

**FEDERATION OF ST ANNE'S AND ST MARTIN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

St Anne's



Learning to live by faith and to be known by love

Religious Education Policy & Procedures

Policy Management

Policy owner	Headteacher
Approved by:	Curriculum Committee
Date of next review	January 2025
Review cycle	Annual
Policy published on website	Yes
Date approved and by whom	Curriculum Committee 18 th January 2024
Type of Policy:	Non statutory
Template Based on:	The Key
Statutory Guidance	<i>Insert any link to any statutory guidance relating to the policy</i>

Introduction

- A. The RE Programme**
- B. Religious Practices**
- C. Sacramental Preparation**
- D. Pastoral Care and Behaviour**
- E. Links with other Curriculum Areas**
- F. Liaison with other Catholic Schools**

Headteacher: Sarah Bernto
Parish Priest: Father Joe McLoughlin
RE and Liturgy Coordinator: George McAdden
Catholic Life Coordinator: Anne Orife

Mission Statement

Learning to live by faith and to be known by love.

Introduction

St Anne's Catholic Primary School was established in 1898 and, since that time, has been providing primary education to the children of Reading. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. It is conducted by its Governing Body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. As a Catholic school, we hold the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the heart of our school family. We therefore value our pupils as children of God, entitled to be educated to their full potential. The school shares with parents, the Church and the wider community, the responsibility of leading children to know and love God and to develop an appreciation of His world.

Vision Statement

We are all unique, yet we are all one in Christ.

As children of God, we strive to develop our own identities, to build our school community and to make the world a better place. We follow in Jesus's footsteps by being kind and compassionate, respectful and responsible and by being hard-working and humble. Confident in the love of God, we are safe to explore, to contribute and to take risks.

Teachers expertly guide and facilitate every child's unique learning journey and strive for excellence. With the wisdom that the Lord gives, adults work alongside children to help them develop inquisitive minds and to become self-motivated learners through broad and fun opportunities. All success is celebrated and our vibrant community is bound by a life-long love of learning.

Our School Aims

St Anne's Catholic Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The school shares with Parents and Carers, the Church and the wider community, the responsibility of leading children to know and love God and to develop an appreciation of his world through the best possible education. The school expects parents to support actively Christian/Catholic teaching and practice and to uphold Christian values, ensuring that children maintain good standards of behaviour in and out of school.

How we meet our Aims

In order to achieve these aims, RE is presented through the following strands:

- A. The RE Programme**
- B. Religious Practices**
- C. Sacramental Preparation**
- D. Pastoral Care and Behaviour**
- E. Links with other Curriculum Areas**
- F. Liaison with other Catholic Schools**

RE Subject Leader

- Devises the long-term plan for teaching and worship
- Is a role model for exemplary teaching of RE and delivery of liturgy/prayer
- Supports colleagues in their teaching by 1:1 support with planning, staff training in teacher and TA meetings and by keeping up to date with developments in RE (this includes attending and disseminating diocesan training)
- Alongside the Headteacher, monitors all aspects of curriculum RE through lesson observations, book flicks, analysis of assessment data and pupil interviews
- Alongside the Headteacher, monitors all aspects of worship through observation and drop-ins, learning walks and pupil interviews
- Purchases and organises RE resources in consultation with the bursar and governors
- Gives the Governors a termly summary report in which s/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in RE and indicates any areas for improvement
- Liaises with other RE Subject Leaders in cluster schools and with the Primary Advisor for RE.

Class Teacher

Each class teacher is responsible for the individual child's experiences in their class by:

- Upholding the Catholic Ethos of the school
- Upholding and delivering the scheme of work in place
- Planning for and delivering the teaching of RE
- Assessing and recording the children's progress
- Reporting to parents on children's progress

A. The RE Programme

RE is allocated at least 10% of curriculum time in line with the expectations of the Archdiocese. Collective worship does not constitute teaching curriculum time; likewise, Mass is not part of the allocated 10%.

Learning and Growing as the People of God

St Anne's follows the model curriculum strategy published by the Archdiocese of Birmingham in response to the Catechism, the Curriculum Directory and as a continuation of the Curriculum Mapping. The structure of the Strategy is designed to deliver the elements of the Curriculum Directory in a systematic and progressive order. The common themes delivered annually are those based on the Liturgical Year. Other elements such as the Sacraments and Scriptural Knowledge are delivered annually but each year group has a different emphasis and focus and therefore each year group does not study each sacrament or the same scriptural passages.

