

St Joseph's RC Primary School



Religious Education Policy



St Joseph's R.C. Primary School

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St Joseph's RC Primary Mission Statement

'I came so that you may have life - and have it to the full' John
10:10

At St Joseph's we recognise the uniqueness of each child and provide opportunities and experiences so that they may **challenge themselves** and become the best that they can be.

We endeavour to raise the aspirations of our children and teach them how to become responsible and productive members of the community.

We encourage children to recognise their value and place in the world and teach them to reach out, through prayers and actions, to those in need.

St Joseph's is a happy and safe place in which to learn. We provide this environment knowing that children learn, grow and develop best when they are secure in their surroundings.

We do all this under the safety of God's love and protection.

What is Religious Education?

Religious Education is:

- the spiritual development of each individual
- the communication of our Catholic beliefs and values
- an awareness of being members of God's loving family and belonging to the family of St. Joseph's school

Religious Education is a partnership between school, home and parish and our school promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our pupils. Another important aspect of Religious Education is to encourage Christian living within our school, our homes and in our community. Providing conditions in which all children will develop a greater love and knowledge of God which grows from their experience of the love and kindness they receive

from others. Prayer and worship help to develop a relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Why do we Teach Religious Education?

Through Religious Education, we aim to develop knowledge, concepts and attitudes in our pupils which will enable them to grow in the understanding and love of God. St. Joseph's Primary is a Roman Catholic School where the staff and children live and share the Catholic faith. The school's function in relation to Religious Education is to encourage the partnership between parish, home and school so that there is a deepening and growth in faith. Religious Education underpins our whole philosophy of education and is the starting point for our Mission Statement.

How do we Teach Religious Education?

In order to deliver 'The RE Curriculum Directory' we utilise as our main scheme the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education which has been approved and recommended by the Diocese of Salford. 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' and 'Caritas in Action' are also available to teachers as they plan and develop their lessons.

We follow the Church's Liturgical year celebrating important times, e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Holy days and feast days. Throughout the year assemblies are prepared and parents and parishioners are invited.

The staff work closely with the Parish Priest and catechists in preparation with the children at different stages during the Sacramental programme and attend the Parish celebrations. All staff are responsible for Religious Education which is taught daily in all classes, but the Christian character of our school permeates across the curriculum and affects the ethos and environment of the school community.

The Religious Education curriculum occupies 10% of our time but it links into all other areas of the curriculum. It is the responsibility of all members of staff to teach Religious Education and show, by their example, Christian living in our school.

The school provides opportunities where staff, children, parents and parishioners experience and celebrate our faith by means of assemblies, class Masses, school liturgies and Nativity and Easter plays.

Equal Opportunities

We endeavour to give children equal access to all areas of education regardless of gender, race or disability. Whenever appropriate we present positive images of all cultures.

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

We will provide an inclusive curriculum which will meet the needs of all pupils, where the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every learner matters. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- Using a variety of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty to challenge and develop depth of thought and understanding
- Providing resources of different complexity, adapted to the ability of the child
- Providing Teaching assistants to encourage and support the work of identified individuals or groups of children.

Special Educational Needs

Appropriate assistance will be provided in a variety of ways including

- Using a range of learning styles
- Using pupil's ideas and motivations as a starting point for learning
- Adjusting the demand of the task as appropriate for the child.

Other Religions

We hold 'World Religion' days in school that give us an opportunity to learn about people of other religions. We share our planet with people who hold different beliefs or with people of no faith. We feel it is important to learn about others in order to be able to confidently share our own beliefs and still love and respect everyone.

The 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education allows us to explore religious questioning about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith and to explore links with the experiences of other faiths. We aim to promote an opening of the mind and heart in the search for truth about God, respect for people of other faiths and a willingness to recognise good wherever it exists, as they become familiar with the life of Jesus through the Gospels.

Curriculum links

The aims of the RE curriculum should also be actively, creatively promoted through other areas of the curriculum. This should not only be in our approach but specifically introducing religious aspects into lessons. ie sacred music, religious art, how religion affected our history etc.

Teaching and Learning

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Teaching and Learning in RE enables children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. Homework tasks based around the RE curriculum give children an opportunity to extend their thinking. We regularly visit our Parish church and participate in collective celebration events.

Assessment, monitoring, recording and reporting

- RE books are marked according to the school's Marking Policy. Where possible feedback is given with the marking focus relating directly to the learning objective. It should highlight the strengths and the next steps for learning.
- All marking provides opportunities for the teachers to assess where the children are at and to inform their future planning.
- Teacher Assessment is continual throughout the year and might be as a result of a piece of work, a conversation, a reflection at a collective act of worship, answers given in class/group discussions or SMSC responses to all areas of the curriculum.
- Religious Education will be formally assessed on a termly basis. We work with the Diocese and cluster schools to assess standards, sharing books and assessments, to moderate and confirm levels of attainment in relation to each other.
- Each teacher records pupil attainment on our tracking system.
- Book scrutiny helps to identify areas of strength and those for development.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out half termly. Lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutinies are carried out by the SLT and relevant subject coordinators each half term on the monitoring cycle.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors annually.

Wider community

At St Joseph's RC Primary School we encourage parents to be involved by attending:

- School Celebration Masses.
- Weekly Good News assemblies
- Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Summer terms.
- Sacramental Programme meetings and celebrations.
- Curriculum evenings.
- Charity fundraising events
- Sports events
- Classroom activities
- World religion days

We also attend singing and musical concerts, particularly around Christmas time, at Hope Hospital, a local Community café and a local residential home.

Our website provides information for the Parish community and we work closely with our Parish Priest to be involved in Parish Celebrations.

Management of RE

Mrs T Hayes is the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader and has responsibility for managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. She is assisted by Mrs M Harris, the Deputy Headteacher and Mr A Schilling Headteacher. Please see appendix for RE coordinator's Job description.

Revision	Date	Change
1	Spring 2018	Addition to - What is Religious Education?
2	Spring 2018	Addition to - Why do we Teach Religious Education?
3	Spring 2018	Amendment of paragraph 1 - How do we Teach Religious Education?
4	Spring 2018	Amendments and merger – Equal Opportunities and Inclusion
5	Spring 2018	Addition to - Other Religions

6	Spring 2018	Additions and amendments to - Assessment, monitoring, recording and reporting.
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