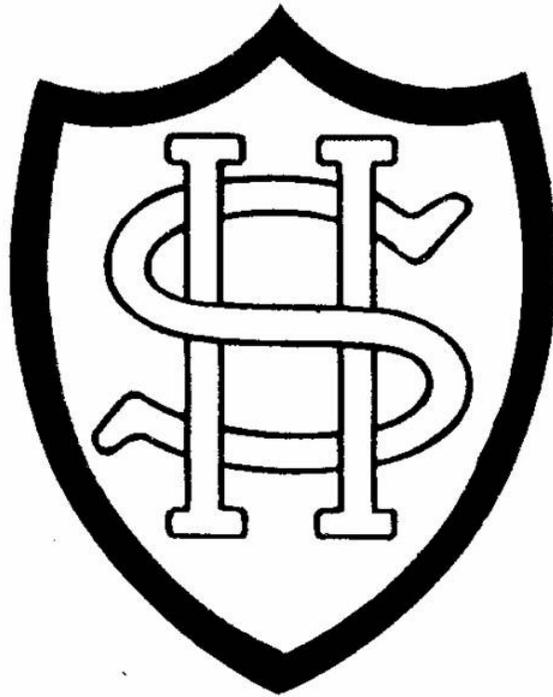


**Sacred Heart Catholic
Primary School**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
POLICY**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

THIS DOCUMENT IS a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning of Religious Education at Sacred Heart School.

THIS POLICY IS REVIEWED annually.

THIS POLICY takes into account the National Curriculum statutory requirements, the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools produced by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales and any Diocesan or LEA recommendations.

OUR VISION

**At Sacred Heart School
we provide an excellent education for all
which encompasses
spiritual, intellectual, moral and social growth
within a friendly, secure and stimulating
environment;
where everyone is valued
and encouraged to develop fully;
where we are committed
to raising standards and achievement
throughout the school community
in an orderly and industrious atmosphere;
where Gospel values
are at the heart of the school and are shared
with the wider community around us.**

EXCELLENCE THROUGH FAITH AND LEARNING

A Child-friendly version of Our Vision is used throughout the school.

OUR AIMS

Our overall aim is to provide a school where everyone feels happy and secure and are encouraged to develop their full potential, physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, creatively and spiritually.

Within our Catholic community of Sacred Heart School we aim to encourage everyone to:

- live by the Gospel values
- respond to a broad, balanced curriculum that is relevant to the children's age, ability, experience and differentiated to meet their needs in line with statutory requirements
- work towards and maintain the highest standards
- celebrate success and achievement
- develop a positive image of themselves with a sense of self discipline and a respect for others
- inspire and awaken a sense of awe, wonder and curiosity
- be responsible members of the wider community.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – POLICY DOCUMENT

PURPOSE

Through our teaching and the way of life we hope to promote within the school, we aim to implement Our Vision Statement, fulfil the aims of our school and live according to Gospel values.

AIMS

We aim to develop within our children a trusting, loving and personal relationship with God by introducing them to the whole mystery of Christ, through his teachings in the Gospel. This, in turn, should enable the children to have a positive attitude towards themselves and in their relationship with others.

WE AIM to ensure that:

- Children develop in their knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God, Jesus Christ and the Church, and of the central beliefs of the Catholic Faith.
- Children develop an awareness and appreciation of the Christian values and an understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour.
- Children are brought to an understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to develop the traditions of our Catholic Faith.
- Positive attitudes towards people of other faiths are developed
- A spiritual dimension is given to the lives of all the children
- There is a deepening knowledge and love of Christ through the receiving of the Sacraments of the Church
- Children are given an opportunity to reflect and evaluate on their own attitudes to life and their relationships with others.
- The liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school.

BROAD OUTLINES

Every individual within the school is a valued member of our Christian community and has a vital role play in relation to the teaching of Religious Education within the school.

Life within the school reflects a living faith in which Prayer, worship and Religious Education form the very foundation of our school practice and are seen to permeate all areas of the curriculum.

In school we work together to provide an atmosphere in which every child is helped to reach their full potential, promoting within each child a positive self image, a sense of ownership and a natural curiosity. We hope to build in our school a community based on the Gospel values, prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love, forgiveness and peace.

The school provides positive Catholic teaching based upon the "Come and See" scheme. The Masses, Liturgies, Assemblies and Prayer are an integral part of our teaching.

THE ROLE OF THE R.E. CO-ORDINATOR is to

- develop and extend, with the Headteacher and Parish Priest, the Catholic ethos of the school in relation to worship, prayer, scripture, assembly and the school's Mission Statement.
- take the lead in policy development and the production of schemes of work designed to ensure progression and continuity in R.E. throughout the school.
- Support colleagues in their development of detailed work plans, implementation of the schemes of work and assessment and record keeping activities.
- Monitor Teaching and Learning in R.E. and advise the Headteacher on action needed.
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for R.E.
- Together with other members of staff, the co-ordinator organises displays and opportunities to celebrate children's achievements in Religious Education.
- Develops links between home, school, parish, diocese and the wider community
- Keep up-to-date with developments in R.E. and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme. The programme has been developed to respond to the needs of children today in their faith journey, to enable them to grow in their religious literacy and in their faith journey and understanding in a way that is coherent with current educational principles. Links are also made with other faith traditions.

