



Holy Name Catholic Primary School Religious Education Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

"With Jesus as our guide: We love, live and learn together."

God in His Love has created each one of us as unique. God is therefore at the very heart of our school. Each member of our school community, adults and children are on a journey.

It is our role to teach the message of the Gospels. The Gospel values of trust, honesty, forgiveness, loving and caring for one another are part of our everyday life.

All our curriculum must reflect these values and in our search for excellence each individual must be encouraged to use God's gift fully to realise his/her potential.

Introduction:

As a Catholic school we strive to bring faith and culture together, relating and applying the freshness of Christ's message to human living today. As a Catholic School our identity is not exclusively related to religious instruction but is integrated throughout academic studies into a unified whole. "Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst 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, 1988).

We offer the possibility not only of exploring the mystery which God is, but also demonstrating and living the Gospel values. The School strives to be consistent throughout and in every aspect reflect the Christian faith, which is its inspiration and its justification.

Religious Education comes into every aspect of School life, particularly into the need for a secure and caring environment which will encourage a positive attitude to life; foster satisfactory relationships with others and facilitate attitudes which characterise the School.

Religious Education will take as its starting point the child's individual appreciation of an inner world of meaning and reflection – the spiritual dimension of being human. Our aim in school is to promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God and to develop, nurture and deepen each child's faith journey, no matter what stage of that journey they are at.

We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this. Through the teaching and way of life we hope to promote in the school, we aim to actively implement our school's mission statement, fulfil the aims of our school and live the gospel of our Blessed Lord within our school.

Aims of Religious Education:

Religious Education in our school should:

- Nurture children's faith
- Promote in a gradual way their understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice
- Develop their involvement with the Church and School Community
- Help pupils to develop personal, spiritual and moral values, respect and tolerance for others and an understanding of interdependence between groups and nations
- Develop the skills required to be able to examine and reflect on religious belief and practice, including those from other faiths and cultures
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder
- Involve parents in the spiritual development of their child

Curriculum Planning:

Holy Name Catholic Primary School has adopted the Archdiocese scheme; Learning and Growing as the People of God. The scheme provides progression from Reception to Year 6 in the key areas of Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life of Christ. It also allows opportunities for monitoring and assessment. The scheme is intended to link in with other curricular areas and it should be resourced by using Bibles, Sacramental programmes, multicultural resources and other resources appropriate to the programme of study.

R.E. is allocated 10% of the curriculum in line with the expectations of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

All teaching staff plan for and teach a multi-faith scheme of work according to their year group. This allows the children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other faiths in the world, as well as exploring similarities and differences between and within religion. Through these lessons, they are given opportunities to reflect on the benefits and challenges of living in a multi-cultural and diverse society.

When a thematic approach is adopted, RE is effectively brought into other areas of the curriculum such as English, Creative, Art and Design, Science etc. This will ensure that RE is encountered across the curriculum. Furthermore teachers will provide, where appropriate, opportunities for pupils to apply and develop their computing skills through RE.

ASSESSMENT IN RE

Assessment for Learning:

Each child has an R.E. exercise book, which is marked after every R.E. lesson. Throughout the marking, the children are provided with opportunities to answer 'close the gap' questions to further develop their understanding. As well as marking in books, teachers make observations during the RE lessons to assess children's next steps and adapt planning appropriately to cater for children's needs. Recording of children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, wall display, assemblies, discussions etc.

End of Unit Assessments:

The Monitoring and Assessment Focus follows a four year rolling programme, where one strand each year is assessed. Three units of work are assessed each year. Teachers assess each child in the class against the criteria provided in the diocesan scheme. The assessments are recorded and kept centrally on the school's teacher shared area. Samples of work from these assessed units are collected and stored in an R.E. Assessment folder, monitored regularly by the R.E. Curriculum and Assessment Manager. Baseline assessment is carried out when children enter reception class.

It is also the responsibility of the R.E. Curriculum and Assessment Manager to monitor and review progress of groups of children in RE across the whole school and share the findings with the whole staff so that improvements can be made. Staff moderate R.E. judgements on a regular basis and moderation of R.E. work takes place in collaboration with other local Catholic primary schools.

Reporting to Parents:

Each child's progress in R.E. will be reported to parents three times a year, through parental consultations in the autumn and spring terms, and through a written end of year report. During parental consultations, the class teachers discuss the child's R.E. learning and progress with parents.