How we plan Religious Education

The RE Leader provides a long-term plan for the teaching of RE in accordance with the liturgical year and school term dates. Short Term Planning is recorded on the diocesan RE planning sheet.

Resources

There is a range of resources to support the teaching of R.E across the school. All classrooms have hard/electronic copies of “Learning and Growing as the People of God” or have access to the online version via the BDES website. There is a collection of RE books in ‘The Space’ which can be used by all staff. Access to the internet is available in all classrooms for staff and via chrome books for pupils.

Each class has a collection of artefacts to support prayer and meditation and a designated prayer table, covered by an appropriately coloured cloth (based on the liturgical year) which is a focus for prayer.

How we teach RE

Religious Education is taught to the whole class. The class teacher, in his/her planning will decide the most appropriate approach for the lesson. At least one long writing task is produced each unit. Scaffolding is made available according to the needs of the children and the nature of the task being undertaken.

In accordance with the diocesan strategy, an overarching WALT is shared with the children as well as 3 WILFs that define the standard of knowledge/understanding in the lesson that accords with

- below age expectation standard
- at age expectation
- above age expectation.

Children are encouraged to challenge themselves, selecting a starting point based on their prior knowledge and understanding.

During RE, the children may be offered opportunities to work individually, with partners or as part of a group.

Religious Education seeks to develop social and emotional skills as well as those of knowledge and understanding. It also aims to develop a range of skills which can be used in other areas of the curriculum such as skills in thinking, investigating, interpreting, communicating and evaluating.

How we Assess, Record and Report

The assessment of individual pupils in RE is the responsibility of the class teacher.

At the start of every lesson, the overarching WALT and 3 WILFs are stuck into the pupils’ RE books. Marking is completed at the end of each lesson/before the next lesson. Marking in RE follows the school marking policy. The WILF attained is highlighted in green. At the beginning of the next lesson, children are guided to make progress towards the next WILF or, in the case of a child who has already demonstrated learning at greater depth, are asked a deeper question on which to reflect.

Responding to marking is undertaken in pink pen.

Every unit is demarcated in pupils’ RE books by a front sheet displaying the unit WILFs against which marking is done. The WILF attained is highlighted on this unit front sheet at the end of each lesson so that an overall picture of each student’s attainment over the course of the unit is built up.

A formal programme of assessments (at 3 points each year) has been devised by the diocese

focusing on one of 4 strands on a rolling programme over 4 years. Analysis of the resulting data by the RE lead means that comparisons across the school can be made and progress by years and groups of students can be monitored. Assessment sheets provided by the diocese for each year group are used.

Teachers report to parents on RE via consultations in the Autumn and Spring Terms and by a written report at the end of the school year.

Every year, one focus child per class is selected and their work is moderated at various points throughout the year against the end of phase expectations set out in the National Standards. The work is moderated during consultation meetings between the Headteacher, the RE Subject Leader and the Class Teacher. There is a 2-year cycle for choosing the child based on ability group (EXP/ABOVE EXP).

RE on display

All classes have an altar board (for prayer/reflection) and an RE board on which is displayed the title of the current unit being studied, relevant vocabulary and questions/pictures.

Other Faiths Education

At St Anne's we teach the children about other faiths during two focus weeks. One of our main aims in doing this is to acknowledge, respect and learn about other faiths.

Nursery/Reception - Our World of Faith: different faiths around the world, the faiths of children in our class

Y1/2 – Hinduism Y3/4 - Islam Y5/6 - Buddhism

The RE Strategy contains information about other faiths in various year groups. The class teachers use this information and, if appropriate, may call upon the experience of the children in the class who practise this faith to give further explanation.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected.

We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. In particular, we provide alternative recording strategies for written independent tasks. Such strategies include for example acting/filming the retelling of a Bible story or running and telling an adult information which is written down by the latter on sticky notes to be stuck in the child's RE book.

B. Religious Practices

Please see our Collective Worship Policy

Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. It is the task of the school... to promote and develop an appreciation of and a more active participation in prayer, worship and liturgy. (Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)

It is through the observance of and participation in acts of prayer, worship and celebration of the Liturgy that the child has the opportunity to express his/her faith and to develop a relationship with God. School, for many of our pupils is their first, sustained experience of the Catholic tradition. Thus, we provide a range of opportunities during which the Catholic faith can be practiced.

