

St. Pius Xth Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy



St Pius X RCVA Primary School Policy for Religious Education

Mission Statement

The Motto of our school's patron Saint, Pius X is To Restore

All things in Christ

St Pius X RCVA Primary School is like a family, where everyone is welcomed; where everyone is loved, respected and cared for; where everyone is helped to achieve their very best and where God is at the heart of everything we do.

We endeavour to support all members of the school community in discovering and developing their own special talents and gifts whilst fostering a love of learning, a wonder of creation, a respect for themselves and others, and a desire to be the best people they can be.

Our aim therefore is to deliver the whole curriculum in Christ, enabling ALL of our pupils to learn and be nurtured in a warm, supportive and inclusive school where stakeholders are committed to raising the aspirations, access and attainment of all learners.

We value:

- each individual
- the teachings of the Catholic church and respect for our traditions alongside those of other cultures
- a well-rounded curriculum that encompasses both academic, creative, artistic, technological and extra-curricular activity
- high standards, ensuring everyone reaches their potential and celebrate personal successes and achievements both in and out of school
- tolerance and respect for others, facilitating equality of opportunity and a respect for other faiths and cultures in school and in the wider community
- the development of responsible and considerate citizens who have a respect for diversity and human rights
- a variety of opportunities for every pupil to discover their own talents and be challenged and inspired
- the building of self-esteem so that pupils develop the confidence to have open hearts, open minds and the courage to be true to themselves

- development of resilience, determination and desire to achieve
- enthusiasm, commitment and self-discipline
- parents and carers and the partnership between home, school and parish

Rationale of Religious Education

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church. 'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'¹
- Religious Education is 'the core of the core curriculum.' 'Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school.... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.'

Religious Education is the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ and is a rigorous academic subject in its own right. Religious Education is regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines.² As such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. "Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material."³

- The outcome of Classroom Religious Education is: "religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life".⁴
- Whilst evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

¹ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

² Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

³ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 7

⁴ Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.⁵

Religious Education – Curriculum Time Allocation

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ – the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Process

Religious Education is taught through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation and the response in faith.

⁵ Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.

As the Directory states:

'Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'⁶

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted

appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. Inclusion

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Inclusion

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

Right to Withdraw

Parents of pupils in schools are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and or collective worship given at school and any request shall stand until such time that a parent's request is withdrawn.⁷

If a pupil is withdrawn from religious education and/or collective worship we have the duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra costs.

Other Religions

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism, which is usually taught in the Autumn, and Islam, which is taught either in the Spring or Summer. At least one week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

⁶ Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.7

⁷ Catholic Education Service Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious and/or collective worship in schools in England

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in the Age-Related Standards in RE agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- Class teachers keep annotated book samples
- An in-house moderation meeting is held every term.
- Examples of children's work are taken to moderation meetings held by the Diocese in the summer term
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is the responsibility of the RE coordinator and the Headteacher
- Pupils are assessed as part of ongoing assessment by class teachers and reported back to the headteacher and the RE Coordinator.
- 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 and through the RE Governor's regular visits.

Management of the Subject

Miss Crilly, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE Coordinator, Headteacher and Chair of Governors and updated every two years.