



St Anne's and Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

'Excellence together with Christ at the centre.'

Our vision is that all are empowered with love and self-belief to make a positive contribution to society through the Gospel values.

Humility: We see life as a gift and celebrate our differences and achievements together.

Kindness: We are kind and gentle in our thoughts, actions and words.

Courage: We stand up for what is right and true without fear and have the courage to overcome challenges.

Justice: We value our responsibility for creating a fairer world.

Compassion: We are inclusive, supportive and empathetic.

Forgiveness: We follow in the Lord's example of being merciful.

Integrity: We are honest and accountable for our actions.

Peace: We promote peace and are active peacemakers in our community.

Updated June 2021

Religious Education at St Anne's and Guardian Angels Primary School

Religious education is central to our mission at St Anne's and Guardian Angels Primary School. In the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person and this vision is expressed in religious education within our school.

All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of 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.¹

Within our school Religious Education will allow children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics uphold.

Our Mission Statement, 'Excellence together with Christ at the centre' underpins all aspects of life at St Anne's and Guardian Angels and brings everyone together.

Our Vision for Catholic Religious Education: -

'is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and for their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.'²

Religious Education in our school will be challenging, allowing the children to interact and engage with adults and the area of study, thereby fostering children's understanding of the mystery of Christ and its application in their daily lives. Religious Education will be tailored to suit the needs of all learners affirming the Catechism of the Catholic Church, '...must suit their words to the maturity and understanding of their hearers.'³

Religious Education permeates the whole life of our school. It is the heart of everything that we do, enriching and informing all members of our school community with the light of the Gospel.

'Its primary purpose is to bring young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

¹ Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools – issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

² Religious Education, Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools – Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, page 10.

³ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 24.

Home, School and Parish Partnership

The Catholic vision of education inspires and encourages the beliefs and values which are lived out in the daily life of our school. We recognise that the primary educators of the children in our care are their parents.

Our newsletter informs the parents of what the children have learned in assembly and any specific events, feasts or celebrations that may be pending.

Parents are invited to attend our school Liturgies, assemblies and celebrations. The school is closely connected to our Parish and the children visit the Parish during the academic year and are encouraged to become involved in Parish activities. The Parish priest is encouraged to regularly visit our school and visit the children. They are invited to celebrate class masses and prior to each class mass, the parish priest will discuss the preparation of the class mass with the children. The Parish priest is invited to contribute in assemblies within the school.

When possible, liturgies and assemblies to occur within the school will be discussed with the Parish priest.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Programme of Study

A programme of study⁴ has been adopted to allow for progression and meaningful learning across the key stages and year groups within the school.

In addition to the programme of study, the school will hold a Multi-faith focus in Religion per term, where children explore Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

The school will deliver a variety of teaching and learning strategies, within religion, from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of all pupils.

Home Learning

The vast majority of our parents said they do not want homework for their children so we have adapted our home learning policy to only include reading, spellings and times tables.

Monitoring

The RE Leader and SLT will monitor the quality of teaching and learning through work surveys, lesson observation, planning and pupil discussions.

Time Allocation

Within our school religious education occupies at least ten per cent of curriculum time. This does not include Collective Worship.

Inclusion

Every child, regardless of their background, race, gender, academic ability or additional need is valued for themselves and their unique contribution to the school community.⁵

⁴ Appendix 1 – Teaching and Learning

⁵ School Inclusion Policy

Special Educational Needs

As in other areas Religious Education will take account of the diversity in attainment of all children. It is the duty of all in our Catholic community to value and support each other. Contributions from children with differing academic and physical disabilities are welcomed and valued without distinction.

ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND RECORDING

The children's work will be assessed throughout the year using formative assessment strategies. In addition a selection of the children's work will be marked and assessed against Age Related Expectations in accordance with the Diocese⁶.

Moderation of children's work takes place throughout the year at a; school; inter-school; deanery and diocesan level.

Monitoring of teaching and learning follows the school Teaching, Learning and Assessment policy and the school's monitoring timetable.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education is recorded by the class teacher, moderated and recorded on the school's tracker.

MANAGEMENT OF THE SUBJECT

The RE Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education⁷.

SLT St Anne's and Guardian Angels school

June 2021

Renewal September 2023

⁶ Assessment and Skills Document Pilot, Archdiocese of Westminster Education Services.

⁷ Appendix 2 - Management of the Subject

Appendix 1 – Teaching and Learning

Programme of Study, *The Way the Truth and the Life (TERE)*, Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme.

Supplementary Diocesan Support Documents.

Appendix 2 – Management of the subject

The RE Leader and RE Team will be responsible for:-

Working with senior leaders on the monitoring of teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies in line with school practice.

Organising in-house moderation, staff training and development.

Self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.

Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.

Attending appropriate staff training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.

Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.

Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.

Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the Education Service on matters relating to Religious Education.

Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

Ensuring all teaching staff have one annual RE Performance Management Target.

RE is an integral part of the School Development Plan and three year school vision.