All Classes pray at least four times every day: when they arrive in the morning, before and after lunch and at the end of the day.					
Please note that classes also attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and on rotation across the term					
Gospel Worship	Gospel Worship	Key Stage Worship based on the Scripture linked to Catholic Social Teaching strands/Current affairs	Class Liturgy – Current affairs/Scriptures	Class Worship on virtues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private prayer in class• Altars/prayer stations around the school• Mass at least once a term• Celebrations linked to the liturgical year e.g. nativity play, Carol Service and Easter play• One World Council Prayer Group (once a month)• Class led assemblies to which parents are invited• Visits by the parish priest Sacramental preparation for FHC and Confirmation
Structure	Gather/Scripture/Respond and Reflect/Go Forth	Gather/Read/Respond/Go Forth	Gather/Read/Respond/Go Forth See Appendix 2	Gather/Read/Respond/Go Forth	
Leader	Headteacher	Teacher rotated	Nursery – Year 2 Class teacher with support from children e.g. laying out altar Year 3-6 children	Class teachers	
Focus	Gospel, it's meaning and how it applies on our lives	Reflection on Scriptures based on aspects of CST	Bible stories and how they help us understand an act in our world today	Reflection on Scriptutres based on aspects of virtues	
Worship	Through Music/Prayer	Stillness and prayer	Music/prayer	Music/prayer	
Prayer	Prayer linked to Gospel	Traditional prayer	Children offer prayers	Traditional prayer	
KS2 – also have Christian meditation once a week in the afternoon led by meditation class teacher					

C. Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

This currently takes place in Year Three but is offered to any children from Year 3 upwards who have not yet received their First Holy Communion and wish to do so.

In addition to the Strategy, which is followed by all pupils, the school in conjunction with the parish provides extra resources and sessions for Catholic children to prepare. Parents are asked to commit to an active part in their children's preparation for these sacraments and meet with the parish priest.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

This takes place in Year Six. The school in conjunction with the parish uses 'YouCat' for the Confirmandi alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils.

D. Pastoral Care and Behaviour

Please see our Behaviour Policy.

"Our aim in Christian moral education is to help the children grow into mature Christians who will live for the Father in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit"
(Veritas)

Pastoral care is the responsibility of all staff and any concerns should always be communicated with the class teacher and/or SLT. For matters of safeguarding, please see the Safeguarding Policy. The school follows therapeutic principles in managing behaviour.

With our mission and vision statement in mind, we:

- Give all pupils experiences that drive positive feelings.
- Enable pupils to develop their self-regulation, so that their experiences of difficulty, making

- mistakes, trauma, disability or neuro-type does not negatively impact on their future goals, things that are important to them and/or other pupils' experiences of school.
- Give pupils the tools to allow them to develop internal motivation in order to repeat pro social behaviours and default to these when controls are not in place.

Relationships and Sex Education

Please see the RSE and PSHE Policy.

The school uses the Catholic Journey in Love Programme alongside 1Decision.

Involvement with parents and the parish community

Parents are positively encouraged to involve themselves with the religious life of the school. They are:

- invited to attend school masses and named class assemblies.
- Expected to be actively involved in sacramental preparation through the sending home of work.

Relationships are also built with the parish community. The school attends parish mass at least once a term. The KS2 Christmas service is held in the church and the parish are invited alongside parents. The school encourages children to attend Mass and to be actively involved by altar serving. Visitors and volunteers from the parish are welcomed into the school.

E. Links with other Curriculum Areas

Religious Education has close links with other curriculum areas. Many of the skills that are developed in RE are transferable to other subjects. Research and referencing skills are used in all subjects and varied writing skills in English can also be found in RE.

As an academic subject, RE has close links with History, Geography and Art. ICT is used for research, presentation and word processing.

F. Liaison with other local Catholic Schools

St Anne's is federated with St Martin's Catholic School.

In addition, we have a close relationship with The Oratory School from where we have a governor and we receive student reading volunteers. We are also involved in and attend meetings for 2 other Catholic Cluster groups

- GRCC
- Local diocesan Cluster group