

St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School

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Catholic Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

“We learn together, we play together, we pray together, we grow together in the love of God”

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Validation Grid

Title	Religious Education Policy
Author	Barbara Costa
Associate Author	N/A
Committee	RE
Target Audience	All Staff, parents
Stakeholders Consulted	Governors
Curriculum / Non Curricular	Non Curricular
Associated Policies / Documents	Relationships and Sex Education
New Policy or Review of Existing Policy	New
Date of Submission	May 2021
Date for Review	May 2022
Review Term	Annual
Statutory	No

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Chair of Governors *Seamus McKenna* Seamus McKenna

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The recognition of the significance of Religious Education in the classroom is expressed in the Bishops Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools as:

'Therefore, religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.'

'Religious education is then, the core subject in a Catholic School.'

1. Aims

At St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School (St. Theresa's / we / school), we aim to:

- Assist the children in developing a loving and fulfilling relationship with God.
- Encourage the children to recognise God's presence in their lives and His unfailing love.
- Develop the children's knowledge and understanding of their Catholic Faith.
- Develop the spiritual awareness of the children e.g. a sense of wonder at creation.
- Ensure the development of children's religious experience and understanding by providing progression and continuity in our Catholic Religious Education (RE) Curriculum.
- Enable the children to celebrate and rejoice in their religious development through prayer, Eucharistic liturgy, non- Eucharistic liturgy and collective worship. The liturgical year is reflected in the Catholic life and activities of the school.
- Provide the children with examples of Christian care and love for each other and help them recognise how their actions affect themselves and others.
- Continue to support and extend the development of links with the surrounding parishes and the local and wider community.
- Develop respect and understanding of other faiths.

2. Objectives

St. Theresa's strives to achieve these aims by:

- Following Jesus Christ as our role model.
- Allocation of time

The teaching of RE will take 10% of curriculum time. At Key Stage One, this is equivalent to 2 hours 20 minutes and in Key Stage Two, it is 2 hours 30 minutes each week. This is in addition to Gospel assemblies, whole school assemblies, hymn practice for each key stage and collective worship on non-assembly days.

Scheme Followed

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, guides and informs teaching of RE.

The school follows the "In God's Name" Units of Faith as written by Margaret Carswell. This is supported by the Islington planning grids.

When planning topics, teachers use the Agreed Understanding for Levels of Attainment in Religious Education.

Each of the Units of Faith is divided into two blocks. Block 1 teaches content from the RECD at Levels 1-3; Block 2 teaches content at Levels 3-5. Teachers, under the guidance of their RECD should read the unit carefully and determine where to begin on the basis of pupil knowledge and ability.

The scheme is organised into half termly topics. The units include theological notes (for the teachers), additional suggestions, activities, reference to websites, worksheets, assessments and levels of achievement based on the RECD. The Religion Subject Leader maintains and updates a teachers' resource and reference file for each teacher of RE.

Each planned half termly theme will include: a variety of teaching styles including direct, interactive and facilitated; set tasks reflecting different learning styles e.g. drama, role-play, art, information and communications technology (ICT), music, poetry; written tasks and opportunities for reflection. Pupils are organised to work within whole class, grouped, paired and individual activities, which should be creative, engaging and challenging. The scheme used recognises the importance of and promotes opportunities for developing literacy, thinking skills, assessment for learning and cross-curricular links especially with Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship.

Teachers should plan and use high order questions.

Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment of children's knowledge and understanding with reference to Attainment Target 1 (AT1 - learning about the Catholic Faith) and Attainment Target 2 (AT2 - learning from the Catholic Faith) of the Catholic Directory, will be carried out on a half termly basis.

Using the levelled statements of the Bishop's Conference, each teacher teaching RE lessons is to assign the 'best fit' level for assessment tasks throughout the unit and then at the end of the unit, should decide a 'best fit' level overall.

At the end of each year, a 'best fit' level will be awarded to pupils and recorded on the Assessment sheet.

Teachers should use the Level descriptors (in the Agreed Understanding for Levels of Attainment in RE) as their starting point to then create the learning objective and then the best activity to achieve the desired outcome.

RE assessments are sent to the RE Subject Leader half termly.

Developmental marking of children's work will be ongoing where the correction of keyword spellings and subject objectives will also be emphasised. Pupils should have an opportunity to respond to teachers' comments in books.

Sampling and monitoring of pupils' work will take place in each unit. Examples of excellence will be collated by the RE Leader.

