



SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School



Policy on Religious Education

Policy Written & Agreed:

Ratified by Full Governing Body:

To be reviewed:

September 2023

September 2024



SS Peter & Paul
Whole School Policy on Religious Education

This religious education policy:-

- reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole staff;
- was discussed, written and agreed by the whole staff;
- has been approved by the Governing body.

The implementation and ownership of this policy is the responsibility of the whole staff.

The overall accountability and effectiveness of the policy will be the responsibility of the Executive Head Teacher, Head of School, RE Co-ordinator and Senior Leadership Team.



We Live and Learn in the Light of Christ.

At the heart of the Church's being is her mission to teach. Christ's own words to his disciples are addressed to his Church today.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

(Matthew 28: 18-20)

As a Catholic School, SS Peter and Paul sees itself as having an integral role in fulfilling this command of Jesus and is committed to the teachings of the Church, rooted in the Gospel values. Religious Education is regarded with the highest priority in our school life. It is a core subject, which can engage pupil's intellect, heart and imagination, extending into the daily life and routines of our school. We aim to recognise the uniqueness of each child and respect the value, dignity and individuality of each one, celebrating diversity and learning the values of mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance. We also acknowledge the importance of good relationships within the school community and recognise that the strong partnership, which exists between school, home and the parish, must be nurtured if we are to grow as a living and worshipping community which always provides a Christ-centred environment.

Our Aims in Teaching RE

To guide our pupils to grow in knowledge, understanding and love of God through:

- Supporting and developing the primary task of parents who 'are the first teachers of their child in the ways of the faith.' (Rite of Baptism).
- Nurturing pupils' faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
- Preparing and involving pupils, parents, staff and governors in sacramental celebrations.
- Foster pupils' religious, spiritual and moral development.
- Encouraging pupils to be part of the Parish community.
- Teaching pupils how to pray and to develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- The patronage of SS Peter and Paul.
- Developing a culture of vocation.
- Promoting an awareness of other cultures and religions, developing respect and consideration for others so that all pupils are prepared to live in a multi- cultural and multi faith society.

How We Meet Our Stated Aims

We work together to meet these aims through:

- a) Using the Archdiocese scheme, 'Learning and Growing as the People of God.' This scheme provides progression from Early Years to Year Six and it also allows opportunities for monitoring and assessment.
- b) Sacramental Education.
- c) Prayer and Liturgy.
- d) Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues Education.
- e) Personal Witness on a daily basis.

How will this be achieved?

- Working in partnership with all members of the school team involved in school life including our Parish Priest Fr. Prahbakar Pamisetty.
- Taking children into the local community to bear witness to Christ.
- Through Parish community events such as Harvest Mass, Lenten collection and striving to promote CST.
- Engaging parents in all school and sacramental celebrations and finding ways to involve them.
- Emphasising and living out our Gospel values; and the use of our positive behaviour policy and reward system.
- Demonstrating mutual respect to all those we encounter.

Religious lessons

Religious Education in our school is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships, as Christian values permeate all aspects of the curriculum and all relationships. Religious Education is allocated 10% of the curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. Masses, Prayer, assemblies, Christmas plays, RSHE and Songs of Praise are not included in this time. RE lessons will be taught twice a week in isolation and where appropriate should be linked with other curriculum areas. The Catholic ethos is interwoven through all aspects of school life and cannot be compartmentalised. Our primary aims for Religious Education lessons are to help our children to become religious and literate in their faith.

In addition to Diocesan Curriculum Strategy, pupils:

- Complete research into the life of their Class Saint at the start of the academic year,
- Celebrate and learn the traditions of the Catholic Church including learning age appropriate Catholic prayers.

All classes follow the Diocesan approved 'Ten:Ten' Scheme as part of their RSHE.

Teaching and Learning:

Children are taught:

- Knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs
- Knowledge and understanding of how religious beliefs shape their lives
- Knowledge and understanding of religious vocabulary, actions and symbols
- To engage with their own beliefs and values
- To engage with the values and beliefs of others
- To engage with deeper thinking questioning

S.E.N. Provision

RE lessons and activities should be differentiated accordingly to allow children to work at their level. Deeper thinking opportunities are given to stretch and extend more-able pupils.

Display

Our school displays reflect that we are a Catholic School and this should be evident in all areas including the Entrance Hall and corridors.

Prayer plays a vital role and is taught both discreetly and directly. Each classroom has a religious focal point reflecting the liturgical year and including a Bible and crucifix.

Sacramental Preparation

The preparation for Sacraments lies with the School, Parish and Parents and this co-operation is crucial to support the development of our children's faith.

Each Sacrament is taught using the Diocese approved 'Learning and Growing as the People of God,' document which provides the backbone of our Catholic teachings. Children all participate in an 'Enrolment Mass' where the children who are preparing for an upcoming Sacrament are presented to the Parish. Parents are also invited into school to attend workshops and prayer services during these preparations.

Parents and Parish

Here at SS Peter and Paul, we work hard to foster strong links between Home, School and Parish through:

- Our fortnightly Masses which are advertised in the Parish newsletter where we gather together as a whole school community to celebrate the Eucharist.
- Annual celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday Masses are all celebrated together.
- Each year group prepares and participates in a Sunday Mass to share the experience with Parishioners.
- Class-led assemblies.
- Members of the parish and parents volunteering to support the learning of our children.
- Fundraising activities and charitable outreach.
- Engagement with the 'Prayer Bag' which aims to provide opportunities to pray together as a family.

Marking and Feedback

RE written work should be marked in accordance with the marking policy. Children will know what has gone well as this will be highlighted green and any misconceptions will be marked in pink. Marking should reflect the RE teaching not English targets except for an emphasis on the spelling of key words e.g. 'God' and 'Jesus' with a capital letter.

Assessment

Teachers will use their professional judgement and will continually be assessing children's progress, knowledge and understanding. Each teacher has a copy of the Diocesan recommended assessment proforma for each unit and school follows the assessment schedule as advised by the Diocese which assesses one of the four strands:

- The Sacraments
- Living as Christians-including prayer
- The Liturgical Year
- Scriptures

Completed assessments are given to the RE Co-ordinator for monitoring purposes.

Each class will also have three children to be assessed against age-related standards.

Monitoring

- Each teacher completes a weekly planning proforma to give a clear indication of the content of lessons.
- Each class teacher has the necessary proformas for assessment, which are monitored by the RE leader.
- The RE Co-ordinator carries out monitoring strategies such as observing RE lessons, reviewing pupil's work, analysing data, display monitoring and pupil voice.

Equal Opportunities

The individual needs of all children will be considered to ensure that all children irrespective of gender, SEND needs, or cultural background will be given equal opportunities to be successful. A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed to try to meet all children's different needs e.g. whole class, group, pair and individual work.

CPD

CPD is implemented through INSET and staff meetings. The RE lead disseminates information from cluster group meetings and Mission group meetings regarding any changes or updates.

Monitoring and Review

The RE lead will monitor the implementation of this policy and will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.

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