



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



Religious Education

Policy

Our Mission Statement :

'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 13:33-34)

Agreed by Ethos Committee on: 15th January 2025

Signed *Patrick E. Daly* **Chair of Governors**

Review date: January 2026

Safeguarding Statement:

'Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Our Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to encouraging everyone to 'Be the Best They Can Be'

Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

This policy is informed by the 'Religious Education Document for Catholic Schools Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:

"Religious Education is regarded as the heart of the curriculum, enriching and informing all areas of learning with the light of the Gospel, teaching students to seek the truth which is of God in the whole of creation, in themselves and in others."

Our Values

- We value each child and want the best for every one of them
- We value our catholic faith and encourage our families to follow their faith
- We value a sense of belonging to our school which embraces our catholic ethos of love and respect
- We value strong partnerships between home, school, parish and the local community
- We value high standards of behaviour; encouraging kindness, honesty, tolerance, trust and fairness to others.

1. Aims of Religious Education

'The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.'

Religious Education (RE) is a core subject in Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic school. It must engage the pupils' intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect and understanding between those of different faiths. The main aims of Religious Education at the school are as follows:

- To give the children knowledge, understanding and experience of Catholic life and faith.
- To provide at least 10% of teaching time to be set aside for the Religious Education of all pupils as required by the Bishops' Conference.
- To develop an awareness and understanding of the presence of God in each individual child's life and to encourage a personal response to His presence.
- To allow each child to develop their conscience and make sound moral judgements based on a commitment to following Christ.
- To enable each child to learn and to develop their full potential according to their abilities and to adopt attitudes of care and respect for each other.

2. How we meet our stated aims

At Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School we meet our stated aims through:

- The Catholic ethos that permeates our daily life of our school
- The Diocesan scheme of work for each year group
- Sacramental preparation
- Prayer life and liturgy
- Catholic life of our school community

To achieve these aims, pupils will:

- Be taught the importance of a prayer life and have knowledge and understanding of the formal prayers.
- Take part in daily acts of prayer
- Take part in whole school Masses or class Masses.
- Have some knowledge and understanding of the moral, spiritual and doctrinal content set out in the variety of schemes of work used.
- Be provided with suitable preliminary education in relation to sexuality and family life of a kind appropriate to their age range and in full accord with Christian values and Catholic teaching.
- Be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Have respect for and value every individual irrespective of colour, race and creed
- Have knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, particularly the Gospels.
- Have an openness to the wonder and awe of God's creation.
- Be able to reflect, think for themselves and make good choices.

3. The Scheme of Work for RE

- At Our Lady's, pupils are taught in single year groups, ranging from Nursery to Year 6. As directed by the Archbishop's` recommendations, 10% of the timetable, or approximately 2.5 hours per week, is allocated to Religious Education.
- Teachers within the school are to plan and implement their own RE curriculum time. Time for prayer is very important and is part of daily life in the school.
- Mass, Assemblies, Christmas plays, circle time, PHSE, RHE and hymn practice are not to be included.

Medium/Short term planning

Teachers are responsible in planning the scheme of work for the unit using the curriculum directory (as directed by the Diocese). They then plan each lesson on a planning document for that term. The term plan provides sufficient areas for inclusiveness and to show progression and continuity.

Teachers are encouraged to annotate plans throughout the term to improve or suggest other ideas.

Teachers are also encouraged to look at different schemes, documents and resources to ensure a wide range of teaching strategies are used.

Teachers should also refer to:

- SEND policy
- School policies for Prayer and Liturgy
- Assessment policy
- Feedback Marking policy

Teaching RE

The staff at Our Lady of the Assumption are regularly up-dated on new developments and areas for improvement, planning developments and teaching strategies through INSET training led by the R.E subject leader or Diocesan consultant at staff meetings.

Relevant courses attended by the RE subject leader, Headteacher and staff to develop skills and knowledge of the subject.

Children are taught in single mixed ability year groups. RE is taught by qualified teachers with the support of a subject leader.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

At Our Lady of the Assumption school we believe assessment is central to ensure good quality teaching and learning to take place. We are always looking for new ways to make assessment effective, productive, and beneficial to all involved in the process.

A baseline assessment is carried out to determine on entry whether our reception intake is below in line or above expectations. We use the Diocesan baseline format to make this judgment.

We promote the use of assessment for learning in RE which includes:

Learning objective and related success criteria

Effective questioning

Self/Peer assessment opportunities.

Effective feedback

Following Diocesan policy on assessment of the RE units, teachers are encouraged to highlight children against a must, should and could criteria as a summative assessment tool.

At present, recording takes place in the children's RE books, appropriate to tasks set out by the teachers. Formative assessment carried out by the class teacher is an integral part of their role and is used on a day-to day basis to inform future planning.

All teachers have a copy of `levels of attainment in Religious Education` relevant to the age group they

are teaching. This should influence planning and assessment.

The Religious Education curriculum is monitored through:

- Observations of assemblies, Mass, and celebrations
- Photographs of children's work, hall and classroom displays
- Lesson observations by school leaders
- Book trawls by subject leader and SLT
- Moderation exercises undertaken by whole staff and led by subject leader (ongoing process)
- RE coaching when/if needed with teachers from the RE Co-ordinator.

