

St Theresa's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy and Guidance

Our Mission

“To do the little things well”

Our mission is inspired by our patron Saint – St Theresa of Lisieux. By using and referring to our mission statement, our vision and our values on a daily basis, we can ensure that we are building a strong Christian Community where all children and adults feel valued.

Our Vision

- To be a school that lives the Gospel values through our thoughts, words and actions; every day; in every little way;
 - To be the best;
- To educate our children to reach their full potential and to be brilliant;
 - To ignite a love of learning, curiosity and interests;
 - To inspire our children to have ambition for themselves;
- To be a school that inspires, encourages and values every individual.

Our Core Values

To carry out our roles within the school:

- with love for the people we serve;
- with respect for everyone;
- with pride in ourselves and our school;
- with compassion and understanding of everyone’s needs and challenges;
 - without excuses – solutions, not problems;
 - with hope, high aspirations and strong ambition;
- with kindness, happiness and gentleness – our job is a privilege;
 - with tolerance, inclusion and without prejudice;
 - with honesty, integrity and humility;
 - with forgiveness.

Rationale

At St Theresa's we place Religious Education at the heart of our curriculum and school philosophy and we ensure that as much emphasis is placed on personal, spiritual and moral formation as on academic progress. Religious Education underpins, stimulates and makes whole the educational and catechetical activity of our entire school community thus supporting our aim to develop skills and attitudes that will serve our children and others both now and in their future lives.

For those already engaged in the journey of faith, Religious Education will be catechesis, and for some children Religious Education will be evangelization, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel.

Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012

Religious Education allows our pupils to explore the mystery of faith through scripture and tradition and to understand and express their own response to spiritual and religious approaches to life through the study of Christian and other principal religions. At St Theresa's we teach Religious Education in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory through the local Archdiocese's Religious Education programme of work 'Come and See' which reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the rich diversity of religious practice found in modern society.

We are aware that under the Education Act 1996 we must provide Religious Education for all registered pupils and we acknowledge that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child(ren) wholly or partly from Religious Education without providing a reason.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. We believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Aims

- To facilitate the development of knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life and its impact on personal and social behaviour.
- To facilitate understanding of the significance of religion and its contribution to our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by pupils.
- To encourage children's engagement with the deepest questions of life and to develop an understanding of the response of faith to these questions.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of other religions.
- To help pupils respect different religions by exploring issues within and between them in order to develop a positive attitude towards living in a religiously diverse society.
- To work with other schools to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age, ability and capacity to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

*Religious Education
Curriculum Directory, 2012*

Teaching and Learning

Through high quality teaching and learning we want our pupils to:

- learn about religious traditions;
- reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them;
- extend their own sense of values;
- promote their own spiritual growth and development

Curriculum Planning

Religious Education is the core subject in our school's curriculum. It requires rigorous academic discipline, and as such is taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as other core subjects.

All long, medium and short term planning is based on the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus 'Come and See.'

Central to the program are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith to God as trinity: Creator, Saviour, Sprit; and personal: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit;

Where do I come from? Life – Creation

Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation

Why am I here? Purpose - Redemption

The scheme follows a one year cycle with the three central themes (Church, Sacrament and Christian Living) being explored by each class group via differing topics that ensure continuity and progression throughout the academic program.

Religious Education at St Theresa's has links to English, History, Geography, Art, PSHE and Citizenship, Equal Opportunities and Ethnic Diversity.

Differentiation

Suitable opportunities are provided for all children by matching the level of support or resource to the ability and experience of the child.

We plan for individual needs, differentiating to allow all to achieve, building self-esteem and fulfilling our aim to give all pupils the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

We differentiate by:

- using the driver words to meet the attainment levels and needs of the children
- setting common open ended tasks;
- setting challenging tasks;
- using additional resources to support the work of individual children or groups of children;
- using TA, teacher or peer support by partnering pupils of different abilities to complete tasks

We recognise the need to tailor our approach to support children with:

- special educational needs;
- as well as those who are identified as gifted and talented

All children at this school are taught Religious Education whatever their ability, race or gender.

Assessment and Recording

We assess children's progress through a system of informal observation, questioning, and assessment of written work which supports teaching and learning and informs future planning. We complete formal assessments each term which are selected and agreed by our Archdiocese. The RE co-ordinators collect formal assessments each term for moderation of attainment levels. As a staff we also dedicate staff meeting time to the moderation of children's work to ensure that judgments are sound. Children's workbooks are also scrutinised for standard of presentation, continuity and progression, differentiation, breadth and balance and range of types of written work.

Resources

The RE coordinators keep all staff up to date with new developments and resources. Published resources that support the scheme of work are kept in school. Staff also access online resources via the Come and See Website. This includes planning documents and resources such as power-point, scripture, photos and videos.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the RE co-ordinators and will be reviewed annually by the Governing body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Theresa's Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with the staff two years from the date below.

Signed ...Fr. P. Swanson..... (Chair of Governors)

Date 3.9.19