

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy



“With God’s love, we are a Family; Caring, learning and Growing together”

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Ratified by	<i>S. Currie (RE LEAD GOVERNOR)</i>



“With God’s Love, we are a Family; Caring, Learning and Growing Together.”

The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spirituality, and to think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
(Religious Education Directory for Catholic schools 2012)

Rationale

“Catholics believe that R.E. is not one subject among 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)

Aims

To live out this belief, the staff at St. John Fisher aims to:

1. Create a Christ-centred environment which enables each member of our school community to grow into the person we are called to be.
2. Help each other grow in our personal relationships with God and each other.
3. Create an environment of mutual respect in which healing and forgiveness can be experienced.
4. Develop dynamic links between home/school/parish/governors to enable the Catholic faith to become significant in all our lives.

5. Bring a Catholic dimension to all teaching and learning.
6. Ensure pupils' experiences in school have a positive influence on their understanding of relationships.

Our priority is to establish a happy and secure environment, which encourages personal growth and a love of learning and develops the child's personality and potential as they journey through life.

We expect the children to:

- Work hard and achieve more
- Appreciate our world
- Say sorry and make friends
- Be kind, loving and respectful
- Be like Jesus and pray to Him

Objectives of R.E. in St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School

1. Provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
2. Provide children with the language of religious experience ie become 'literate' in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.
3. Present a 'systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life' in ways appropriate to age and development of the child.
4. Understand and respect the beliefs of people of other faiths.
5. Ensure that R.E. is given equal status and academic respectability as other core subjects, utilising appropriate strategies from the National Curriculum.

The R.E. Programme

We are operating a hybrid approach, most classes are following the RE Directory (Reception to Y4)

Y5 and Y6 still follow the 'Come and See' programme. We follow the guidance from the Archdiocese of Liverpool, Education Department.

Links are made with both the pupils' own and universal experiences. Links are also made with the experience of other faith traditions. The programme is, therefore, objective and subjective, and for all children will raise questions and provide reflection material for their own experience. Parents will be sent a half termly curriculum overview outlining all the work to be covered by each year group that half term.

Planning

Long Term

The Senior Management are responsible for long term planning and for ensuring that 10% of curriculum time is allocated to R.E. teaching. (Prayer and Liturgy and singing assemblies are not included in this time). All classes use RE Directory or 'Come and See' to deliver this.

Medium term

The overview is the medium term plan for the start of each topic. It is important that teachers are given the opportunity to reflect on the topic at its start, preferably as a whole staff.

Included in the planning will be:

- The basic question --- Christian doctrine for the term
- Feast days/celebrations that will take place during a topic
- Opportunities for Global dimensions
- Prompts for adaptive teaching and use of ICT

Short term

This is the responsibility of the class teacher. Using the planner provided by the Archdiocese, or an annotated copy of "Come and See" planning or Archdiocese RE D planning

- Allocate time for each learning outcome to be achieved.
- Include driver words and key religious vocabulary for each topic
- Select appropriate activities for the class/group to ensure achievement of the Standard Indicators.
- Use one main activity and extend the more able learners with a challenge task using next step driver words.
- Ensure that SEND resources from Come and See are used to support.
- Carry out the termly assessment programme and provide R.E. coordinator with samples of work for portfolio.

Adaptive Teaching

We aim to give each child an education appropriate to their age, aptitude and ability. Aware of the differing needs and abilities of the children within the class and with reference to IEPs of children on Special Needs Register, each class teacher will select appropriate activities from those provided in 'Come and See'.

In addition, a multi-sensory approach will be employed where possible for children with additional learning needs or disabilities, and the Widgit symbol ideas employed wherever possible for those who can access the materials.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral aspect of all teaching and learning. (The independent review of the Primary Curriculum 2009)

Assessment in RE is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through learning about and learning from religion. Assessment establishes what children know, understand and how to get there. It offers support and motivation to the learner. It does not assess spirituality or the practice of faith.

At the beginning of *Explore and Reveal* there is a summary of the Areas of Learning covered. At the end there is a summary of the learning for that topic.

Regular assessment, individual pupil tracking and record keeping is carried out according to the direction given by the diocese.

Assessment at St. John Fisher involves:

Informal:

- General observation of the children engaged in tasks and activities
- Observation of contributions made to classroom displays.
- Review: end of task, activity, lesson, topic
- Marking of work (positive comments/questions, any factual errors and relevant spellings corrected)
- Keeping a written record of those learners who are achieving above or below expectations (for topics not formally assessed).

Formal:

- Regular informed judgements on a wide variety of evidence against broad criteria, which allows pupils to respond at different levels.

Recording

At St. John Fisher, pupil's work is usually recorded in their books and floor books, using both written tasks and annotated photographic evidence. Teachers use a variety of methods of assessment to make a judgement about what level the pupil is working at. The pupils attainment is recorded on trackers, using materials from the Archdiocese of Liverpool. They are kept up to date These are kept on the shared drive and in the teachers 'class file. These files are collected in by the coordinator once a term to ensure this is done. This also enables the coordinator to track progress across the school.

Reporting

- Provides feedback on achievement/progress
- Informs colleagues of achievement of individuals and areas studied
- Enables teachers to plan suitable next steps of learning
- Informs parents of progress/achievement of their children
- Informs parents, governors, parish and external agencies of the content and quality of R.E. being provided and the achievement of pupils.

Time Allocation

For R.E. this is 10% of curriculum time

K.S. 1 = 2 hrs 10 mins

K.S. 2 = 2 hrs 30 mins

Staff Development

The R.E. co-ordinator will lead and support staff by:

- Providing up to date material and resources,
- Through attending in-service courses and having an involvement in staff training,
- Sharing information and knowledge gained at co-ordinators meetings with the Christian Education Department.
- Support development of good practice in the classroom,
- Formal/informal discussions with the staff,
- Having an input in ensuring that R.E. has an important section of the School Development Plan.
- Share C SED with staff and include their input.
- Share ideas from Core cluster and Cluster group.

Staff will be encouraged to participate in In-service training provided by the CED on a rolling programme.

All teachers will be expected to hold or complete the CCRS.

The RE coordinators will provide in-house In-service training on matters such as the new RE Directory, Collective Worship and other relevant needs.

Resources

Our best resources are the members of staff who are responsible for the R.E. of the children in their care. The parish priest, catechists and members of local community are a valuable resource and their involvement is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

A list of resources is available separately.

