bible.
- "Jesus through Art" and "The Bible through Art" books are stored centrally.
- Children in Year 3 are given a Bible as they prepare for their sacraments.

Parental Involvement

At Christ the King Catholic Primary School we recognise that we are part of a three-way partnership in the religious education of our children. The responsibility is shared between home, parents, the parish and the school. We recognise that the parents are the primary educators of their children in their faith journey.

We aim to involve parents by:

- Inviting them to assemblies, mass and special celebrations within school setting.
- Specific assemblies such as Advent, Remembrance, Mother's Day and Pentecost which can be rotated throughout school. Each Class will deliver a Class Prayer Service which a member of their family are invited to.
- Encouraging them to bring their children to the Liturgy of the Word on Sunday mornings. Children from KS2 read regularly at Sunday Masses in the parish and also participate in the 9.00am Mass choir.
- Inviting parents to attend Stations of the Cross and Benediction.
- Inviting parents to attend Tuesday morning Mass in Church with selected Year Group children initially, joined by Reception children in the Spring Term. Children take an active part in the Mass eg, reading of the day, responsorial psalm and bidding prayers. They also lead the music.
- Assisting with fundraising activities.
- Inviting parents to meetings to discuss the sacramental preparation programme and how parents can assist and support their children.
- Inviting parents to discuss the programme for Relationships and Sex Education.
- Through regular questionnaires asking parents for their view and how we could make further improvements.

Clergy regularly visit school and are involved in the school's pastoral work including liturgies for the staff development.

Equal Opportunities

We believe that Religious Education is for all. It is a collaborative activity, which respects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe reverence and imagination for the spiritual. Every child is catered for and his/her needs met.

Differentiation

It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel and to pass on the values of our Catholic tradition to all in our care whilst also respecting religious freedom.

We recognise that our Religious education programme will receive a variety of responses because our children come from a wide variety of spiritual backgrounds.

Children who are gifted are challenged in their thinking and we aim to extend their knowledge and understanding of various aspects of religion.

Some children will receive religion as a new vision which challenges them to a new way of living (Evangelisation). Other children will already have a good spiritual faith background and they will hopefully be led to a deeper faith (Catechesis), some will be both catechised and evangelised.

Philosophy sessions take place each week with the Assistant Priest to allow the children in Y6 to further their understanding of the Bible and of their Catholic faith and values, linked to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Time Allocation

We respond to the Archbishop's recommendations that RE should take up 10% of our time. RE is timetabled throughout the school but can be taught through curriculum themes where appropriate.

Management and Organisation

The school follows the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy provided by "Learning and Growing as the people of God".

Our Religious Education Programme:

- Curriculum Strategy produced by the Diocese used as a guideline for planning schemes of work.
- "Life to the Full" Ten:Ten Programme.
- Sacramental preparation Y3/Y6.
- The four areas of study within the strategy provide the keys to the Catechism and Curriculum Directory:
 - Revelation
 - Church
 - Celebration
 - Life in Christ

Scheme of Work

Long term Planning

Planning is co-ordinated by the subject leader.

Medium Term Planning

Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and should be completed on a unit by unit basis according to the long term plan. Planning is collected by subject leader and can also be obtained from the 'r' drive at SL site and the 't' drive at WHR site.

Short Term Planning

Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher.

The Curriculum leader for Religious Education has overall responsibility for management of curriculum development and resources. She reviews units covered each term and monitors aspects of the subject on a weekly basis.

Classroom teachers have responsibility for the planning and delivery of the religious programme and are obliged to put whole school policy into practice through implementation of the Curriculum directory and ethos inspired within the classroom and school as a whole.

Teachers can approach the curriculum leader to discuss and seek advice on any matter pertaining to this area of the curriculum.

We respond to the Archbishop's recommendations that in schools of the Diocese, Religious Education should take up 10% of our time. R.E. is timetabled throughout the school but is often planned for in other subjects.

All teachers plan and assess using the Curriculum Directory and Strategy from the Bishops of England and Wales.

Breadth and Balance within the Curriculum

This is ensured by giving the correct amount of emphasis to the main aspects of religious education:

- Experiential – to help children become more aware of and to reflect upon their experience of living in the world of others.
- Doctrinal – it reveals to the children some aspects of God's plan for our salvation.
- Moral – it helps our children to respond to God's love in their lives.
- Prayer – it helps children both to listen and respond to God.

Religious education is seen as central to all other subjects and every opportunity to teach other curriculum areas through R.E. is planned and taken.

Reflective marking is used to allow children to think and apply religious ideas.

Use of thinking skills is employed as a teaching strategy. SEN Resources are available.

Assessment and Recording

Teachers give feedback and reflective marking for selected pieces of work for RE. All tasks are marked according to school policy.

We use the Curriculum Directory, Strategy, Assessment for Learning and the Levels of Attainment in Religious Education produced by the bishops Conference as a basis for our teaching, assessment and recording.

Each half term staff set an assessment task based upon one of the units covered.

All end of units are assessed and recorded formally and put on the 'r'/t' file.

End of each term RE is levelled and moderated by the RE co-ordinators with teaching staff.

Samples of these assessments will be used to develop a new portfolio of moderated work

All formal assessments will be analysed and used to inform planning and current practice:

- to enable reporting on progress to pupils and parents;
- to encourage pupil reflection and action, with a view to improving their learning;
- to provide information for evaluating the programme of study and to motivate pupils to take responsibility for their own learning;
- to monitor continuity and progression across year bands and phases.

