

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



School POLICY STATEMENT for RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vision and Mission

"We want our school to be a safe, secure and exciting place to learn and grow in Christ. A place where children, staff, families and governors work closely together to answer Christ's call."



Our Catholic school community works with a Christian purpose

- To promote an enthusiasm for enjoyment of learning
- To provide a broad and well balanced curriculum
- To challenge children to reach their full potential
- To learn about God and his creation
- To answer Christ's call through our love for each other
- To foster in children independence and a sense of responsibility

"... For you are precious in My eyes"
(Isaiah Psalm 43)

Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Education policy is rooted in the school's mission statement with its desire to provide an atmosphere in which individuals feel valued and secure, ensuring they can work towards reaching their full potential - personally, spiritually, socially, physically and academically.

Our Lady of Lourdes School is committed to the widest and fullest education of all pupils in a partnership between home, school, parish and community.

As members of the Roman Catholic Community we aspire by our beliefs, values and religious philosophy to assist our children to share in the richness of Christian life and love. We believe that Religious Education is then the core subject in a Catholic school. Therefore we believe that religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation the entire education process. We understand that Religious Education is the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.

The outcome of the Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills, appropriate to their age and capacity, to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Aims.

- To promote knowledge and understanding of belief, values and ways of life of the Catholic tradition.
- To promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
- To promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice. Thus fostering awe and wonder, joy, delight, mystery and the sense of ritual.
- To provide opportunities to reflect on their own experiences and to link this with Christian and universal experience.

The place of Religious Education.

Religious Education is taught as a discrete subject but the aims permeate all teaching and learning in all areas of school life.

In line with the Bishops conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include collective worship. This is approximately 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of curriculum R.E a Week.

Programme of study

To fulfil revelation, church, celebration and life in Christ; the four areas of study as outlined in the curriculum directory, Our Lady of Lourdes uses "The Come and See" scheme, as recommended by the Diocese. This programme caters for children of all abilities and ages from reception to year 6. It compliments the catechesis which takes

place in the parish and home. 'The Come and See' scheme incorporates the attainment targets: learning about the Catholic faith (AT1), learning from the Catholic faith (AT2) and analysing and evaluating the Catholic Faith (AT3). This scheme is enhanced by other units such as: CAFOD's Universal Church topic; CARITAS units and a study of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Process

Our starting point in Religious Education is Revelation. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is his revealing of himself that makes classroom religious education possible. To begin with revelation ensures that we respect the revealed nature of the Christian faith.

From revelation we move onto church; into words we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God's revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church's response to God's revelation; Celebration the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and Life in Christ, the moral life and the pursuit of holiness.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupil's experience of life are essential.

Teaching of 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.

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum. These will be adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. Children will experience whole class teaching, group work, individual work and work with talk partners.

Work in Religious Education is presented in a variety of ways. Work is depicted through art, writing, ICT, drama and other areas of the curriculum. The choice of presentation is dependent on the learning. Drama is used effectively to walk in the footsteps of others, developing a greater sense of empathy and an understanding of how others feel. All activities are planned through a deep consideration of how the learning objective can best be achieved.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is a valuable tool used by all teachers to enhance learning. All classrooms have interactive smart white boards which they can access a range of stimulus to support learning and develop understanding.
(See ICT policy.)

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting.

As with all curricular areas, assessment is an integral part of the planning and learning process. Formal assessment takes place at the end of each term and standards are recorded on tracking sheets. This is in line with the other core curriculum subjects.

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines in the Age related standards. In house moderation meetings take place twice a year and the RE subject leader attends the Diocesan external moderation meeting once a year.

Baseline assessment is completed in the foundation stage during the autumn term. This is recorded on the baseline document and is then updated every term in line with other core subjects.

Religious education is informally reported at parents evening twice a year. It is formally reported on pupil's reports in the summer term. Standards in Religious education are shared with parents annually.

The children are aware of their attainments in R.E and how to achieve the next level. Driver words are placed in the front of R.E books in years 2 to 6 to enhance understanding. Children self assess their own work against the learning objective or I can statement using the traffic light system. Standard grids are used with the children to help identify the next steps in learning. Tracking allows us to monitor the progress of all children through the related standards.

Monitoring of teaching and learning at Our Lady of Lourdes follows the whole school policy in monitoring performance of staff, pupils, plans, lessons and books.
(See the Assessment Policy.)

Equal opportunities.

Religious Education is taught to all pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes, regardless of: their faith commitment; their parent's commitment; their faith tradition; age; ability; race or gender.
(See the Equal Opportunities Policy.)

Pupils with Special Education Needs.

In line with teaching and learning, we recognise that all children have needs and we continuously strive to ensure all children are challenged to reach their potential. Teachers know their children and strive to move their learning on. Children on the special education needs register will be working in line with their individual education plans. (IEP)
(See the Special Education Needs Policy.)

Communication.

Half termly newsletters are sent home to share the curriculum and assessment topics being covered. In addition weekly newsletters inform parents of events and activities which enhance learning. There is always access to the weekly church newsletter to further develop links with the parish and deepen faith.

Subject Management.

Alison Townley, the subject leader and Deputy Head, has responsibility for leading managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education with support from the Head teacher.

Other faiths.

Understanding religious beliefs other than one's own is a key element of tolerance, since faith traditions often define a significant part of a person's identity. Each year the children are taught about another World Faith to develop an understanding and respect of similarities and differences between faiths. These include Hinduism and Judaism.

Worship

Please see Collective Worship Policy.

Policy Review

In line with whole school procedures this policy will be reviewed every two years.

Updated - January 2020

Review Date - January 2022

Updated - September 2021

Review Date - September 2022