



*Work, play, pray - together!*

St Mary's R.C Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Review Date: September 2018



*Work, play, pray - together!*

*This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. (Archbishop Oscar Romero)*

St. Mary's - a welcoming school family  
Travel with us through our life journey.  
Making a difference!

Always treating others the way you  
would want to be treated - respect for  
all!

Rooted in Christ

You belong

Striving for excellence.

Reaching full potential

Coming together as a community

*'Living a life worthy of God's calling ... with humility, gentleness, patience and love'  
(Ephesians 4.)*

St. Mary's RC Primary School  
Code of Conduct

*Golden Rules*

*Our most important Golden Rule is:-*

*“Do to others what you would have them do to you.” – Matthew 7:12*

*We are kind and helpful – we don't hurt anybody's feelings*

*We are gentle – We don't hurt others*

*We listen – We don't interrupt*

*We work hard – We don't waste our own or others' time.*

*We are honest – We don't cover up the truth.*

*We look after property – We don't waste or damage things.*

***These Golden Rules are the moral values which underpin all the choices and decisions made by all in school.***

## **Rationale of Religious Education:**

- We believe Religious Education to be at the core of the curriculum.
- We believe Religious Education is central to the educational mission of the Church.
- Aware that evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, we are clear that 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.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

## **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.<sup>5</sup>*

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

<sup>2</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops'

Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

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

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

## **Religious Education - Curriculum Time Allocation**

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

## **Sacramental Preparation**

Sacramental Preparation is supported in school in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

## **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. 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.'* <sup>6</sup>

## **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 and Equality**

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

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

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

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

## **Right of withdrawal from RE**

Parents have the right of withdrawal from RE for their children. The school has a separate Policy for the Withdrawal from RE.

## **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.

## **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting**

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in Levels of Attainment in RE agreed by Bishops' Conference.

- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains three samples of work from each teacher for the Diocesan agreed task each term, covering a range of abilities.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term.
- Examples from the school portfolio of assessed samples of work are presented for Diocesan Moderation at RE Coordinators' Moderation meetings in the summer term.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning will be carried out through classroom observations, work scrutiny and discussions with pupils.
- Pupils are sublevelled at the end of each term and this information is used to ensure progress and achievement is recorded and tracked and uploaded to the school server after each topic.
- 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 in the termly governor's reports.

### **Management of the Subject**

Miss J Burn, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.  
(Appendix 1)

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

Policy revised: March 2017

Next review date: March 2019

## APPENDIX 1

# DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

### Primary RE Co-ordinator Job Description

- To be responsible to the Headteacher and colleagues for the monitoring of teaching, assessment and planning of Religious Education based on the development of the children at each stage. Monitoring occurs in order to support staff and should include classroom observation, book scrutiny, planning and discussion with pupils.
- To manage resources and facilities for Religious Education.
- To liaise with the Diocesan Department for Education particularly through attendance at the Co-ordinators' meetings, and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.
- To attend appropriate In-service training for Religious Education, keep up-to-date with current developments and feed these developments back to staff.
- To advise individual colleagues and induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education process and teaching methods.
- To set up and maintain a portfolio of work in order to monitor progression and continuity. Samples of work should reflect the appropriate Attainment target strands and levels.
- Attend annual diocesan moderation meetings with the school portfolio.
- To track data and use this, in consultation with the Headteacher, to set realistic targets in RE.
- To ensure that cross-curricular concerns such as literacy skills, multi-cultural issues, equal opportunity, the use of Information Technology and PHSE are reflected in Religious Education.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues associated with Religious Education.
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- To liaise with other primary and secondary colleagues.



- To maintain a Subject Leader's file containing:
  1. The Religious Education Policy and Guidelines
  2. Medium term plans which represent schemes of work in school.
  3. Assessment and monitoring procedures for teaching and learning and evidence of that monitoring.
  4. Audits and reports to Headteacher about progress made in RE.
  5. A record of Staff Professional Development in RE
  6. Data and current targets in RE.
- Working with the Headteacher and colleagues, to undertake a regular audit/review of Religious Education in line with the school development plan.
- To be familiar with the current inspection framework and to consult with the Headteacher to complete the school's DSEF document.
- To keep up to date with any changes to the Areas of Study (Religious Education Curriculum Directory).