Display:

In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school, displays of a religious nature are evident in each classroom and all around the school building throughout the year.

An area e.g. a board and altar / prayer focus in each classroom is assigned to R.E. and the children's work displayed with other relevant material. A crucifix, a candle, a Bible, statues, artefacts and posters are prominently displayed whenever possible and changed on a regular basis.

The hall boards are linked to the Liturgical calendar - each year group is responsible for a hall board on a rota basis. The display boards in the reception area are also completed on a rota basis.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The RE Co-ordinator will work in close consultation with the senior leadership team, parish priest and R.E. link governor.

The RE Co-ordinator will:

- be familiar with each year group of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' and be available to individual teachers for guidance and support and keep staff informed of current thinking in RE and any new materials / publications
- distribute and provide training on relevant assessment proformas
- ensure that the school attends RE courses and cluster meetings and that the information gained is disseminated to staff
- arrange and organise INSET training to meet the needs of school staff
- monitor the progress of the Birmingham Diocesan RE programme and assessment in line with the second edition of "Levels of Attainment in Religious Education" (Bishop's Conference 2007) throughout the school through evaluating planning, assessments and where possible classroom observations
- organise rotas for Masses in consultation with the parish priest and rotas for assemblies and liturgical displays
- be responsible for cataloguing materials and the management of the RE budget
- provide information and support Sacramental preparation and meetings with parents
- establish and work closely with the school Spiritual Council to choose, plan and lead appropriate faith activities across the whole school
- arrange the monitoring and evaluation of prayer corners and RE related activities e.g. Rosary groups, prayer bags with children and look to improve such activities based on feedback given.
- Liaise with other local Catholic Primary Schools to moderate work to quality assure RE judgements.
- organise whole school Masses and Parish Masses in consultation with the parish priest

Class teacher:

- is responsible for daily collective acts of worship within the classroom
- is responsible for promoting home/school links via the prayer bag system and for updating the prayer bags to make them relevant to unit of work
- is responsible for seeking the opportunity to assess the children's knowledge and understanding
- should seek to attend courses and inform the RE Co-ordinator if they feel further development is needed
- responsible for delivering the programme of study ' Learning and Growing as the People of God' and utilise RE resources.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship is an integral part of school life at Holy Name Catholic Primary School. All staff recognise the important role played by prayer as means of expressing and fostering faith. Different forms of collective worship that take place at our school include:

- During the week pupils from all year groups gather together for whole school assemblies and liturgies.
- Mass is celebrated on a weekly basis in school or church and classes take it in turns to lead the Mass (many members of the Parish and School Community join us to celebrate Mass as the Mass dates and times are published in the school and parish newsletters).
- As a school, we gather for whole school masses on Holy Days of Obligation.
- The children take part in regular hymn practices in preparation for school masses and assemblies, feast days and carol services.
- Children are taught daily prayers and also various prayers and responses of the Mass as appropriate to their age and stage of development (based on Diocesan guidelines)

- Each classroom has a dedicated prayer area where the class pray at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Time and opportunities are given for personal prayer and reflection.
- Our Spiritual Council gather together on a regular basis to discuss the faith in our school and they actively lead faith and spiritual activities in school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Teachers and altar servers are aware of the risk and correct procedure for lighting candles.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in Year Three. The Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme is followed. To support this, the 'We Prepare' Reconciliation and Communion books are used as a link school and home. Preparation for these sacraments involves meetings and masses throughout the year. These are attended by parents, teachers and the parish priest. During preparation for these sacraments, parents are seen as a vital part of the teaching and are asked to take part alongside their children.

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year Six. Parents and families are invited to meetings. The Year Six Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' Programme is followed with parents encouraged to work with their children.

Throughout the preparation great emphasis is placed on the children being responsible for the undertaking and commitment involved, to come to know the Holy Spirit better and to relate to Him as a real person who is alive in the life of the Church and in their own lives.

Both Years Three and Six attend a Mass of Commitment at Sunday Mass to initiate their Sacramental preparation.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS:

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

With regard to the sacramental preparation in Years Three and Six, all children follow the units of work in the Curriculum Strategy and extra support is provided for those who will be receiving the Sacraments.