Skills

The acquisition of skills is essential as a means to increasing knowledge and understanding. A skill is an ability or aptitude developed through training and practice. The development of a skill depends on attitudes of self-respect and respect for others.

The skills we aim to address are:

- Investigation skills
- Interpretation skills
- Communication skills
- Critical skills
- Affective and Social skills
- Evaluation skills
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These skills should be common across the Key Stages 1 and 2.

Attitudes

Through programmes of study and the skills developed, it is our intention to help pupils develop the following attitudes:

- A respect for oneself
- A respect for others
- An awareness of responsibilities towards others. A feeling of charity reconciliation and justice for all.
- Respect and sensitivity in relating to others, their views, opinions and beliefs
- A sense of personal dignity
- A sense of personal responsibility
- A clear sense of right and wrong
- A sense of self-esteem and self-knowledge
- A correct respect for authority
- An openness to truth
- An awareness of the presence of God in self, others and in the world

Informing Parents

Parents are invited into the school to see teaching staff twice a year to discuss their children's progress and development in all curriculum areas including R.E. At the end of the academic year parents are given an annual report which comments on children's level of religious knowledge, and the skills and attitudes developed.

It is a welcoming school and parents, governors and friends are warmly invited and encouraged to attend our class and whole school assemblies, Masses, Liturgies and any other special occasions.

Parents are sent a 'Come and See' leaflet at the beginning of each term to inform them of topics being covered in that term, plus dates of R.E. related activities.

Resources

A wide range of material resources are used in the school to supplement the "Come and See" syllabus, which forms the basis of our school approach to the teaching of R.E. Class sets of God's Story and the Church's Story support the teaching of 'Come and See'.

Each class teacher has their own copy of the 'Come and See' folder and each class has its own collection of books, Children's Prayer Books and Bibles.

Boxes of artefacts are available to all staff in a central store area. These include boxes to support Multi faith topics.

All documentation, including Diocesan, Central Government and Local Authority are kept on file by the Headteacher and R.E. Co-ordinator.

These resources are continually reviewed and updated.

At school we recognise that people are our greatest resource and that teachers "take the place of Christ" in relation to the children understanding of the Catholic Faith. Therefore we work to promote respect, love, understanding, compassion, kindness, dedication and personal growth.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Recording of children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, wall displays, assemblies, etc. Each classroom has a R.E. corner with display boards and tables as a focus for prayer.

All children keep a 'Come and See' book throughout the year.

Children are assessed on their knowledge of scripture, understanding of God's message, their moral development and attitudes.

A formal assessment of one topic takes place each term.

Staff Training and Involvement

Frequent and regular staff meetings are held to discuss the teaching of Religion in school.

The R.E. Co-ordinator attends termly meetings, twice yearly conferences and other relevant courses and reports back to the rest of the staff.

The teaching of the "Come and See" topics takes place in the classroom, through a selection of differentiated activities including storytelling, role play, painting, discussion, reading and independent research. The amount of time recommended by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales is about 10% of available curriculum time. However, R.E. is taught in a cross-curricular way in addition to explicit subject teaching.

The School Community

Parents and other interested visitors are invited to participate in our celebration of Mass, Assemblies, etc.

At Sacred Heart we aim to develop in the children, concern and charity towards others in the community. As part of our development strategies we involve the children in charity fund-raising events throughout the year, the most notable being our Harvest Festival and Lenten Fund Raising event. At Harvest time, children are encouraged to bring gifts of food which are displayed at Mass and sold in aid of the current CAFOD project. During Lent all the children participate in activities, the money raised going to CAFOD. We also collect money for the Cabrini Children's Society, and support a number of local charities.

It is hoped that through these and other activities children become aware of the needs of others both near and far, and develop sensitivity, generosity and a sense of responsibility towards their neighbours in Christ.

Prayer

Children are taught daily prayers, the responses of the Mass, and other special prayers as appropriate to their age and stage of development. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer and an R.E. corner. Children pray together with their teacher at the beginning and end of the day and also at lunchtime.

Reviewed & Updated: September 2015

Next review date: September 2016

Opportunities for spontaneous prayer and individual reflection exist both in collective worship and in the classroom.

Active participation of all staff is necessary for a successful school policy.

As far as possible, each year one Inset Day is devoted to some aspect of Religious Education.

Sacramental Preparation

The children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the school and parish community by catechists and their parents under the direction of the Parish Priest. As a school we are part of the catechetical team and through the teaching of R.E. support the First Holy Communion programme and provide the knowledge to back up the programme. In school we celebrate the First Holy Communion by having a special Mass to which we invite catechists, spiritual directors, parents and families.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually, initially by the staff and governors at the school.

Success Criteria

- To have met the requirements outlined in Levels of Attainment in Religious Education.
- To be nearer achieving an ethos, which attributes dignity and worth to all in the school community.
- To be creating an environment where the Gospel Values, prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love and forgiveness are seen to be at work.
- To have brought children to a truer understanding of the Catholic Faith.
- To have led children to have respect for other races, faiths, religions and ways of life.