Reporting to Parents

Parents have the opportunity for parent consultations three times a year.

Resources

Resources are stored centrally and are updated and reviewed regularly.

Religious Education is given a fair allocation of funds each year to support teaching and learning and is in line with the other core subjects.

We have a large selection of pictures and posters.

Each class has its own crucifix, statue of Our Lady, altar cloth and prayer area.

ICT – we have books on the library system to support teaching of other faiths, Saint's lives and the lives of people from the Old and New Testament.

Staff Development

Teachers are encouraged to attend appropriate courses to develop their knowledge.

Time is given to the curriculum leader to contribute to the school improvement plan, lead staff meetings, review policy, update teachers of any new developments, lead INSET, monitor the subject and meet regularly with the RE Link Governor.

There are also CPD sessions on Zoom delivered by RE Advisors at the BDES.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

We recognise that teaching and learning in RE provides teachers with an important opportunity to live out their vocation as Catholic teachers. Through formal and informal teaching, teachers will provide pupils with many opportunities to hear and respond to the message of Jesus Christ as it has been passed on and interpreted through the teaching and the traditions of the Catholic Church. Through the delivery of our religious education curriculum we seek to develop the sharing of experiences, knowledge and skills not only between teachers and learners but also between the learners themselves. The value of learning in non-formal situation is also recognised.

We review our RE curriculum on a regular basis ensuring that it meets the current requirements of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales – Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. We will maintain close links with the Parish and home and provide innovative approaches to RE. We will also keep abreast of professional development within the field of Religious Education.

We provide a broad range of class activities that will support pupil learning. Teaching strategies used in RE should always be used to help pupils move on from where they are, building on their previous learning experiences. They should allow children to develop skills of investigation, interpretation, reflection, empathy, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, application and expression.

We recognise that pupils have individual needs in RE as they do in other curricular areas, and ensure that class work is closely matched to each child's capability.

We regularly assess each child's learning in RE and use this information to inform future planning.

RE provides pupils with excellent opportunities to learn from the input of the teacher but also to work independently in developing their understanding of religious concepts and applying them through their work. To achieve this, pupils will be given opportunities to engage in a wide range of:

- speaking and listening activities eg answering questions, expressing their own opinion, role play, hot seating, re-telling stories and events in their own words, using religious vocabulary appropriate to their age and ability, interviewing visitors and responding in role;
- thinking activities eg problem solving, finding an answer or conclusion to a story or event, sharing their own opinion, asking questions and drawing conclusions;
- research activities eg using religious texts to find information, using multi-media resources to investigate and find out information, using religious symbolism and art as another source of information;
- writing activities eg writing for different purposes and audiences to include narrative texts, empathetic writing, letters, postcards, newspapers, play-scripts, advertisements and posters. Many of these activities may be closely matched with the requirements of the Literacy strategy;
- prayer and liturgical experiences eg taking part in school Masses, assemblies and other liturgical celebrations. We recognise that these often serve as a springboard for the RE curriculum as well as a way of celebrating and drawing together learning that has taken place.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety issues are particularly relevant to practical activities including the use of the outdoor environment, visits to places of worship, or other relevant museum trips.

The staff work in accordance with current Health and Safety guidelines (see Policy for further details).

Multi-Cultural Aspects

Multi-cultural education is for the whole school. We seek to reflect the spirit and values of the Gospel. As Christ loves us all and died for us all the universality of that love must be reflected in the life and conduct of the school.

- We aim to foster respect and consideration for people of all races and cultures and also appreciation and understanding of the rich diversity of the world around us.
- Each year group in across the school studies a different faith during the year.
- There are many resources to support the study of other faiths including artefacts for each major faith.
- We plan and take part in visiting other places of worship throughout Key stage two.
- All children have the opportunity to visit different schools to witness their faith through assemblies and different activities.

Vocation

At the present time the Catholic Church has a mission to promote the vocation of the human person. This vocation is made present by the way in which each of us is called to live out our Christian life. Our vocation is something that is given through the Sacrament of Baptism and is nurtured throughout our lives and through this nurturing each of us is called to his or her unique vocation, whether that be the vocation of work or a vocation to the Priesthood, Diaconate or Religious Life.

At Christ the King we are helping our children to become aware of their own vocation and to realise the prayer of John Henry Newman that "God has created them for some definite service".

Children in Yr 6 visit Oscott College where they have the opportunity to learn more about vocations. They are also invited to participate in the Deanery Vocation Mass.

Children in Yr 2 learn about the role of the Deacons within the Parish.

For more information please visit www.catholicnews.org.uk or The Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Link Governor

Our Link Governor is Deacon Keith Millage.

Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically according to the School's policy review cycle.

Review history

Issue 01	Policy approved by Governors	30/04/12
Issue 02	Changes to: Mission Statement Church's Liturgical Year Giving to Others Differentiation Scheme of Work Staff Development Vocation	10/06/13
Issue 03	Reviewed	20/10/16
	Reviewed	18/10/20
	Changes to: Prayer Celebration of the Mass	20/09/23

Giving to Others
Our Religious Education Programme
Staff Development
Multi-Cultural Aspects