Monitoring of planning, teaching and learning, and assessment will also be undertaken by the RE Leader in accordance with the Monitoring timetable, as will lesson observations and team teaching. The Diocesan RE Advisor will visit annually to monitor planning, teaching and learning. Their findings will be fed back to the Senior

Leadership Team (SLT) and staff and they will also inform the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Moderation of work samples is done on a termly basis with teaching staff. The RE Leader attends Cross Diocesan Moderation annually.

Prayer, Worship and Liturgy

Children participate in class based prayer at key times throughout the day. Each class should have a prayer focus reflecting either the current topic studied or the liturgical year. Every child has the opportunity to bring home a Lenten prayer bag to pray with their family.

The RE Leader is responsible for timetabling a diary of dates for assemblies and whole school Masses. There are whole school Masses at the beginning of the school year and Holy Days of Obligation are also marked by a Mass, which may be celebrated in the school hall or in the parish church. Non-Eucharistic liturgy – e.g.: Distribution of Ashes, Reconciliation, lighting of Advent candles etc. are also honoured.

The school attends a Gospel assembly and a celebration of pupil achievement assembly. The whole school celebrates various festival and important dates throughout the year (i.e. Remembrance Day etc.).

Liaison between priests in our local parish church, as appropriate, and the RE Leader ensures the preparation of masses and services in the Liturgical Year. In each celebration, all year groups will be actively represented or involved by assuming a role of ministry, (e.g. by serving, reading, singing, playing music, responding, dancing, acting, offertory procession).

Home School Parish

"As it is the parents who have given life to their children on them lies the gravest obligation to educate their family. They must be recognised as being primarily and principally responsible for their education."

Gravissimum Educationis (para 3)

Links between home, school, and parish are developed with parish news distributed through the school's newsletter and school news publicised through parish newsletters.

Parents / carers and parishioners are invited to masses within the school usually celebrated by the Parish Priest of Philip's, Finchley Central. As part of the work on the Sacraments, reconciliation services are held for Years 4, 5 and 6 every year during Lent.

The Common Good

At St. Theresa's, we wish our children to develop a concern for others. Pupils have a very strong understanding of the teachings of Jesus in relation to loving and caring for others and they put this into practice in school and in the way they serve local and international communities. Our fundraising strategies include supporting Catholic, national and international charities.

Inclusion

In RE teaching, we keep in mind and incorporate the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy and Equality Policy to ensure all pupils have equal access to the RE curriculum and opportunities for enriching and deepening their faith and spirituality. Differentiation is provided where appropriate.

Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE) Development

As a school, we are working towards the Catholic vision of the human person fully alive. Citizenship is both important and distinctive in this Catholic school and our PSHE Policy incorporates aspects specifically covered in the RE curriculum.

Relationships and Sex Education

Please see the School Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

Staff

Leadership and implementation of the RE policy and syllabus are provided by the RE Leader through school based INSET and staff meetings. Opportunities to attend INSET provided by the Diocese, (attended by all teaching staff) and other relevant providers are notified to staff where appropriate.

Display

The School Mission statement is displayed in each class and is the first entry in the pupils' RE books.

Each class has a RE board with a display focussed on the Liturgical Year, special events or topics covered in the scheme. These must include the display of keywords of each unit, the liturgical colour (candle / material) and children's work.

Other Faiths

Pupils will study a designated 'Other Faith' in each Key Stage Two year group.

Key Stage One study Judaism

Year 3 study Judaism

Year 4 study Hinduism

Year 5 study Sikhism

Year 6 study Islam

The Come and See programme is used to support the teaching of Other Faiths.

Multicultural Teaching

We offer the children opportunities to develop their awareness of the larger world community. The multi-cultural and multi-faith dimension of the world we live in is reflected in the Mission Statement and in the displays around the School.

Resources

Resources such as display cloths, posters, candles and artefacts are stored in the library. These can be used to support the delivery of assemblies and the topics of the scheme, feast days or liturgical themes.

A selection of books, CDs and DVDs are available for teachers' use.

Artefacts to support designated Other Faith studies are located in the Religion area.

A resource of additional support websites, age- and theme-appropriate are listed in the resource material in each of the Unit of Faith topics.

Pupils have access to a Catholic Holy Bible when studying the stories of the Old and New Testament. The studied texts should be accurately set in context.

Catholic School Self Evaluation and Section 48 Inspections

St. Theresa's welcomes the involvement of all in the key process of School Self Evaluation, as designed by the Diocese. The RE Leader is responsible for ensuring its review and final completion, involving representatives of the school community (staff, pupils, parents / carers and governors). Ofsted Section 48 Inspections will be based on the school's own evaluation of its Catholic life, RE, collective worship and provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.