Resources

Each class has resources, relevant to the age of the children. Every class has access to a set of age-related bibles.

Missals, Rosary beads, Books, DVDs, pictures and posters are also available.

Celebration of Feast days

Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of the significance of feast days and participate in Masses and celebrations. They are asked to find out about particular Saints and this is often influenced by school assemblies and events.

4. Multi Faith/Multi-cultural aspects

Religious Education should introduce children to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age - we endeavor to seize each opportunity as it arises to ensure tolerance, respect and understanding between all the cultures and traditions represented not just in the school or its immediate environment but in the world as a whole. We promote this through the fact that we are all created in the likeness of God and through the teachings of Christ.

At present, elements of other faiths can be seen in our curriculum plans. For example, Diwali is taught in Reception. Other elements are found throughout the school as in Year 5 and 6 in the Unit of God's Holy People and in Year 4 in the unit on Abraham as we talk about him as being revered by the three major faiths- Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The school has a multi- faith plan which gives the children understanding about other main world faiths and their associated cultures.

We encourage all children of different faiths, cultures and no faith to take part in the religious life of school. It is part of our mission to show the light and love of Christ to all. We celebrate an International Week each year.

5. Sacramental Preparation

Each child is encouraged in the development of a deeper more personal faith in Christ through participation in the sacraments and the sacramental life of the school.

Depth and balance within the programme are ensured by giving emphasis to the doctrinal, sacramental, experimental, moral and spiritual response aspects, of the Catholic faith.

At Our Lady of the Assumption, resources and training support from the Diocese are in place to help teachers to plan for the celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. These are constantly being reviewed and replaced by appropriate material.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Year 3 children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children are prepared by their class teacher using the Diocesan RE strategy with some additional materials compiled by school. The sacrament itself takes place in church with the children and their families present. A short reflective service takes place before the children receive the sacrament on an individual basis from the Parish Priest. Following reception of the sacrament, the children and their families have some quiet moments of prayer.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist

The First Holy Communion programme is delivered in Year 3. Year 3 usually receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in the month of May. The children are prepared by their teacher, supported by the Parish Priest, using the Diocesan RE strategy. Throughout the course of the year, there are a number of meetings with parents as part of the preparation programme. First Holy Communion is in addition to normal Sunday Mass, thus enabling the children to have an intimate experience and to be able to gather on the altar around the Parish Priest during the Mass.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation and the link between Baptism and Confirmation should be made clear. Teaching is taken from the Diocesan RE strategy. The importance of communal/parish celebration should be observed, with the candidates for Confirmation being presented at an enrolment Mass in the Parish. Parents and parish should be involved in preparation as much as possible. If the children are to be confirmed in the autumn term, the Confirmation preparation starts in the summer term of Year 5. Year 6 receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, dependent upon the time allocated to us by the Diocese. Meetings are held with parents as part of the preparation programme.

6. SEND and Equal Opportunities

All children have the right to access the whole curriculum. Each teacher should be aware of the learning needs of the pupils in their care, and plan work appropriately. Children with special educational needs will be catered for through scaffolded activities, to either consolidate or extend fact and concepts taught. Further advice is also given by the SENCO and learning support service, where appropriate.

All children at Our Lady of the Assumption are treated equally as individuals, regardless of gender, race and religious background, within a caring atmosphere of Christian love. Non-Catholic children are given equal access to the RE programme and are encouraged to develop a sense of their own spirituality and awareness of God in their lives.

7. Links with the Parents and Community

Every effort is made to ensure the vital links between home, school, and the parish community are established and sustained. The parents are invited to attend meetings with the Parish Priest, Headteacher, subject leader and class teachers before preparation to receive the sacrament is begun.

For all three sacraments, it is vital that the parents/carers attend both the Commitment Masses and the actual celebration with their child. Parents are asked to support the R.E. programme of our school and

to encourage the children to participate in personal and formal prayer at home.

Throughout the school year, parents are invited to attend school Masses and are asked to support the RE programme by encouraging the children's prayer life at home, through learning formal prayers and encouraging the children in personal prayer.

Parental support is invaluable in fostering the children's relationship with God, and it is hoped that they are given every opportunity to do this.

Children from Year 2 through to Year 6 are asked to prepare at least one parish Mass, as part of their liturgy work in school.

Our aim is to encourage family participation in all sacramental preparation, making the Mass a centre for this celebration.

8. The Role of the Religious Education Subject Leader

The Religious Education subject leader is the key teacher at Our Lady of the Assumption who provides an overview of the subject for the senior leadership team, staff and governors.

The subject leader:

- Develops the subject and offers advice.
- Attends subject courses and leads INSET training.
- Reviews and evaluates the quality of provision of the subject making a significant contribution to school self-evaluation.
- Manages subject based resources.

9. Health and Safety

Every effort is made to ensure the health and safety of children particularly when walking to and from Church and when using candles and appropriate symbols and religious artefacts (See Health and Safety Policy).

10. Governance

Developments in RE and the Catholic life of the school is reported at each meeting of the full governing body and at appropriate sub-committee meetings.

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