



## Religious Education Policy



### *Our Lady's Catholic Primary School*

COMMITTEE: Local Academy Committee

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### 1. Introduction

Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

The Religious Education provided in a Catholic School cannot be confined to teaching and learning specifically devoted to R.E. We seek to ensure that the message and spirit of the Gospel permeates all aspects of school life. Through teaching, example, worship and shared Christian values, we are helping to further, with family and the parish, the work of the awakening and fostering of a living and personal faith throughout our school community in keeping with our school mission statement.

### 2. Aims

The Aims of Religious Education in Our Lady’s Catholic Primary School will include the following:

- To create a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment
- To deepen knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through prayer and the Gospels
- Helping to foster pupil’s awareness that our Christian faith is not just a subject for learning but a complete way of life
- To promote the spiritual and moral development of the children
- Knowledge and love of Christ within the Sacraments
- To lead the children to a living and active faith by helping them to become aware of God’s presence in their lives, to listen to Him and to respond to His invitation to enter into a personal relationship with Him through prayer

- To give the children the experience of a Christian caring and inclusive community where all members are valued
- The needs of all our children knowing that some of them will be from committed Catholic homes while others will not
- The celebration of RE for our pupils through shared assemblies and liturgies
- To involve parents/carers in the spiritual development of their children
- Positive attitudes towards people of other faiths and other religious traditions in relation to God

### 3. Entitlement

*We are all God's children and there is no one else like us. We are unique. We are all different and we have the right to feel safe all of the time.*

RE is regarded as the heart of the curriculum enriching and informing all areas of learning. RE must always deepen pupils understanding of Catholic belief and contribute to their education in the Catholic faith.

Religious Education gives shape and is linked to the whole curriculum; every part of it is ultimately related to God. We teach to further children's faith development not only through lessons and activities relating to a formal scheme, but through prayer and worship and most importantly by examples.

To fulfil our aims and objectives of educating all our children in religion we use the religious scheme "Come and See". We use a whole school approach that explores the same topic at the same time, though of course at the appropriate level of the year group.

The "Come and See" scheme also incorporates pupils learning about other faiths. Visits from speakers representing other Christian denominations and other faith groups will be encouraged in order to strengthen links with the wider community.

Religious Education is taught for 10% of curriculum time in all classes. EYFS and KS1 – 2 hours a week KS2 – 2½ hours a week All teachers are responsible for developing the RE of the pupils in their class. The RE Subject Leader and the Chaplaincy Team are always willing to support all teacher, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, with their planning and in preparing lessons.

RE lends itself to all areas of the curriculum like a golden thread it weaves in and out of all areas and each term will have a focus of one of our school values founded upon on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is a collection of nine key attributes which when followed can ensure that students not only become better versions of themselves in God's image, they can also positively influence the lives of others. According to the Epistle to the Galatians 5:22-23:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such there is no law."

These create the foundation for spiritual reflection throughout the year and will continue to be threaded throughout each child's journey through our school. Those continuous threads intertwine to help shape our children's spiritual, moral and social compass that will lead them successfully through life.

#### 4. Planning, assessment and monitoring

All staff complete the medium term RE planning sheets -The RE Subject Leader is always available to support new members of staff with their planning.

Pupil's work is recorded in a variety of ways e.g. pictorial, written, wall displays and photographic evidence.

Feedback is given according to the feedback policy. It is marked sensitively and positively. Often oral feedback is given to children when their work is being corrected – especially in KS1 or when the children are taking part in verbal presentations, class discussions and debates.

Teachers assess pupil's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Catholic belief and practice appropriate to their age and development, their knowledge of scripture, understanding of God's message and their moral development and attitudes.

A record of achievement for each pupils is updated termly by each class teacher.

Pupil's progress is reported to parents informally during parent's consultations and formally at the end of the year in pupil's annual reports.

#### 5. Staff and responsibilities

**The RE Subject Leader will:**

- Support staff in the teaching, assessing and evaluating of RE within the school
- Support the Chaplaincy Team in developing RE throughout the School
- Attend Diocesan and OLICAT RE Subject Leaders' Meetings and other meetings as required and report back to colleagues any relevant information
- Lead Staff Meetings where RE is the theme and present 'in-service' sessions for colleagues where necessary
- Promote and monitor the progress of 'Come and See' throughout the school
- Develop a bank of RE resources to support RE teaching and to identify and request additional resources that are required in conjunction with the Chaplaincy Team

- Support the Chaplaincy Team to conduct an annual evaluation of work done throughout the school for presentation to Governors in the Summer Term.

#### **Each Class Teacher:**

- Helps children to develop their knowledge of God and their relationship with Him through scripture, prayer and reflection.
- Prepares, plans and delivers the RE Curriculum to their respective class of children
- Introduces children to the Liturgical Feasts and Seasons of the Church
- Provides regular opportunity for Prayer
- Will create stimulating and interesting RE displays within their classroom
- Will prepare Class assemblies and Year Group assemblies.
- During the academic year will be involved in the preparation of School Masses with the support of the School Chaplain and/or RE Subject Leaders

## **6. Resources**

Each Classroom will have:

A Crucifix/cross and candle

A Prayer Corner

Children's Bible (*additional Bibles are available in the School Library*)

Altar Cloths

Holding Cross

Virtual Prayer Bags are posted on the school web site and parents notified

## **7. Links with Home and Parish**

Following consultation with the School Chaplain and Parish Priest, the Headteacher will appoint a member of staff to act as the School/Home/Parish Link, whose responsibilities will rest with the Headteacher

In keeping with our School Mission Statement, it is most important that all members of our School Community strive to create an atmosphere of respect and friendship between themselves, their families and our parish family as well as all who visit our school.

The majority of our pupils live within the parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Wellingborough and several have been baptised in the parish. However, it is recognised that many, despite having been baptised, come from homes where the practice of their faith is limited. Therefore, those pupils have very little experience of belonging to a parish family except of course that which is offered in school. It is most important that all members of our School Community are treated equally and are welcome to take part in all activities in the life of our school.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

A meeting for the parents of children about to enter the Foundation Stage is held in the second half of the Summer Term. In conjunction with Home Visits to all families by Early Years teachers/staff. Through this important contact within their own home, a relationship of trust is built between the home and school. Close contact is maintained throughout the Foundation Stage.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

Children in Year 3 follow a specific Sacramental preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. This preparation is completed as a partnership between the school, the parish and the parents. The School support in the teaching of this programme whilst ensuring that the Year 3 'Come & See' curriculum is delivered.

Through teaching units in the 'Come & See' programme, children in Year 6 will be given an introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation. This then continues through partnership between the parish and the parents.

### **Parish Groups**

Our Parish is blessed with a number of organised Groups to which our children are invited to join. Currently these include:

- Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- TLC (The Liturgy Club) held at the beginning of the 10.30am Sunday Mass for those children from Reception to Year 3

## **8. Monitoring and reporting**

This policy will be reviewed every two years. The RE Lead will submit a report annually to the governors.

## **9. Links with other policies and documents**

This policy links to our policies on

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Chaplaincy and Catholic Life Policy